Written Testimony for the
Senate Committee Ways and Means
April 4, 2017 at 9:45 a.m.
By
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SCR 146 SD1/SR 68 SD1 – REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
PHILIPPINES-HAWAII TOURISM COLLEGE STUDENT EXCHANGE
PROGRAM COMPACT

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

SCR 146 SD1/SR 68 SD1 requests the establishment of a Philippines-Hawai'i tourism college student exchange program compact among the University of Hawai'i (UH) Mānoa, West O'ahu, select UH community colleges, and Ilocos Sur Community College and the University of Northern Philippines, and a report before the 2018 Hawai'i Legislature on the number of students participating, assessment of the compact, and recommended legislation to improve the compact.

The University of Hawai'i joins the legislature in recognizing the many contributions of the Filipino immigrants from Ilocos Sur and their descendants since arriving in Hawai'i in 1906. We celebrate the long sister state relationship between Hawai'i and Ilocos Sur, reaching 33 years in 2018, the first sister state established between Hawai'i and a province in the Philippines. The University also congratulates the province of Ilocos Sur on the occasion of its bicentennial anniversary in February 2018.

The University of Hawai'i lauds the intent of SCR 146 SD1/SR 68 SD1 to strengthen educational ties among our institutions. UH respectfully points out that it is unrealistic to establish, implement, and assess an educational exchange compact within six months, and that student exchanges would require new resource commitments.

The UH System Office of the Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy would be willing to participate in an exploratory group with the UH campuses named in SCR 146 SD1/SR 68 SD1 to examine the feasibility of tourism programs of mutual benefit and to identify academic requirements and needed resources this programming would entail.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony.