



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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by

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SCR153 / SR105 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII 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.