



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
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SCR 123 / SR 94 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TO STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE THE SCHOOL-TO-CAREER PIPELINE FOR POSITIONS IN PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairs Kim and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Kidani and Wakai, and members of the committees:

Several of the University of Hawai'i colleges offer degrees and certificates in the areas of concern noted in SCR 123/SR 94. For example, Hawai'i Community College offers an Associate of Science in Administration of Justice. This program is designed to prepare students for careers within the criminal justice system. The program is well connected to industry in that it allows up to 6 Prior Learning credits for completing basic police recruit training as required by government law enforcement agencies. Hawai'i Community College also offers a Certificate of Competence in Criminal Justice Addictions Professional (23 credits) and Homeland Security (13 credits). University of Hawai'i at Hilo has a bachelors in Administrative Justice and Hawai'i Community College is creating a 2+2 with UHH.

Honolulu Community College's program in Administration of Justice is designed to prepare the student academically for entry into the Administration of Justice career field: i.e., law enforcement, courts, corrections or private security. Courses are also provided to meet the training needs of the in-service professional. As with Hawai'i Community College there are strong program connections with the industry allowing experience in the law enforcement field to count for defined academic credit units.

UH Maui College offers a Certificate in Competence in Corrections I and II. The program is offered through the Administration of Justice program. Maui College currently has 50 majors in Administration of Justice program.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is also exploring the possibility of a new degree in criminology.

Therefore, although there are programs throughout the UH system and others being planned, a more robust connection to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is warranted given the demand and good salaries in these open positions. UH already has a vital sector partnership program and is equipped to reach out to the leadership in Public Safety on this initiative. UH looks forward to engaging with the DPS and forming a productive partnership to serve those looking for employment as well as to serve the needs of the state in these areas.