Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
By
Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
And
Maenette Benham, EdD, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1502 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1502 SD1 HD1. This bill seeks to establish faculty positions, student programs and facilities within the College of Social Sciences (CSS) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH Mānoa) and the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu (UH West O'ahu). Its goal is a skilled workforce in the intelligence sector of the state's economy, and would lead to Hawai'i educating and hiring its own college-prepared national intelligence workforce.

This workforce development project is supported by the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i, Pacific Intelligence Innovation Initiative, the J9 of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and other community partners

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Since 2023, CSS has developed and delivered programs to prepare high school and university students for careers in intelligence analysis, national intelligence and cybersecurity. Now, in 2025, CSS and other UH Mānoa units are ready to broaden the scope of these pilot projects by establishing a UH Mānoa-based academic program, Intelligence Studies in the Asia Pacific (ISAP).

ISAP would change the historical practice of transferring personnel from the continent and foreign countries and moving them to Hawai'i to fill local jobs in national security. This workforce development project would enable the people of Hawai'i, who have a strong affinity for Pacific Islander and Asian cultures and languages, to take the lead in monitoring and addressing regional international affairs and security issues within their home state.

CSS will continue to work closely with UH Mānoa units, including the College of Engineering and the College of Arts, Languages and Letters, as well as other campuses within the UH System. This workforce initiative would attract and serve students who are pursuing a variety of majors.

University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

The Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity provides students with an advanced cybersecurity education in information security, mathematics, computer science, and computer engineering. This technical cybersecurity degree program prepares students to meet the advanced cybersecurity workforce requirements of public sector agencies and private sector enterprises. This degree program supports both four-year students at UH West Oʻahu and pathway students from aligned Associate Degree programs from the University of Hawaiʻi Community Colleges.

In partnership with the CCS academic program, ISAP, our collective goal is to prepare Hawai'i's people for local high-paying careers in national security fields. UH West O'ahu's Cyber Security Coordination Center (CSCC) provides students with unique opportunity to develop subject matter expertise and identification of best practices for network defense, vulnerability research, forensic analysis, and industrial control systems. The Cyber Security Research Laboratory (CSRL) provides students with unique internship opportunities to combine cyber security education and skills to promote advanced knowledge in an applied research environment.

Students participate in faculty guided applied analysis and research related to the understanding and improvement of security and resiliency for critical information infrastructures and systems at the local, regional, and national level. The CSCC and CSRL provide a collaborative resource for Cybersecurity, Information Security and Assurance, and Information Technology degree students that will also produce highly trained cybersecurity and information technology professionals to meet increasing technical workforce requirements that exists in our communities.

Funding

The funding allocated in this bill will support the following initiatives:

1. At UH Mānoa's CSS: The establishment of this multidisciplinary ISAP at UH Mānoa would utilize 4.5 FTE employees, including 3 faculty, with an estimated budget of \$500,000. ISAP is especially pertinent at this time, given the U.S. government's current focus on decreasing its workforce and looking to the states to fill employment needs. Over the past 10 years, CSS has experienced an increase in enrollment, a higher trend in "persistence" (continuous Fall to Fall enrollment) in comparison to the UH Mānoa campus, and a shorter time to degree than the combined UH Mānoa campus. CSS also has zero to few vacant faculty positions at this time.

2. At UH West O'ahu: The creation of a 0.5 FTE position for the Director of the Cyber Security Coordination Center and a 0.5 FTE position for the Director of the Cyber Security Research Laboratory at the UH West O'ahu, at an estimated budget of \$130,000. This funding will also cover expenses related to student internships, certifications, equipment, software, and professional certification fees at an estimated budget of \$270,000.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our testimony in support and respectfully ask for your favorable consideration, provided its adoption does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.

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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1502 SD1 HD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Committee on Finance Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 2:00 PM Conference Room 308 & Videoconference 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports SB 1502 SD1 HD1 which appropriates funds for the establishment of faculty positions, student programs, and facilities in the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the University of Hawaii West Oahu for workforce development in the defense sector of the State's economy.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The defense industry is a critical economic driver for Hawaii, ranking as the second largest industry segment after tourism. Developing a local workforce to meet the growing demand in defense-related personnel is crucial for Hawaii's economic diversification and long-term prosperity. Defense continues to play a significant investment in Hawaii and has created thousands of high-quality jobs in fields like information technology, cybersecurity, intelligence, and data science, providing vital economic opportunities for our residents.

SB 1502 SD1 HD1 will help develop a skilled local workforce to meet the growing demand in these critical fields, and will serve as a pipeline and be a catalyst for talented graduates ready to contribute to Hawaii's defense sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 7:36:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina Center for Non-violent Education & Action	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our organization is strong;ly opposed to SB 1502

Hawaii is the most militarized state in the US. This bill further militarizes our educational system. It's time to fund Peace Education, diplomacy, and a just world order, not further militarization.

Here on Hawaii Island the military is having school field trips to Pohakuloa Toxic area on April 10th to militarize the minds of young people, and expose young people to military toxins. It would be like having school field trips to Red Hill and having students drink the water.

. Pohakuloa has been bombed and shelled for 80 years and is contaminated with a wide range of toxins, including Depleted Uranium radiation, lead, etc. The military fires millions of lives rounds annually, many of which resuspends the toxins that blow in the wind. Instad of funding military education, the State should be funding comprehensive independent, testing and monitoring at Pohakuloa to determine the full extent of toxic contamination in a manner that has the confidence of the community. Where are the officials speaking out on this? ZERO! Shameful.

Jim Albertini, President of Malu 'Aina

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Jim Albertini Malu 'Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action P.O. Box 489 Ola'a (Kurtistown) Hawai'i 96760 Phone 808-966-7622 Email ja@malu-aina.org Visit us on the web at www.malu-aina.org

<u>SB-1502-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/29/2025 11:21:10 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Women's Caucus	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How about work force development in the areas of climate and environmental justice or social housing devleopment?



Testimony from Academic Labor United (ALU)

Attention: House Committee on Finance

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair Senator Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Re: Opposition for SB 1502 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Appropriates funds for the establishment of faculty positions, student programs, and facilities at the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and the University of Hawai'i, West Oahu for workforce development in

the defense sector of the State's economy.

Academic Labor United (ALU) strongly opposes SB 1502 to appropriate funds for the establishment of faculty positions, student programs, and facilities in the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the University of Hawai'i—West O'ahu in the name of "workforce development" in the defense sector.

As the union for all Graduate Assistants in the University of Hawai'i system, since our establishment, ALU has identified various issues that are more urgent and necessary for Graduate Assistants. According to ALU's Fall 2024 Petition, our members have consistently demanded higher minimum GA compensation pay step, a sustainable funding stream to support international students while waiting for their first paycheck, investment in improving Title IX services across the UH system, and so on. While these basic needs are overshadowed by national security, the high-quality education and research the University of Hawai'i prides itself of are jeopardized. We find it unreasonable for the university to invest in "workforce development" while the university's own indispensable workforce that keeps the university operating suffers from food insecurity, housing insecurity, and inaccessible healthcare benefits. We find it unacceptable that the university has repeatedly ignored or denied GAs' demand for a livable wage while proposing to appropriate \$825,000 in the original bill.

Any contributions to "workforce development" should include the voices of those represented by our union which have clearly stated time and time again the need to keep the US military out of our workplace. ALU stands in solidarity with union workers across Hawai'i who fight to mitigate the US military's displacement of Kanaka 'Oiwi and local families. Additionally, we stand with other organizations such as SFJP at UH that have worked to protest against the genocide of Palestinians and reveal UH's ongoing complicity and lack of transparency of the University-Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) contract.



With the Trump Administration's threat to freeze federal funds and grants in the last month, Graduate Assistants are in an even more precarious position to carry out our administrative, research, and teaching duties. Now is the time to spend money on what is most needed, to support students and workers, and ensure their security more immediately than ever. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kaiqing Su and Lauren Taijeron Solidarity Committee Co-Chairs Academic Labor United



Testimony to the House Committee on Finance Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 2:00PM Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: SB1502 SD1 HD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 1502 SD1 HD1 which appropriates funds for the establishment of faculty positions, student programs, and facilities at the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the University of Hawaii, West Oahu for workforce development in the defense sector of the State's economy.

SB1502 SD1 HD1 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Military & Defense. This bill promotes policies that drive economic growth, enhance workforce opportunities, and improve the quality of life for Hawaii's residents.

Hawaii's defense sector presents a prime opportunity for job growth and economic expansion, evidenced by nearly \$9 billion in defense spending during the 2022 fiscal year and a defense-related job increase of about ten thousand positions since 2018. With scheduled funding slated to modernize Pearl Harbor, the State must equip residents to fill forthcoming high-demand roles in information technology, cybersecurity, intelligence, and data science. Leveraging the specialized strengths of the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the Business Administration program at UH West Oahu ensures that the local workforce remains well-trained and primed for these good-paying jobs.

By establishing new faculty positions, expanding research resources, and creating student internship opportunities, this measure broadens educational pathways and enhances public-private collaboration. The Chamber supports this legislation because it empowers local talent, drives economic growth, and ensures Hawaii's sustained competitiveness in the rapidly evolving defense sector.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass Senate Bill 1502 Senate Draft 1 House Draft 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 1:55:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members

On behalf of Greenpeace Hawaii's thousands of members and supporters statewide we stand in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB1502 that appropriates funds for the establishment of faculty positions, student programs, and facilities at the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and the University of Hawai'i, West Oahu for workforce development in the defense sector of the State's economy.

The US military does not need any more help from Hawaii tax payers' tight budgets to recruit students into their services. The US military budget for 2025 is \$850 billion. The US spends 10 times more on the military then the next 10 countries combined and 8 of which are US allies, and we are not even at war. By comparison, China spends \$246 billion and Russia spends only \$84 billion on their military.

The US military already has a very robust recruitment system in Hawaii with some 47 military recruiting offices across the state, as well as, access to job fairs at Hawaii High School and College Campuses. The US Defense Department will spend \$640 million on recruitment advertising this year. As our youth sit and wait to see films in our local movie theaters, advertisements flash across the screen prior to the film showing encouraging Hawaii's youth to be all they can be and join the military. It is also very well known that the military will pay for the college education of our youth when they join. Since many low-income youth cannot afford a college education, this is their only way to get a college education, which essentially creates a poverty draft.

As we are all aware, the State has a very tight budget this year, and the federal budget is also being cut putting essential social services at risk of losing funding.

We know that the Hawaii State economy is predominantly based on income from tourism and the military. In the end, we are siloing our youth into two career path choice fields. To ensure a robust economic future Hawaii must expand job opportunities into other fields.

Please VOTE NO on SB1502, because Hawaii tax payers cannot afford to waste our hard earned money on recruitment for the very well funded US military.

Mahalo

Dave Mulinix, Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii.

April 1, 2025

House Committee on Finance Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair



Working together for Kapolei

Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room #308 and via video conference

RE: SB1502 SD1 HD1 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the Committee,

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director & CEO of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region including Waipahu, Kapolei, 'Ewa Beach, Nānakūli, Wai'anae and Mākaha. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and help West O'ahu businesses thrive. We are a member- driven, member-supported organization representing the interests of all types of business: small, medium or large, for profit or non-profit businesses or sole proprietorship.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is in <u>strong support SB 1502 SD1 HD1</u> which provides critical funding to expand workforce development in Hawai'i's defense sector by establishing faculty positions, student programs, and facilities at the University of Hawai'i campuses, including the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (UHWO), which serves as a key educational and economic hub for the Leeward Coast and Central O'ahu.

Of particular importance to our region is the **establishment of two cybersecurity staffing positions at UH West O'ahu's Business Administration program**, which play a vital role in preparing students for high-demand careers in the defense and cybersecurity sectors. These positions are essential to growing the strong and much in demand cybersecurity training and research program at UHWO—an institution strategically located to support workforce needs on the west side of O'ahu, near major defense installations and technology employers.

Investing in these roles will directly enhance educational pathways in cybersecurity and ensure local students are equipped with the skills needed to enter and succeed in this critical field. Moreover, it supports Hawai'i's broader goal of reducing brain drain by creating local opportunities in cutting-edge industries, particularly in national defense and security.

This investment in faculty, research, and workforce training reflects a clear commitment to innovation, economic resilience, and prepares our residents for the evolving demands of today's job market. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce strongly supports this bill as a forward-thinking initiative that aligns with our mission to strengthen West O'ahu's economy and improve career opportunities for our community.

Hawai'i's strategic location presents significant opportunities for job growth in defense-related industries. In fiscal year 2022, the state received nearly \$9 million in federal defense spending, contributing to an increase of 10,000 defense-related jobs since 2018. To meet the rising demand for skilled workers and support economic diversification, this bill directs the DLIR to implement training, recruitment, and job placement initiatives.

Investing in our workforce and diversifying our economy are priorities for the Kapolei Chamber which will keep pace with the growth in our region, the fastest growing region in the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Best,

Kiran Polk Executive Director & CEO

<u>SB-1502-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/29/2025 12:50:32 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Feed the Kiki not the war machine!

<u>SB-1502-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 3/30/2025 6:01:37 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti Rep. Mike Lee

Rep. Daniel Holt
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Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy
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Rep. David Alcos III
Rep. Matthias Kusch
Rep. Julie Reyes Oda

Rep. Rachele F. Lamosao

Tuesday, April 1st, 2025 at 2:00PM Conference Room 308 & Videoconference 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Kendall Wong and I am providing written testimony in strong support of SB1502 SD1 HD1. As a current UH West Oahu Cybersecurity student and former Department of Defense high school intern, this bill would greatly benefit our program and would help to promote more cybersecurity related jobs. This field is going to continue to grow in a world where digital technology dominates and is integrated into the many daily lives of people all around the world. As cyber threats evolve and new ones emerge, we need more people working in this field to innovate and create solutions to combat these threats. By adding additional faculty positions for our program, it will mean more mentors, classes, and resources to help students like me learn, succeed and apply the knowledge and skills in this increasingly important field.

I respectfully request that SB1502 SD1 HD1 be passed. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Very Respectfully,

Kendall Wong



The House Committee on Finance April 1, 2025 Room 308 2:00 PM

RE: SB 1502, SB 1, HD 1, Relating to the University of Hawaii

Attention: Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi and members of the

Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), the exclusive bargaining representative for all University of Hawai'i faculty members across Hawai'i's statewide 10-campus system, **supports SB 1502, SD 1, HD 1**, relating to the University of Hawaii.

As technology continues to advance, it is imperative that the workforce of tomorrow prepares today. SB 1502, SD 1, HD 1, helps to meet this demand by establishing faculty positions at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Social Sciences, and in the University of Hawaii West Oahu's Business Administration Program. By growing these programs now, more students will be prepared to meet the ever evolving workforce needs in information technology, cybersecurity, intelligence, and data science.

To ensure the recruitment and retention of the positions, it is essential for the FTE appropriation to have a recurring, general funded designation.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern Executive Director

University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:56:01 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to SB1502 SD1HD1 towards a pipeline for students to enter the "defense" sector.

A recent article makes clear what the "defense" sector thinks of the People of Hawaii and their complete and utter disrespect:

'When asked if the Pentagon under Hegseth would actively pursue promised environmental cleanup and cultural preservation programs specific to Hawaii under the new administration, Larus (Elizabeth Freund Larus, adjunct senior fellow at the Honolulu-based Pacific Forum) said Hegseth "is single-minded when it comes to the U.S. military. He has said over and over that the mission of the U.S. military is warfighting."

Larus said Hawaii residents should expect to see environmental and cultural programs drastically scaled back and argued most were the result of congressional mandates that "warped military priorities and distracted the military from warfighting with an emphasis on lethality." '

https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/03/23/hawaii-news/hegseth-seeks-to-build-pacific-forces-cut-environmental-programs/

This from the entity responsible for poisoning thousands of families and contaminating the sole source aquifer for Oahu.

Earlier this session a bill was introduced at this legislature that would have provided free breakfast and lunch to *all* students enrolled in department schools and ensured that anybody can eat for free so that a hungry child would not be forced to skip meals. That bill died. Presumably it was thought that there were insufficient funds?

In FY 2025, the Department of Defense (DOD) had \$1.38 Trillion distributed among its 6 sub-components. Yet *trillions* apparently are not enough as SB1502 SD1 HD1 asks for Hawaii taxpayers to additionally fund a program that will act as a pipeline to the "defense" sector? This same sector that considers our People and the environment as simply collateral damage of which they have no obligation to protect from the harms they create? *Really*?

Bottomline, schools are a place for learning, not a place to create a pipeline to the killing machine sector. Moreover, our resources are very limited. They should be used to fund efforts

that Hawaii's families truly need, including bolstering local agriculture to strengthen our food sovereignty, and transitioning to affordable clean energy and transportation to mitigate the climate crisis.

Funding SB1502 SD1 HD1 would be a poor use of taxpayer dollars and disrespectful to each and every one of us who call Hawaii our home. I urge you to HOLD this measure.

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 4:08:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Cucco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You should feed our keiki not the war machine. Schools are for learning, not killing.

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 11:10:27 PM Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Aloha, my name is Keala from Honolulu and I am writing to OPPOSE SB1502. I think this is an absolute poor way to spend money for UH Manoa and UH West Oahu. NO on SB1502. Mahalo

Keala Fung, Honolulu