



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education  
Friday, January 31, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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### HB 1231 – RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding HB 1231 – Relating to International Education Programs.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this bill. Many of our campuses offer study abroad opportunities for students at the University of Hawai'i. Expanding these opportunities would permit more students to benefit from studying in another country.

Students studying abroad face costs over and above those they have studying at their home campus. The costs of international travel, room and board in a new location, required fees they may incur at a foreign institution can pose a financial burden to students who wish to study abroad. Some of these students may need to cover housing costs at home while they are away. And depending on the nature of the program, students may need to pay tuition at their home institution for the credits they earn there for their studies abroad.

Appropriated funds to support study abroad opportunities would definitely help more students benefit. We are concerned that using these funds to cover the cost of a particular program may be challenging since many of the program expenses would be international ones. Program expenses do not include the increased personal expenses students must cover to participate and benefit from studying in another country. An alternative to funding a particular study abroad program would be to appropriate funds for a scholarship program for students studying abroad. Such a scholarship could permit students to cover expenses such as tuition for the courses taken abroad, travel costs, or room and board expenses.

The University of Hawai'i would welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to find ways to expand opportunities for our students to benefit from study abroad.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.