

SR-125

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair; the Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR166 / SR 125** relating to the University of Hawaii System; Curriculum; and Programs.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SCR166 / SR 125** and supports its passage.

SCR166 / SR 125 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it urges the University of Hawai'i System to utilize and expand existing curriculum and programs across the various campuses rather than allow each campus to create its own curriculum and programs.

Specifically, the Platform of the DPH provides that "We believe that the future of our state, as well as our country, depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated and built to 21st-century innovations so that our students learn in well-designed, safe environments.

We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. We view

standardized tests as just one way of evaluating learning and support multiple measures, including performance assessments such as portfolios and observations.

Consistent with these goals we seek to make public college, public university, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs available to all seeking further education tuition-free." (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 296-302, 310-319 (2016)).

Given that **SCR166 / SR 125** urges the University of Hawai'i System to utilize and expand existing curriculum and programs across the various campuses rather than allow each campus to create its own curriculum and programs, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities of the DPH

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