Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
April 2, 2009 at 1:15 pm
by
Linda K. Johnsrud
Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy,
University of Hawai‘i System

SCR153 / SR105 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM, IN
CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS, TO
DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE TEACHING OF ENGINEERING
AT UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES STATEWIDE.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Sakamoto, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher
Education: Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent
Resolution 153 and Senate Resolution 105 concerning the teaching of engineering at
University of Hawai‘i campuses statewide.

The University of Hawai‘i supports the intent of SCR153/SR105. We are pleased to
inform you that the UH System Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy has
convened a systemwide engineering group to take a comprehensive look at the
teaching of engineering statewide so that the University as a system meets the
workforce needs of the state of Hawai‘i and uses our resources efficiently and
effectively.

As background, the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents (BOR) policies require
Board approval for the establishment of all instructional and research programs.
Proposals to establish new programs must undergo review at the campus and system
levels and are submitted to the Board for consideration upon recommendation of the
President.

Before the President makes a recommendation, extensive review and analysis have
taken place. The Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy is charged with
convening the Council of Chief Academic Officers (CCAO), with representation from
each of the ten campuses. The Vice President convenes the Council on a monthly
basis, and as part of its agenda reviews new program proposals from campuses. In its
review, this group raises the types of questions posed in SCR153/SR105: e.g., state
workforce and education needs; cost of new program development and implementation;
ongoing costs; and the institution’s ability to sustain the program financially and with appropriate academic quality. The Council and the System’s Vice President also ensure that there is no undue redundancy of programs across the ten campuses.

We look forward to developing a comprehensive approach to engineering systemwide, and appreciate the legislature’s recognition of the need for statewide coordination. In supporting SCR153/SR105, the University respectfully requests a slight amendment in wording the resolution to include, “the Vice President of Academic Planning and Policy, UH System,” as this would honor the process of internal review by the system and all campuses.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.