



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Government Operations
and
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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SB 3157 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Chairs Thielen and Kim, Vice Chairs Inouye and Kidani, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today on SB 3157. While the University of Hawai'i (University) recognizes that audits can be beneficial in helping to evaluate and validate processes, and where necessary, audits can provide value in identifying areas for improvement or best practices, the University feels that a comprehensive performance audit of the community college system is not necessary at this time.

Each of our community college campuses went through a very rigorous and comprehensive accreditation evaluation by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). The ACCJC is the accrediting body that accredits all community and junior colleges in California, Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands. As you know, accreditation is a system by which an institution evaluates itself in accordance with standards of good practice regarding mission, goals, and objectives; the appropriateness, sufficiency, and utilization of resources; the usefulness, integrity, and effectiveness of its processes; and the extent to which it is achieving its intended student achievement and student learning outcomes at levels acceptable for higher education. It is a process by which accreditors provide students and the public with assurances of institutional integrity and effectiveness and educational quality. Following an on-site visit in October 2018, all campuses with the exception of Kapi'olani Community College (KapCC), received reaffirmation for the maximum seven-year period. KapCC received reaffirmation for 18 months with a Follow-up Report due next month. So the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges is already subjected to a thorough evaluation of its academic quality and institutional effectiveness, student learning programs and support programs, resources, including human resources,

physical resources, technology resources, and financial resources, and leadership and governance.

It is the University's understanding that this bill was prompted by concerns raised by students at a community college campus, and we have already set up meetings with students to discuss their concerns. We are hopeful that issues students might have with the Administration at any of our community college campuses can be addressed without the need for an audit.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.