



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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by
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HB 547 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

House Bill 547 House Draft 1 aims to provide students within the University of Hawai'i system with appropriate guidance and options to complete a major course of study, graduate within a reasonable time period, and understand the dynamics of the local job market.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates HB 547 HD 1 and agrees fully that the steps outlined in the bill are keys to students navigating through college and progressing successfully to on-time graduation. Many of the elements, or similar elements, described in the bill's proposed guidance program have been identified as essential features in UH's strategies to increase the number of students who graduate and graduate on time.

As one example, campuses have developed academic maps (MAPS), an indispensable aid for students faced with sifting through an array of courses offered to meet both general education and major requirements. Academic maps and other tools enable students to meet the multiple challenges of choice and selection, requirements, time and sequence and guarantee fulfillment of both requirements, thus clarifying the desired pathway toward graduation.

More recently UH has introduced additional innovations that will contribute toward boosting college completion. An academic planner is an intuitive online academic map that continually recalculates and provides students with their optimal path to college completion. Much like a GPS in a car, if the driver misses an exit, the route is recalculated. An academic program velocity feature allows new, real-time measurement of academic program efficiency and identifies programmatic constraints and bottlenecks that impact the program's graduation rate, enabling specific recommendations for improvements.

These innovations and others collectively make up a Graduation Pathway System (GPS) that would enhance UH capacity in providing students with their individualized optimal path to completion, focusing on students taking the right 15 credits each

semester to support optimal paths and also can inform students about their optimal point of transferring to another campus. These innovations support student advising and transform a student's understanding and planning for successful college completion.

To build on these innovations and accelerate their development, UH needs support in further developing the technological backbone of the GPS system that boosts the ability of students and advisors to identify and track course and program activities toward graduation.

The state of Hawai'i has been nationally recognized for our graduation strategies and successes under the broad umbrella of the *Hawai'i Graduation Initiative* (HGI), efforts that focus both on individual student success and the well-being of the state. The University appreciates HB 547 HD 1 and its recognition of key steps needed for additional progress. We look forward to continued discussion with the understanding that sums appropriated would not adversely impact the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents approved budget.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony.