



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 3:01 p.m.

By

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SR 155/SCR 138 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC STRATEGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SR 155/SCR 138. The resolutions request the Office of the Auditor to perform a management and performance audit of the Office of the Vice President for Academic Strategy of the University of Hawai'i (OVPAS), specifically related to Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) and its work.

We recognize that transparency and accountability are essential to maintaining public trust and achieving continuous improvement. Therefore, we do not oppose this audit and believe it could be an opportunity to provide clarity and insight into our ongoing efforts.

It is important to note that Hawai'i P-20 is primarily grant funded, including through its major federal grant programs, which already undergo an annual federal compliance audit to ensure they are adhering to federal laws, regulations and grant terms and conditions. In addition, most of the grants require annual performance reports to demonstrate the progress made towards meeting grant objectives and performance measures. A performance audit, as proposed in SR 155/SCR 138, could complement existing compliance and performance efforts by offering a broader assessment of initiatives and assessing the adequacy of resources. By identifying strengths and areas for growth, this process could allow Hawai'i P-20 to refine their strategies and enhance the impact of their work for students and the broader community.

We would work with the Auditor to ensure a thorough review of our unit's operations. We are confident that the Auditor's report would help demonstrate our commitment to accountability and continuous improvement while reinforcing the importance of our mission in shaping Hawai'i's educational landscape.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this resolution.