



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
February 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

By  
Kalbert K. Young  
Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer  
and  
Carrie K.S. Okinaga  
Vice President for Legal Affairs/University General Counsel  
University of Hawai'i System

### HB 972 – RELATING TO CONTESTED CASES

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 972.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent and purpose of HB 972, which is to provide for more efficient, cost-effective and accessible contested case hearings by allowing for the use of interactive conference technology. Such technology is already in use by the courts and could improve accessibility and efficiencies for other departments that have to conduct contested case hearings.

While permitting tele- or video-conferencing alternatives to in-person hearings will not always be the most practical or could present additional logistical issues, the option to have the capability as alternatives should be a general improvement. Especially given the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of interactive conference technology to conduct contested case hearings will promote participant safety as well as efficiency for such proceedings.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.