



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 Higher Education and Technology
Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert

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SCR 79 SD1 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CREATE A PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARITIME COLLEGE AND TO ESTABLISH A MARITIME COLLEGE

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR79 SD1. This resolution urges the University of Hawai'i (UH) to convene a working group to create a plan for establishing a maritime college.

The University of Hawai'i agrees with the observations of the many advantages establishment of a maritime college would bring to Hawai'i. The UH System strategic plan includes support for workforce development in areas of State need and efforts to provide more employment opportunities for UH graduates in Hawai'i. We would welcome participating in a working group to investigate the feasibility of standing up a maritime college in Hawai'i under the auspices of the UH System.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

SCR-79-SD-1

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Anderson Jr.	Inlandboatmen's Union of The Pacific Hawaii Region	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The IBU Hawaii Region Strongly supports **SCR 79** as we know first hand the importance of our Maritime workforce being the backbone of our island's supply chain and the scarcity of filling these jobs with qualified and licensed mariners. In order to perpetuate a professional workforce to carry out these very specific job responsibilities, we need a Maritime college here in the State of Hawaii where High School graduates can attend and develop their professional education while staying home in Hawaii and then working in their trade, here in Hawaii.

Respectfully,

Capt. Michael S Anderson Jr.

IBU Hawaii - Regional Director



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LOCAL 142

April 11, 2023

The Thirty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2023

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Committee on Higher Education & Technology

Senator Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Senator Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON SCR 79/SD1 RELATING TO URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONVENE AT WORKING GROUP TO CREATE A PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARITIME COLLEGE AND TO ESTABLISH A MARITIME COLLEGE

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 142 (ILWU 142) testifies in strong support of SCR 79/SD1 urging the University of Hawaii to convene a working group to create a plan for the establishment of a maritime college, to submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations including any proposed legislation, and further urging the University of Hawaii to establish a maritime college as soon as possible and in appropriate consultation with the working group.

The ILWU 142 is a labor union comprised of 18,000 members in the longshore, tourism, pineapple, and general trades industries. We are committed to ensuring that local families can access family-sustaining jobs to live and thrive in Hawaii. Too many local families are forced out of Hawaii due to economic pressures and escalating costs. We stand in strong support of SCR79/SD1 because a comprehensive maritime training center with a corresponding training ship would serve as an important resource for local workers pursuing careers in Hawaii's maritime industry.

The University of Hawaii has emerged as a leader in ocean-based education and research and adding an ocean-based workforce development program is a practical addition to this important work. Maritime colleges are 4-year programs that provide the strongest set of credentials in the industry by combining career technical training with the well-rounded curriculum provided for by a bachelor's degree program. Other than a marine training center, the University of Hawaii already has the components needed for a comprehensive maritime college.

Not every worker can afford to attend college outside of Hawaii nor can every worker afford to spend years away from family and community obligations. Housing a maritime college within the University of Hawaii System allows for greater access to financial aid, external funding, and administrative expertise. A maritime college would allow Hawaii's maritime industry to hire highly skilled and trained labor from within the State instead of searching for qualified workers outside of Hawaii. Moreover, a maritime college will facilitate entry into the maritime industry to build capacity within Hawaii's ports and marine space.

A maritime college would create a stable pipeline of family-sustaining local jobs, address ongoing workforce needs within Hawaii's critical supply chain, and prepare our local community for maritime work into the future. For those reasons, this is a matter of statewide concern.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR79/SD1.

Christian West

Christian West
President

