UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 04, 2014 at 2:01p.m., Conference Room 309
By Jan Javinar,
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HB2142 – RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee:

Among other things, HB 2142 proposes to repeal section 304A-3153, Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes, relating to complaint procedures concerning institutions of higher education in Hawaiʻi.

The University of Hawaiʻi offers its support on only Section 2 of HB 2142 as Section 1 involves the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs to whom we defer for comment. Section 2 repeals section 304A-3153, HRS, which authorizes the State Post-Secondary Education Commission, administratively attached to the University of Hawaiʻi, to receive and respond to complaints concerning institutions of higher education authorized to operate in Hawaiʻi.

Last year, the Legislature approved SB46 SD2 HD3 CD1 which the Governor signed into law as Act 180. This bill appropriately identified DCCA as the state agency which would perform the regulatory function of authorizing institutions that offer education programs beyond secondary education. DCCA's role in performing this function is described in Chapter 305J of Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes. The State Post-Secondary Education Commission never performed this regulatory function to authorize such institutions.

In the law, section 305J-17, HRS, the DCCA is also tasked to receive and respond to complaints from consumers related to those institutions offering post-secondary programs in Hawaiʻi. As such, there is no need for duplicative language and function for the State Post-Secondary Education Commission in section 304A-3153, HRS. The University supports repealing this duplication.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2142. The University welcomes this action as it seeks to minimize redundancy in the law.