



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
Friday, January 31, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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

HB 1231 – RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding HB 1231 – Relating to International Education Programs.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this bill. Many of our campuses offer study abroad opportunities for students at the University of Hawai'i. Expanding these opportunities would permit more students to benefit from studying in another country.

Students studying abroad face costs over and above those they have studying at their home campus. The costs of international travel, room and board in a new location, required fees they may incur at a foreign institution can pose a financial burden to students who wish to study abroad. Some of these students may need to cover housing costs at home while they are away. And depending on the nature of the program, students may need to pay tuition at their home institution for the credits they earn there for their studies abroad.

Appropriated funds to support study abroad opportunities would definitely help more students benefit. We are concerned that using these funds to cover the cost of a particular program may be challenging since many of the program expenses would be international ones. Program expenses do not include the increased personal expenses students must cover to participate and benefit from studying in another country. An alternative to funding a particular study abroad program would be to appropriate funds for a scholarship program for students studying abroad. Such a scholarship could permit students to cover expenses such as tuition for the courses taken abroad, travel costs, or room and board expenses.

The University of Hawai'i would welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to find ways to expand opportunities for our students to benefit from study abroad.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
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
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

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

Friday, January 31, 2020
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB1231
RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and members of the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers the following comments on HB1231 that appropriates funding to the University of Hawaii to support one or more programs to expand opportunities for international college experiences for students enrolled at a University of Hawaii campus.

DBEDT recognizes the value of international educational experiences for students as it contributes to long-range economic benefits for Hawaii's economy. Students with a global outlook have the opportunity to apply those experiences to cultural, educational and business relationships in the future.

DBEDT looks forward to collaborating with the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.