Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committees on Education and Housing, and Labor February 11, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. by John Morton Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai‘i

SB 747 – RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Sakamoto and Takamine, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

As pointed out in SB 747, the educational workforce working group established by Act 238 SLH 2007, prepared and submitted a report to the legislature, which included numerous recommendations along with a significant number of detailed action steps. As participants in the process, we found the efforts of the group to be helpful in focusing attention on a number of complex issues that create barriers to the operation of a more efficient education to work pipeline.

The University and the Community Colleges would be happy to participate if the working group is extended for two additional years as called for in the bill.