



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by
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HB 1624 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB1624, Relating to the University of Hawaii, which requires the State Auditor to conduct a comprehensive audit of the UH system and recommend whether separating the Community Colleges and four-year universities into different systems would increase the efficiency of each institution.

Article X, Section 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution establishes that the Board of Regents "shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." We do recognize that autonomy must be exercised with transparency, and in that regard we would cooperate with the State Auditor in any way possible, as we do now on the wide ranging special audits conducted now in addition to our federally mandated external audit.

As far as generating efficiencies by separating the Community Colleges and four-year universities into different systems, such a move would incur significant additional costs for governance and central administrative services that are now shared within the University system. There would also likely need to be a central coordinating board for higher education. This approach also runs counter to the more common trends on the mainland that are seeking to consolidate community college and university systems in order to generate administrative efficiencies, reduce program duplication, and better ensure student transfer.

The University does not object to this measure, however, we do not believe this will be a fruitful use of the resources of the State Auditor. Thank you for your time and consideration.