



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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By
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and
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HB 625 HD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Education supports HB 625 HD2.

The University understands that there are a number of vacant buildings in the possession of public schools. Given that these buildings are standing empty, it is rational to institute procedures to return those buildings to constructive use.

Friendly Amendment:

However, we would like to suggest a friendly amendment to the bill. While priority first goes to charter schools and other educational programs, we think the bill should explicitly indicate *public* charter schools and other *public* educational uses as top priorities. In the current language, the buildings should be offered to "other education programs," which could include private, non-profit, or alternative users. If the legislative intent is for public educational use, we would recommend being explicit in that language. If non-public educational use is also intended, then those options should exist only after exhausting all public charter school and public educational options. Following exploration of possibilities for educational use, we would support the buildings being offered to the county, preferably for public use.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.