



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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SB 244: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima and members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 244 that amends current statutory provisions in HRS 304A-2001 requiring the University of Hawai'i to set benchmarks, review state needs, and report progress biennially. SB 244 proposes to revise statutory language by requiring the University to adopt strategic goals, outcomes, and performance indicators, reviewing and reporting on these outcomes and measures biennially, and applying them in the development of the University's budget request.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the changes proposed by SB 244. In 2008 the University instituted a system of performance measures for 2008-2015 based on strategic outcomes intended to meet the needs of the state. The strategic outcomes were developed after the University conducted an in-depth *Second Decade* study of the state's higher education needs. The performance indicators tied to these desired outcomes set measurable goals for the University; for example, specific goals have been set for the number of Native Hawaiians who earn UH degrees, the total number of degrees and certificates produced by the UH, and the percentage of Hawai'i students who enroll at UH after high school graduation.

Furthermore, the University's 2011-2013 biennium budget request incorporates incentives for performance levels as indicated by numbers of graduates, weighted for Native Hawai'i graduates, Pell grant recipients, and STEM graduates.

Performance indicators are a clear way to measure the University's progress toward meeting its strategic goals and addressing the higher education needs of the state. They provide a clear system of accountability for public higher education in Hawai'i, and as they are reviewed and updated, they will reflect the state's current needs and strategic priorities. We welcome the updates proposed in SB 244.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.