



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, May 25, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 201/SR 166 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE AND ASSESS THE UNIVERSITY'S TENURE SYSTEM FOR RESEARCHERS AND OTHER NON-INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 201 and Senate Resolution 166. As the resolutions note, tenure is critical for recruitment, advancing knowledge, and for academic freedom.

The University of Hawai'i welcomes the opportunity to further investigate its policies and procedures regarding tenure in relation to its peers and looks forward to working with the University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly to address the points found in the resolution.



The Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 25, 2021
3:00 PM, Video Conference Room 229

RE: SCR 201/ SR166 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE AND ASSESS THE UNIVERSITY'S TENURE SYSTEM FOR RESEARCHERS AND OTHER NON-INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY.

Attention: Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) offers the following comments and concerns over the language and intent of Resolutions SCR 201/ SR 166.

While UHPA appreciates the intent of the resolutions requesting the University of Hawai'i and UHPA to convene a task force to examine and assess the University's existing tenure system, there are caveats in the resolution that would interfere with UHPA's statutory collective bargaining rights as the exclusive bargaining representatives. Moreover, these are matters contained in the current 2017-2021 UHPA/Board of Regents Unit 7 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Nevertheless, we believe that the opportunity to compare and contrast the University of Hawai'i process and procedures with their peer institutions may assist in ensuring best practices are reviewed and applied appropriately.

Again, UHPA appreciates the intent of the resolution SCR 201/SR166 and the opportunity to share our concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

1017 Palm Drive ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Website: www.uhpa.org