



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
April 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

by
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SCR 115 SD1 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO EXAMINE THE REASONABLENESS AND FEASIBILITY OF THE EXISTING POLICIES, STANDARDS, RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE UNIVERSITY HOUSING PROGRAM

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SCR 115 SD1, which requires the University of Hawai'i (University) and its Board of Regents (Board) to examine and assess its policies and procedures governing the University housing program and submit a report to the legislature. The University recognizes that in 2010 and 2013, several deficiencies in the University Housing program were identified. However, these issues have since been resolved. As such, while the University appreciates the Legislature's interest in and support of our housing program, the University does not believe further examination is necessary at this time.

Following the audit reports completed in 2010 and 2013, which identified several deficiencies, University Housing performed a significant overhaul of its policies and procedures to address these deficiencies, completing the process in 2014.

Progress on implementation of the revised 2014 policies and procedures was examined in subsequent audit reports issued in 2019 and 2021. As recently reported to the Board in March of 2021, these audit reports conclude that University Housing has improved their processes and procedures and has implemented, to the satisfaction of the auditor, all of the recommendations issued in prior audit reports. These include recommendations regarding maximum term of stay, IRS compliance, and restrictions on sub-leasing.

The University Housing program has been a very positive tool for recruitment, particularly in light of the pandemic, giving incoming faculty and their families piece of mind when moving to the islands. Currently, University Housing has a total of 15 applications outstanding and hopes to place everyone interested this summer.

As the issues from 2010 and 2013 have been resolved through the implementation of improved policies and procedures, the University respectfully requests that this resolution be deferred. If the Committee has any specific concerns on the program, the University is open to responding to any direct inquiries, concerns or requests for information. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SCR-115-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 12:32:34 PM

Testimony for HET on 4/7/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annika Nozaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a student at the University of Hawai'i and I SUPPORT SCR 115. The University of Hawai'i needs to crack down on and actually enforce its faculty housing policies. There is a double standard when it comes to the way the University enforces housing policies for faculty versus students. For students, the University gives us 24 hours after our housing contract ends to be completely moved out. Otherwise we are fined immediately and your belongings are removed and put up for donation within thirty calendar days if you dont come to reclaim them. For faculty housing, the University says that they want to be nice and give them the benefit of the doubt for YEARS until they actually enforce the end of a housing contract. The University of Hawai'i Housing program needs to take a hard look in the mirror and this resolution calls for just that.