



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

By

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HB 1844 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 1844 HD1, which appropriates temporary full-time equivalent positions and funds for adjunct faculty positions at the University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) to train in the construction trades.

While the construction industry was one of the most resilient sectors during the pandemic, it continues to face a severe workforce shortage. In addition, as stated in the 2023 UHERO third quarter forecast report, "Maui rebuilding is still Hawaii's biggest economic challenge." In particular, the report cited, "rebuilding efforts on Maui will require about 2,000 additional construction workers."

UHMC supports three types of training in the construction trades: apprenticeship training, short-term continuing education, and an associate degree program. If provided, the additional positions and funds will expand all three types of training. In 2022-2023, the UHMC Apprenticeship program had approximately 280 students, non-credit construction programs had approximately 50 enrolled, and the Construction Technology associate program had approximately 42 majors. The range of training will address workforce needs areas such as carpentry, painting, plumbing, electrical, equipment operators, and more.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1844 HD1, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1844 HD1.