



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 Finance
Monday, February 26, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Erika Lacro

Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1844 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 1844 HD1, which appropriates temporary full-time equivalent positions and funds for adjunct faculty positions at the University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) to train in the construction trades.

While the construction industry was one of the most resilient sectors during the pandemic, it continues to face a severe workforce shortage. In addition, as stated in the 2023 UHERO third quarter forecast report, "Maui rebuilding is still Hawaii's biggest economic challenge." In particular, the report cited, "rebuilding efforts on Maui will require about 2,000 additional construction workers."

UHMC supports three types of training in the construction trades: apprenticeship training, short-term continuing education, and an associate degree program. If provided, the additional positions and funds will expand all three types of training. In 2022-2023, the UHMC Apprenticeship program had approximately 280 students, non-credit construction programs had approximately 50 enrolled, and the Construction Technology associate program had approximately 42 majors. The range of training will address workforce needs areas such as carpentry, painting, plumbing, electrical, equipment operators, and more.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1844 HD1, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1844 HD1.



The House Committee on Finance
February 26, 2024
2:00 PM
Room 308

RE: **HB 1844, HD 1, Relating to the University of Hawaii**

Attention: Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa and members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 1844, HD 1**, Relating to the University of Hawaii.

HB 1844, HD 1, establishes temporary full-time adjunct positions at the University of Hawaii Maui College for the purpose of educating and training students in the construction trades. This bill will provide greater opportunities for Maui residents to obtain the necessary skills and experience needed for careers in the construction trades. To ensure the recruitment and retention of the positions, it is essential for the FTE appropriation to have a recurring, general fund designation.

UHPA supports and requests the passage of HB 1844, HD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly