



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
February 24, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

By  
Erika Lacro  
Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1994 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges supports the intent of HB 1994 HD1, which incorporates two very promising initiatives.

The first initiative facilitates collaboration in K-12 STEM education by bringing together major stakeholders to form a network-improvement community task force to develop K-12 STEM teacher education.

The second initiative is to appropriate funds to subsidize travel expenses and/or tuition that gives Maui County students (18-20) opportunities to study abroad experiences.

1. The overall benefit of study abroad is that it maximizes the global learning of each partnering institutions by providing students with top quality global education and better potential in securing a good job in the future.
2. This academic year, University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) successfully supported 7 (seven) students to study in Japan and Okinawa. The success has created increased interest to students wishing to study abroad.
3. The major challenge for most students is cost.
4. It also stimulates UH Maui College's enrollment management target for international students.

We support the intent of this Bill on the condition that any requested positions or funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget request.

Thank you for opportunity to testify on HB 1994 HD1.