

## UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM 'ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI'I

Legislative Testimony Hōʻike Manaʻo I Mua O Ka ʻAhaʻōlelo

> Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Finance Friday, February 23, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. By Debora Halbert Vice President for Academic Strategy University of Hawai'i System and Erika Lacro Vice President for Community Colleges University of Hawai'i System

HB 1779 HD1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the intent of HB 1779 HD1 which establishes a three-year summer tuition pilot program to provide funding to the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges to offset the costs of aligning the resident tuition rates for the summer semester with the resident tuition rates for the spring and fall semesters at the community colleges. However, given our current plans to implement a pilot program, this bill is not necessary.

Independent of this bill, the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges are designing a pilot program that would provide the regular tuition rate in the summer to continuing students from the spring semester and entering high school students that register for the summer and fall semesters. Under this pilot, the lower summer tuition rate would target current students and local high school students. Those students attending a mainland college that return for the summer and take courses would continue to pay the higher summer tuition rate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 1779 HD1.