



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Tourism, Culture, and International Affairs  
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HB 2315 Relating to the University of Hawai'i School of Travel Industry Management

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka, and members of the House Committee on  
Tourism, Culture, and International Affairs:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 2315 that establishes a school of travel industry management at the University of Hawai'i that is separate and independent of any school or college of business administration, and is under the direction of a dean or director who is not simultaneously a dean or director of any other school or college at the university.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the recognition by the legislature of the importance of our programs in travel industry management that produce graduates in a workforce area that is critical to the state of Hawai'i. The University is cognizant of its strategic responsibility to meet the state's workforce needs in this area.

The University, however, cannot support language that would direct the location of a specific academic program or determine the organization of academic programs within a campus. There are two broad reasons for this.

First, the establishment or termination of schools and colleges within the University is under the purview of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents upon recommendation by the President. In addition, by policy the Board or, as delegated, the President has the authority to establish, abolish, reorganize, reassign, or rename organizational units of the university. The President's recommendation is based upon a review that includes an assessment of academic and workforce needs, duplication or gaps among campuses, cost and budget analysis, and a review of a program's ability to operate and meet academic standards within available resource levels.

Second, given the severe and sudden restrictions to the budget, each UH campus has had to evaluate all of its programs and operations; UH Mānoa's budget workgroups have met continuously this fall to set priorities and make recommendations.

UH Mānoa does not support this bill which directs and restricts the organization of a specific academic program within the university. The campus continually evaluates how to provide the best academic experience for students and appropriate support for students, faculty, and staff engaged in individual academic programs. At this time, such

efforts are critical in view of the truly significant budget reductions UH Mānoa is attempting to manage. UH Mānoa's Campus Budget Workgroup recommended that all schools at UH Mānoa with less than 30 faculty members examine mergers with larger schools/colleges (<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcafo/newprocess/MemoChancellor121509.pdf>). That recommendation was accepted with the objective of ensuring both strong academic offerings and maximizing use of available resources. Examining options to best fulfill those goals is highly appropriate for an academic institution and important for the university's ability to serve the State.

House Bill 2315, in establishing a separate travel industry management school in statute, with a separate dean or director, does not acknowledge the impact of recent significant budget restrictions and the necessity for the UH Mānoa campus to review all of their options to increase efficiency at the same time that they maintain effectiveness. The University of Hawai'i cannot support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.