



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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By

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And

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And

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HB 1824 – RELATING TO PRESERVATION

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1824, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, for the restoration and preservation of historic relief maps of the Hawaiian islands.

The story of Hawai'i and its people is a story about the land. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa possesses a one-of-a-kind teaching resource that helps tell the story of the land. Displayed in the lobby of the St. John Plant Sciences Building are three-dimensional plaster relief maps of the seven primary Hawaiian Islands made in 1936. Originally made by Richard Quinn and Robert Choy to depict agriculture in the islands, these maps are historical art objects that have aided and enhanced teaching, learning and public outreach for almost 80 years. One other copy of the Oahu relief map was made for the military and was housed at Pearl Harbor. The maps of the other islands of Ni'ihau, Kaua'i, Maui, Lāna'i, Moloka'i and Hawai'i are unique. The molds for these maps have long since disappeared.

These 80-year old masterworks are in severe need of repair and refurbishing. The plaster has developed cracks, fading and wear marks; the surfaces of the maps are covered with an accumulation of dirt, grime and oily residues; and the wooden tables supporting the maps have been damaged by termites and wear. HB 1824 would provide the funds necessary to professionally restore and re-support these unique educational tools, and greatly to further enhance their value for study of historical, current and future land use in Hawai'i by supplementing the relief surfaces with interactive overlays, using digital projection technology. The cost for completing this work is \$250,000.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1824, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.