

SCR 119 /

SR 83

Testimony

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE REGULATION OF UNACCREDITED DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATES.

Report Title: Unaccredited Universities and Colleges

Description: Requires the University of Hawaii to extend the current land lease with the high technology development corporation for no less than 25 years from the date of expiration of the existing lease.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HRE/CPN, WAM

Introducer(s): TOKUDA, KIDANI, Ige, Keith-Agaran, Slom, Taniguchi



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PRESENTATION OF THE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013
9:15 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 119 /
SENATE RESOLUTION 83.

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE REGULATION
OF UNACCREDITED DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATES.

TO THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE GILBERT KAHELE, VICE CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA"), Office of Consumer Protection ("OCP") appreciates the opportunity to appear today and testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 119 and Senate Resolution 83, Requesting the Auditor to Conduct a Study of the Regulation of Unaccredited Degree Granting Institutions in the States. My name is Bruce B. Kim and I am the Executive Director of OCP.

Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution
No. 119 / Senate Resolution 83
March 28, 2013
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OCP supports an Auditor study of the regulation of unaccredited degree granting institutions (“UDGIS”). UDGIS currently operate in Hawaii under Chap. 446E of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”). The Internet has brought an increase in UDGIS attempting to do business in Hawaii. OCP was given the authority under amendments to the original Chap. 446E to enforce violations of the statute under HRS §§ 446E-3 and 446E-5 as unfair or deceptive acts or practices. The current form of regulation has proven to be extremely time-consuming and labor-intensive. For example, since 1996, OCP has initiated over 497 enforcement actions relating to Chapter 446E violations. OCP concurs that a study of this industry and alternative forms of regulation is appropriate.

OCP looks forward to working with the Auditor on this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. 110 and S.R. 83.