
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO
STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF SEPARATING THE UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII SYSTEM AMONG THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA, THE
COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII-WEST OAHU
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO.

1 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii system is governed by a
2 single board of regents and consists of the University of Hawaii
3 at Manoa, the community colleges, the University of Hawaii-West
4 Oahu, and the University of Hawaii at Hilo; and

5
6 WHEREAS, under Article X, section 6, of the state
7 constitution, the Legislature finds that it is a matter of
8 statewide concern whether the University of Hawaii system should
9 be separated into three systems among the University of Hawaii
10 at Manoa, the community colleges, and the University of Hawaii-
11 West Oahu and the University of Hawaii at Hilo; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Manoa was founded in
14 1907 and is the flagship campus of the University of Hawaii
15 system, and as a destination of choice, students and faculty
16 come from across the nation and the world to take advantage of
17 the University of Hawaii at Manoa's unique research
18 opportunities, diverse community, and nationally-ranked Division
19 I athletics program; and

20
21 WHEREAS, as one of only thirty-two institutions nationwide
22 to hold the distinction of being a land-grant, sea-grant, and
23 space-grant research institution, the University of Hawaii at
24 Manoa is ranked in the top thirty public universities in federal
25 research funding for engineering and science, and forty-ninth
26 overall by the National Science Foundation; and

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28 WHEREAS, classified by the Carnegie Foundation as having
29 "very high research activity," the University of Hawaii at Manoa



1 is known for its pioneering research in such fields as
2 oceanography, astronomy, Pacific Islands and Asian area studies,
3 linguistics, cancer research, and genetics; and
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5 WHEREAS, the goals and missions of the University of Hawaii
6 at Manoa, as a research university, are different from the
7 community colleges, the University of Hawaii-West Oahu, and the
8 University of Hawaii at Hilo; and
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10 WHEREAS, in contrast, the community colleges provide open-
11 door access to affordable, high-quality education through a
12 variety of programs from career and technical education to a
13 liberal arts education; and
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15 WHEREAS, the community colleges are already a "system
16 within a system," consisting of seven colleges, including Hawaii
17 Community College, Honolulu Community College, Kapiolani
18 Community College, Kauai Community College, Leeward Community
19 College, Maui College, and Windward Community College; and
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21 WHEREAS, the community colleges also include educational
22 centers serving Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, the goals and mission of the community college
26 system are different from the University of Hawaii-West Oahu,
27 the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and the University of Hawaii
28 at Manoa; and
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30 WHEREAS, separation of the University of Hawaii at Manoa
31 and the community colleges would lead to greater efficiency and
32 better management of the university system overall; and
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34 WHEREAS, such a separation could ultimately require the
35 establishment of three separate university systems, each with
36 its own boards of regents, specifically, one for the University
37 of Hawaii at Manoa, one for the community colleges, and one for
38 the University of Hawaii-West Oahu and the University of Hawaii
39 at Hilo; and
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41 WHEREAS, it is envisioned that the University of Hawaii at
42 Manoa, as the State's only research university, will be
43 financially self-sustaining and receive limited state funding;
44 and



H.C.R. NO. 147

1
 2 WHEREAS, it is likewise envisioned that the community
 3 colleges, the University of Hawaii-West Oahu, and the University
 4 of Hawaii at Hilo, as the State's teaching institutions, will
 5 continue to be financially supported by state funds; now,
 6 therefore,

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 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 9 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 10 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Board of
 11 Regents of the University of Hawaii is requested to study the
 12 feasibility of separating the University of Hawaii system among
 13 the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the community colleges, and
 14 the University of Hawaii-West Oahu and the University of Hawaii
 15 at Hilo; and

16
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents is
 18 strongly encouraged to retain the services of an independent
 19 educational expert to conduct the study; and

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 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents is
 22 requested to submit a report of its findings and
 23 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 24 Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 25 the Regular Session of 2015; and

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of the Board
 29 of Regents of the University of Hawaii, the President of the
 30 University of Hawaii, the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii
 31 at Manoa, the Vice President for Community Colleges, the
 32 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii-West Oahu, and the
 33 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

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 35
 36 OFFERED BY: 

MAR 07 2014





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 2:34PM
By Dr. Joanne Itano
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

HCR 147/HR 105 – REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF SEPARATING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM AMONG THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII-WEST OAHU AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO.

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) respectfully opposes HCR 147 and HR 105 which requests the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i to study the feasibility of separating the UH system among the UH Mānoa, the Community Colleges and the UH West O'ahu and the UH Hilo.

As a system of campuses with varying missions (research, regional comprehensive and community colleges), we provide unique opportunities to the students of Hawai'i. We provide multiple entrance and exit points for students to complete their degrees. Students may choose to start their education at a two-year or four-year campus. We have built pathways for students who start at a community college and moves to a four-year campus to complete a bachelor's degree. Students who earn an associate of arts degree from a community college are automatically admitted to a four-year campus. We have articulation agreements for students who complete an associate of science degree (generally focused on career and technical education) to move seamlessly into a bachelor's degree program at our four-year campuses. We have a common student information system that allows students at a four-year campus to register at any community college and all community college students may register for courses at any other community college. Many other data systems--from human resources to purchasing--are system-wide, allowing for economies of scale and improved reporting.

The vision of a self-sustaining University of Hawai'i at Mānoa would require a significant increase of tuition. Currently undergraduate resident tuition at UHM is about \$9,000 per year. In the years 2010-2012, tuition accounted for an average of 42% of the cost of education. Tuition would need to be increased by approximately 136% to cover the full cost of education. For undergraduates, this would mean an increase in tuition to more than \$19,000.

Separation into three higher education systems would lead to less efficiency. Providing support for three separate boards would require additional staff support. Each system would need to manage its own student information and IT systems, institutional research functions, capital improvements, etc. Transfer across campuses will be more complex as articulation will be campus by campus, rather than coordinated by the system administration.

The use of an independent educational expert to conduct this study will require funding during a time of scarce resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony in opposition to HCR 147

LATE

Aloha members of the House Higher Education Committee,

I wish to express my strongest opposition to HCR 147. Although this bill suggests that the UH Regents study the feasibility of separating the UH System into three components. The justification for such a study or potential action (i.e., separation of the UH System) is insufficient to warrant this expenditure of the tax-payers' money and the consumption of Regent and UH officials' time. Indeed, the ensuing debate around such an endeavor would be disruptive to ongoing efforts to revitalize UH.

Please consider the following concerns regarding the premises of such a proposal:

- Separation of the campuses would compromise economies of scale and efficiencies that are possible under a well led UH System of regional campuses (e.g., shared accounting, registration, and other informatics).
- Articulation programs between the Community Colleges and the 4-year and graduate degree granting programs would be compromised.
- The goals of UH Manoa must be aligned with those of the State's overall Higher Education goals. The creation of an elitist campus that is uncoordinated with the other elements of UH will neither serve the State well, nor her citizens and their children.
- The statement that such separation would lead to greater efficiency and better management of the system overall is unfounded. Indeed, language implying three university systems with separate boards suggests academic chaos and horrific inefficiencies if this is our future.
- The statement that UH Manoa as a research institution will be financially self-sustaining and receive limited state funding is divorced from the reality of sustaining a modern, research institution in an era of declining federal research dollars.

Clearly, UH Manoa can be enhanced operationally. Strong, capable leadership at UH System with improved System and Manoa Campus operations will greatly improve our current status.

The allure of autonomy at UH Manoa must not cloud the judgment of some administrators or State Legislators. Statewide higher education quality depends upon all elements of UH functioning together. The separation of the campuses preys upon a number of false assumptions. Let us use the taxpayers' money more wisely.

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean, UH-Manoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine

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GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

LATE

Uploaded via Capitol Website

March 18, 2014

TO: HONORABLE ISAAC CHOY, CHAIR, HONORABLE LINDA ICHIYAMA,
VICE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HR105/HCR 147**, REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
SEPARATING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM AMONG THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES,
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII-WEST OAHU AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO.

HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 18, 2014
TIME: 2:34 p.m.
PLACE: Capitol Room 309

Dear Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee,

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of approximately six hundred (600) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. The GCA's mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.

House Concurrent Resolution 147 is requesting that the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii study the feasibility of separating the University of Hawaii system among the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the community colleges, and the University of Hawaii-West Oahu and the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

The University of Hawaii college system is unique in its geographical separation of the university and community college campuses, which is different from other state universities. This geographical separation along with the multiple administrations of the University and community colleges serving Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai and Lanai results in increased costs to sustain each campus. This Resolution provides the Board of Regents an opportunity to consider separating the University of Hawaii's four year colleges from the various community colleges to provide a more focused direction for each of the university campuses.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our support of HCR 147.