



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
May 11, 2020 at 10:30 a.m., Auditorium

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HB 2200 HD1 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in **support** of House Bill 2200 House Draft 1, Relating to the State Budget. This bill amends the current budget act for operations of Executive Branch agencies and is also known as the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020.

While normally we would be requesting the additions in the budget request as approved by the Board of Regents, we understand the dire fiscal conditions facing the State. At the same time that we all need to confront an inevitable and serious reduction in tax revenues, we also face new expenditure requirements to address the unanticipated consequences of the pandemic. And we all need to think about how to position Hawai'i for economic and social recovery when the worst of the pandemic passes. The UH has already begun planning and anticipating its elevated role in the near future with different services to meet the new levels of demand.

We understand that there could likely be a reduction in general fund appropriations. Should the Committee consider reducing the general fund appropriations to UH, we respectfully request that reductions be implemented in a manner where the University's Board of Regents, administration, faculty, staff, and students can make thoughtful and surgical approaches to maximally preserve our mission and help the State to recover from the economic recession.

As always, we are ready to work with the Legislature and any other stakeholders to discuss strategies to address the budget shortfall and public health crisis facing Hawai'i. We would also be interested in the strategic outcomes the Legislature considers most important to preserve and protect.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.