



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 3:15 p.m.

By
Erika Lacro
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2690 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges supports the intent of Senate Bill 2690. This initiative is to appropriate funds to subsidize travel expenses and/or tuition that gives Maui County students (18-20) opportunities for study abroad experiences.

1. The overall benefit of study abroad is that it maximizes the global learning of each partnering institutions by providing students with top quality global education and better potential in securing a good job in the future.
2. This academic year, University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) successfully supported 7 (seven) students to study in Japan and Okinawa. The success has created increased interest to students wishing to study abroad.
3. The major challenge for most students is cost.
4. It also stimulates UH Maui College's enrollment management target for international students.

The UH Community Colleges supports the intent of this bill provided that it does not supplant the supplemental budget request of the University of Hawai'i.

Thank you for opportunity to testify on SB 2690.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 6, 2020

TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2690, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to make an appropriation to the Office of International and Regional Partnerships, University of Hawaii Maui College for study abroad programs.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. This Act appropriates funds to the Office of International and Regional Partnerships, University of Hawaii Maui College for scholarships to subsidize travel expenses and tuition for study abroad programs.
2. This Act will encourage students to study abroad to gain foreign language skills and cross-cultural competence and develop economic and educational relationships in an increasingly globalized world.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

ocs:proj:legis:20legis:20testimony:sb2690_paf20-061(16)_jbf