



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
February 6, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

By

Erika Lacro

Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2542 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MAUI COLLEGE, MOLOKAI  
EDUCATION CENTER

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

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges is in support of SB 2542, "Relating to the University of Hawaii Maui College, Molokai Education Center."

The purpose of SB 2542 is to provide funds to relocate the Moloka'i Education Center to higher ground from its current location that is located in an area that may be impacted by sea level rise. It is imperative that we consider alternatives to our current Moloka'i Education Center and prepare for the inevitable.

SB 2542 will appropriate funds to begin the planning of a new center so that when the time comes the University will be ready to relocate in order to preserve the important mission of the Moloka'i Education Center.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 2542, on the condition that any funds appropriated in support of this program does not supplant any portion of the University's budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2542.



# Kamehameha Schools®

Senate Committee on Higher Education

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Date: February 6, 2024

Where: Conference Room 229

## TESTIMONY

By Kā'eo Duarte  
Kamehameha Schools

RE: **SB 2542, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Maui College, Moloka'i Education Center**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kim, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kidani, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao Kulanui o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha kākou! My name is Kā'eo Duarte and I am Vice President of 'Āina Pauahi, a division of Kamehameha Schools which manages our lands with 'ōiwi leadership through the application of culturally rooted stewardship to harvest competitive portfolio returns while cultivating prosperous 'ohana and communities.

Kamehameha Schools **SUPPORTS** SB 2542, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i Maui College to lease 14.5 acres of land from Kamehameha Schools in Kalama'ula, Moloka'i to expand and relocate the Moloka'i Education Center.

Moloka'i nui a Hina. Great Moloka'i, child of Hina. Our stories reference the spirituality, the strength, and the ingenuity of the people of Moloka'i. We firmly believe in the positive and transformational power of education and applaud the references in the bill to the rising enrollment at the University of Hawai'i Maui College's Moloka'i Education Center. Kamehameha Schools welcomes the opportunity to engage with educational and community leaders to kōkua the keiki and 'ohana of Moloka'i. Advancing post-secondary education and career pathways is critical to resilient communities and the future of our lāhui.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

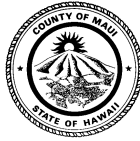
Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui; nurture the child and the people thrive. **Please advance this measure.**

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
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Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 5, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
SB2542, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MAUI COLLEGE,  
MOLOKAI EDUCATION CENTER**

I support this measure to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i to relocate and expand the University of Hawai'i Maui College, Molokai Education Center.

I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. The Molokai Education Center is nearing capacity and threatened by sea-level rise.
2. The property proposed for relocation and expansion in Kalamaula, owned by Kamehameha Schools, appears to be a good choice. The property has sufficient size and is located outside of the sea-level-rise zone.
3. The measure requires the University of Hawai'i to consult with the local community, ensuring Molokai residents' needs and concerns are met by relocating the campus as proposed.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**SB-2542**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:04:17 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2024 3:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tamara Paltin       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support SB2542 to provide higher education opportunities for the people of Molokai in consultation with the community and Kamehameha Schools