



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

#### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Water & Land  
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology  
Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

By  
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### HB 1844 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Ichiyama and Perruso, Vice Chairs Poepoe and Kapela, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 1844, 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, 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.