



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 Water & Land
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

By
Erika Lacro
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1844 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Ichiyama and Perruso, Vice Chairs Poepoe and Kapela, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 1844, 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, 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.



The House Committee on Water and Land
And
The House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
January 31, 2024
2:00 PM
Room 309

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

Attention: Chairs Linda Ichiyama and Amy Perruso, Vice Chairs Mahina Poepoe and Jeanne Kapela, and members of the Committees

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

HB 1844 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. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Fern'.

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

HB-1844

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:28:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas Pintor