



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Labor & Government Operations
Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

By

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And

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And

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HCR 165/HR 144 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT A SAMPLE SURVEY OF FOR-PROFIT, NON-PROFIT, AND GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN HAWAII THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED REMOTE WORK, HYBRID WORK, OR TELEWORK ARRANGEMENTS

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 165 /House Resolution 144. These measures are requesting the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) “to identify areas in the State that have lower housing costs and decreased access to good-paying jobs.”

The proposed research is well aligned with UHERO's core mission to enhance public and private sector decision-making through rigorous research focused on the people, environment, and economy of Hawai'i.

UHERO is willing to conduct this research, but notes that UHERO faculty already have many commitments and full research agendas. It is important to point out that UHERO relies on the donations and contracts for roughly one-half of its budget. Without financial support, taking on new unfunded projects places our existing research and projects at risk.

We believe that UHERO's faculty could be most helpful by serving in a consultative role to the Department of Human Resources Development on this study. As such, we would like to propose the following amendment for your consideration:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human Resources Development working in coordination with the University of Hawaii Economic

Research Organization, identify areas of the State that have a combination of lower housing costs and decreased access to good-paying jobs.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.