

The background features a large, faint watermark of the University of Hawaii seal. The seal is circular and contains the text "UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII" at the top and "MĀLAMALAMA" at the bottom. In the center is a stylized torch or flame.

House Committee  
on  
**Higher Education And Technology**

Hearing - Thursday, December 17th, 2020

**Student Representative - Rene Hutchins**

ASUH at Windward CC, President

UH Student Caucus, Chairperson

# Difficulties of Studying

## Amidst a Pandemic

- **Lack of Technology**, having computers and internet at home
- **Lack of Bandwidth**, especially with multiple users on one network
- **Conflicting Priorities:**
  - Completing courses, Children's Studies (Student Parents),  
Working from home, Essential Workers, Maintaining good health
- **Student Learning Period** for those taking online courses for the very First-Time

# Difficulties of Studying

## Amidst a Pandemic

- **Faculty Learning Period**
  - Slight intermission while classes were switched to online
- **Emotional and Mental Health**
  - Some losing access to on-campus care, dealing with isolation
- **Hard to connect with some offices who were working from home**
  - Frustrations of “Do they even want to talk to me?”

# Positives of Studying Amidst a Pandemic

- **Communicating with Other Students** became much easier
  - Building essential Netiquette skills
- **Faculty became more accessible**
  - Expectations for Online Office Hours improved, much more predictable and consistent
- **Critical Campus support services going online**
  - In some ways, became easier to connect with them once you got past the initial barrier of how to do so

# Things Greatly Appreciated this Year

- **Urgent Student Relief Fund + CARES funding**
  - Helped students support themselves, especially if they lost jobs or significant hours
- **The ability to Withdraw (W) later into the semester**
- **The ability to change your grading option after viewing grades**
  - CR/NC vs. an impacted GPA
- **Emerging scholarship programs to pull students back into school**