



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee Higher Education
February 1, 2018 at 2:10 p.m.

By

Donald O. Straney, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2604 – RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2604 that appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to grant fund programs organized or sponsored by University of Hawai'i (UH) community colleges or a four-year campus to implement international college experiences for Hawai'i students enrolled at UH.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the language of HB 2604, recognizing the value of international educational opportunities for Hawai'i's students. Education abroad programs have been acknowledged to contribute to students' success and preparation. HB 2604 notes Hawai'i's strong heritage ties to the Asia-Pacific, and studying abroad in these countries exposes students to the vibrant economies and cultures of the region, a benefit to the state. Furthermore, funding for study abroad programs would encourage student participation, and potentially diversify the kinds of students who are able to participate.

Study abroad programs at UH are currently organized at the campus level, and systemwide we have discussed how we might collaborate across campuses to benefit students.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2604.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, February 1, 2018
2:10 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of

HB 2604
RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) would like to offer the following comments on HB 2604, which appropriates monies to DBEDT to fund “by grant” programs of the University of Hawaii to implement international college experiences for Hawaii students:

- The office of international relations in DBEDT does not exist because it was an unfunded mandate from several years ago.
- Article VII, section 4 of the Constitution provides, “No grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law.” DBEDT does not have such grant standards provided by law, and therefore it is questionable whether DBEDT would be able to expend this appropriation. We therefore request that you delete the words “by grant” on page 3, lines 2 and 10.
- In the alternative, if this appropriation was made to the UH rather than DBEDT, it may be possible that the UH has its own grant standards and could expend these funds in the form of grants.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB-2604

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:10:02 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/1/2018 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Francisco	County of Kauai	Support	No

Comments: