



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

WRITTEN ONLY

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
March 28, 2016 at 2:20 p.m.
by
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HCR 143 – REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE REVIEW AND FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE TRANSFER OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATION PROGRAM FOR PRIVATE TRADE, VOCATIONAL, AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 143, which requests the Office of the Auditor to conduct a sunrise review and feasibility study of the transfer of the licensing and regulation program for private trade, vocational, and technical schools from the Department of Education to the University of Hawaii.

While the University of Hawaii does not oppose the call for the Legislative Auditor to do a sunrise review or feasibility study on the concept, the University does anticipate expressing its reservations to the concept to the Auditor.

The University of Hawaii would like to note that in order to bring Hawaii into compliance with Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the legislature in 2013 passed SB 46, which became Act 180, establishing a Post-secondary Education Authorization Program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). The legislature found that establishing a post-secondary education authorization program under DCCA would result in a system of authorization that is more appropriate to serve the diverse institutions that operate educational programs beyond secondary education in the State. The University concurred and provided in testimony that placing the authorization function outside the University of Hawaii avoids the potential or the appearance of a conflict of interest were the state's sole public university to authorize private providers to operate within the state.

The University has the same concerns of a potential conflict of interest if the licensing and regulation program for private trade, vocational, and technical schools were to be transferred from the Department of Education to the University of Hawaii. Furthermore, moving the licensing and regulation program to the University of Hawaii would require additional resources and positions as the University currently does not have a unit to administer such a program. Thank you for your time and consideration.