



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Labor and Government Operations  
Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

By

Debora Halbert

Vice President for Academic Strategy  
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 120 SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, TO COLLECT DATA RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE IN HAWAII, EVALUATE THE COLLECTED DATA, AND DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO PROVIDE BETTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 120 SD1 relating to the development of an information technology workforce in Hawai'i. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of this measure but defers to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on provisions applicable to their department. SCR 120 SD1 requests the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, in collaboration with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the University of Hawai'i, to collect data relating to the development of an information technology workforce in Hawai'i, evaluate the collected data, and develop a strategy to provide better information technology training.

UH is willing to participate as one of the stakeholders in this collaboration and looks forward to working with the others involved. UH recognizes that information technology is a mission-critical industry for the State of Hawai'i and embraces its role in developing that economic sector. That is precisely why the new UH Strategic Plan identifies "Data Sciences and Global Cybersecurity" as a targeted area for its efforts to diversify Hawai'i's economy through research and innovation. UH has also partnered with the Hawai'i Department of Education, the Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce, and the CIO Council of Hawai'i to organize convenings focusing on collaborative efforts to support and develop the State's information technology workforce. UH would be pleased to partner with the agencies identified in this resolution to collect relevant data and coordinate statewide efforts.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

April 13, 2023

To: The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair,  
The Honorable Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Government Operations

Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol and Videoconference

From: Jade T. Butay, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: S.C.R. 120 S.D.1 ; REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, TO COLLECT DATA RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE IN HAWAII, EVALUATE THE COLLECTED DATA, AND DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO PROVIDE BETTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.**

The DLIR **supports the intent** and defers to DBEDT and UH on aspects of the measure pertaining to those agencies. SCR120SD1 requests the DLIR, in collaboration with the DBEDT and UH, to collect data relating to the development of an information technology workforce in Hawaii, evaluate the collected data, develop a strategy to provide better information technology training, and submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation to the 2024 Legislature.

The DLIR is willing to work with partners to collect & evaluate data and to develop a strategy to provide better information technology training. The DLIR could take the lead in collecting the data requested in (1)(A) (Courses, trainings, and programs), (B) (internship programs), & (C) (Certification and licenses) of the resolution.