



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 2:01 p.m.

By

Dr. Joanne Itano
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai‘i

HB 2077 – RELATING TO PROHIBITIONS ON UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PREMISES

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education, I am submitting written testimony on behalf of the University of Hawai‘i (UH) regarding House Bill 2077 – Relating to Prohibitions on University of Hawai‘i Premises which proposes to: 1) amend Chapter 304A and add a new section to prohibit smoking and tobacco use on University of Hawai‘i premises; 2) require the university to provide tobacco cessation programs for employees provided that issues relating to the cost of the program shall be subject to collective bargaining; 3) exclude application of chapter 328J, Smoking; 4) require the University to be responsible for educating students, employees and all visitors about the smoking and tobacco use prohibitions under this section, i.e., legible signage at entry and outdoor locations; and 5) amend section 89 (d) to include that the employer and exclusive representative shall not agree to proposals which interfere with the rights and obligations of a public employer to the prohibition of smoking, including the use of electronic smoking devices, and tobacco use on the premises of all facilities owned or operated by the University of Hawai‘i within the State. The bill is based on the Legislature's findings that tobacco use is a preventable cause of death; there are concerns regarding the growing popularity of electronic smoking devices; and tobacco use has been prohibited on other campuses in the United States.

The UH supports the initiative and intent to protect University students, employees and visitors from exposure to harmful substances and promote positive health practices. The University would need to further assess the cost of legislatively required tobacco cessation programs for employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.