



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
House Committees on Higher Education and Education  
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HB 1338: RELATED TO THE ECONOMY

Chairs Nishimoto and Takumi, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Bellati and members of the House Committees on Higher Education and Education:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 1338 that appropriates funding to the University of Hawai'i for a number of programs: a) the science and technology pre-academy program pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 304A-1861, the robotics and problem-based learning program pursuant to HRS Section 304A-1862, and research experiences for teachers pursuant to HRS Section 304A-1863; b) for the development of professional development programs in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines for practicing teachers; and c) to provide stipends for STEM graduates to pursue post baccalaureate certificates in secondary education. The bill also proposes appropriations to the Department of Education for a "Hawai'i excellence through science and technology academy pilot program" at Kaua'i Community College.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) very much appreciates the support shown for Kaua'i Community College as well as the intent in the various provisions of HB 1338 to strengthen STEM education for students and practicing teachers, and to provide incentives for STEM college graduates who may be interested in pursuing a career in teaching. As noted in the language of the bill, producing more STEM graduates is a vital part of the state's ability to respond to emerging or high growth industries.

Producing more STEM graduates is one of the performance indicators in our strategic outcomes for 2008-2015, and a high priority for the University. This is reflected in our biennium budget operating fund request for 2011-2013. The development of our budget strategy was grounded in our strategic outcomes, and particularly in President Greenwood's three initiatives that include the Hawai'i Graduation Initiative, Project Renovate to Innovate, and Workforce Development and Technology Advancement. Aligned with this, the University is requesting Outcomes Based Funding that holds us accountable for meeting these strategic priorities that address the state's educational and economic needs. Our Outcomes Based Funding request targets an increase in the number of graduates, and also attaches an additional weight for the production of STEM graduates at each campus.

The University's biennium budget proposal also includes program change requests (PCRs) developed by systemwide groups of administrators, faculty, staff, and students and approved by our Board of Regents. Preference was given to PCRs for new and emerging programs that address state needs for an educated workforce, with added consideration

given to programs that spanned campuses and supported the movement of students from two to four year programs.

The list of PCRs in our biennium budget request reflect these priorities and include: a) from UH Mānoa an engineering consortium that partners with community colleges at the pre-engineering and lower division level with a goal of facilitating the flow of transfer students in engineering program; b) from UH Hilo a best practices in STEM education initiative; and c) various STEM-related initiatives from the UH Community Colleges.

While the University appreciates the intent of HB1338 to support STEM education, we urge the legislature to refer to the University's biennium budget request which specifies University priorities in this area. These have been vetted with our campuses and reflect strategic priorities and alignment with capacity and supporting programs.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.