



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
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HB 1338: RELATED TO THE ECONOMY

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 1338 that appropriates unspecified funding to the University of Hawai'i for a number of programs and 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 continue 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 HB 1338 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.