



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by

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HCR 315/HR 261 Requesting the University of Hawai'i to Support the Creation of a
Historic Preservation Trades Program Within the Community College
System

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee:

HCR 315/HR 261 requests support for the establishment of a new associate degree program within the UH Community College System that would train crafts persons with the skills and knowledge to meet the apparent demand for skilled workers in the evolving field of historic preservation.

Honolulu Community College is the primary construction trades and trades apprenticeship institution within the UH System. At present, HCC educates approximately 3,400 apprentices and another 406 associate's degree candidates in construction related programs. These programs provide students with the basic fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to work in various fields in the building and construction industry.

From the language in the resolution, it is unclear as to the scope of industry that would be served by having such a program in place, the scope of the education and training that would be expected to be offered, work place demand for graduates from such a program, or the source of financial support necessary to design, equip, and staff such a program. All four of these elements are critical pieces of any new program proposal that would be considered by the University system administration or the Board of Regents. Until these critical elements are better understood, it is premature to support the development of such a program.

The UH Community Colleges currently offer a broad range of programs, both credit and non-credit, including apprentice training, designed to meet the various needs of the construction industry. If there are established needs beyond our current array of courses and programs, we would be glad to work with representatives from those industries to determine how best to meet the unmet needs.