



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 & Technology
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By

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SCR 143 SD1 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS STUDENT AND FACULTY HOUSING FACILITY NEEDS AT THE MANOA CAMPUS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 143, SD1. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (“UHM”) is in need of improving its on-campus student housing facilities, as well as increasing the availability and inventory of housing for its students, staff, and faculty. More housing to meet the demands within the university will also directly benefit the general housing market in our broader island neighborhoods. Addressing both of these issues requires complex evaluation, analysis, and examination to balance financial resources, business operations, and campus development, with affordability and planning. For example, the campus must consider the potential rental rate structures that accompany the various financial models to execute any development plan alternative. The campus is also challenged in develop-able areas for expanding student housing.

Although UH has demonstrated its capability of successfully developing student housing facilities through executing public-private partnerships models, this approach may not be the appropriate universal approach for redeveloping existing student housing facilities on campus or to develop more faculty housing. A more involved analysis and evaluation of alternatives recognizes the need to evaluate diverse sources of options to finance, construct, operate, and maintain various housing facilities. SCR 143 SD1 supports UHM undertaking a comprehensive analysis and planning effort to address student and faculty housing facility needs at the UHM campus.

UH is in the process of developing a financial model for the student housing program that supports the evaluation and development of a comprehensive business model that

addresses capital investments, operating standards and service levels, and rental rate structures. To this end, UH believes it can submit a report to the Legislature that addresses the Student Housing Program 20 days prior to the start of the 2025 legislative session.

Given limited resources, however, UH does not believe it can also submit a report within the same time frame for its faculty housing program. To that end, UH requests the resolution be amended to expect the faculty housing report be provided no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2026 legislative session.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.