



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
March 20, 2018 at 2:10 p.m.

By  
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HR 112 / HCR 125 – ENCOURAGING THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO MAKE GREATER USE OF OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES AND OTHER LOW-COST OR FREE RESOURCES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HR 112 / HCR 125 that encourages University of Hawai'i (UH) to make greater use of open education resources and other low-cost or free resources.

The University supports the intent of HR 112 / HCR 125, and recognizes the financial burden of the high cost of textbooks on students. Beginning in 2015, our ten campuses have been intentionally investing in Open Educational Resources (OER) by providing workshops, grants, trainings, technology support and opportunities for faculty and staff to promote the adoption, adaption and creation of OER.

The UH community college system already has a very active 7 campus committee managed by Leeward and Kapi'olani that is doing this work, and provides support for faculty and librarians.

The University recognizes that there are additional means of lowering costs, such as low or zero textbook cost initiatives and alternatives such as placing copies of publisher produced textbooks on reserve at our libraries, using materials available through library subscriptions, and supporting faculty as they create their own instructional materials. In addition, OER may not be suitable in some types of teaching and learning situations, for example, in some career and technical education courses, professional degrees, and other program areas that have specialty requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**HCR-125**

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:01:19 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/20/2018 2:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
brianhk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to express my support of HCR125. I applaud the focus on keeping the University of Hawaii System affordable recognizing that open educational resources could be a viable option. Some of these educational resources could also be more effective than traditional textbooks.

It's important to note that open educational resources are not limited to textbooks but could also include videos and interactive learning activities. In addition, many open educational resources are digital so these materials are convenient to access. Take the Khan Academy website, [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org), for example. This site offers recorded lectures and activities on subjects ranging from Biology to Calculus. I've used this site and found it convenient to be able to watch videos anytime from anywhere with Internet access.

Faculty should have the autonomy to choose what learning materials they use for their classes. There are times where traditional textbooks are necessary. However, it is important that faculty at least be aware of what open educational resources can offer. Open educational resources are not a replacement for textbooks, but another tool in an educator's toolbox.

Because of these reasons, I urge the passing of HCR125.

Thank you,

Brian Kim