



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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by

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SB 3168, SD2, Proposed HD2 – RELATING TO CREATIVE MEDIA

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Linda K. Johnsrud, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy, University of Hawai'i System. I am providing this testimony on behalf of the University of Hawai'i System on Senate Bill 3168, Senate Draft 2, Proposed House Draft 2, which establishes the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawai'i; amends Act 11, Special Session of 2007, to delete provisions relating to leasing the Public Broadcasting System Hawai'i facility; and establishes and appropriates funds for the creativity academies programs under the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

We appreciate the Legislature's recognition of the success of the Academy for Creative Media since its establishment by the Board of Regents and the popularity of its programs among students. We also appreciate very much the intent of SB 3168, SD2, Proposed HD2, to provide support for the expansion of the program on University of Hawai'i campuses statewide.

For programs to be accessible to students at different campuses, it would be necessary to assess and plan courses on campuses statewide, coordinate course offerings at the different campuses and ensure that students are able to plan their course work, transfer credits, and progress smoothly toward achieving their academic goals and graduating. Given the scarce resources available for higher education in the state, it is important, for example, to determine the appropriate emphases of campus programs so as not to replicate each other.

We respectfully recommend amendments to clarify the language of SB3168, SD2, Proposed HD2. An example of the need to clarify is in Section 3(a). Academic programs, like the creative media program, are reviewed for approval by the Board of Regents and our accreditors by campus, and cannot be reviewed as system programs. Therefore, we need to establish the program at campuses statewide but cannot establish a "system or systemwide" program. Our recommended amendments are:

- SECTION 3 (a). Amend as follows:
 - There is established within the University of Hawai'i the academy for creative media program, which shall be a system-wide, statewide program at campuses administered by the University of Hawai'i;

- SECTION 4, last paragraph. Amend as follows:
 - The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of Hawai'i for the purposes of this part [-]; provided that funds shall be expended to expand programs and facilities of the academy for creative media programs at a system-wide, statewide level administered by the University of Hawaii pursuant to section 304A- , Hawai'i Revised Statutes; provided further that the expansion of programs and facilities of the academy for creative media program shall be directed to the University of Hawai'i – west O'ahu campus. include expansion to the west O'ahu-Kapolei region."

The University would, in addition, like to comment that if we are to be successful in fixing our leaky educational pipeline, we believe it is important for our colleges to collaborate with the high schools throughout the State. The Creativity Academies Program proposed in this bill as well as other similar initiatives, through the efforts of the UH Community College system will provide our high school students with new skills to use in the innovation economy. We support the intent of creating programs such as Creativity Academies, provided that they do not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents approved programs.

Thank you for your support of the University of Hawai'i, and for the opportunity to submit testimony.