



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and
Senate Committee on Education
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By
Erika Lacro
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 89 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE TRAINING, COURSES, AND CURRICULA RELATED TO THE MECHANICS, REPAIR, AND MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES, HYDROGEN VEHICLES, AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES IN THEIR PROGRAMS

Chair Kim, Chair Kidani, and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) provides comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution 89 which encourages UH and the Department of Education to include training, courses and curricula related to mechanics, repair and maintenance of electric vehicles (EVs), hydrogen vehicles (HEVs) and other alternative fuel vehicles in their respective programs.

Five UH community colleges offer Automotive Technology or Automotive Mechanics Technology (AMT) programs: Hawai'i, Honolulu, Kaua'i, Leeward, and Maui. In 2019-20, UHCCs awarded 21 Associates degrees and 57 Certificates of Achievement for Automotive Technology. At some campuses, the mechanics, repair and maintenance of EVs, HEVs and other alternative fuel vehicles would extend beyond the AMT program to other transportation programs (e.g., Diesel Mechanics, Auto Body and Repair).

All UHCC AMT programs recognize the industry shifts toward EVs, HEVs and other alternative fuel vehicles. Campuses are changing their programs to address the new technologies based on the advice and relationship with local industry partners, the availability of training in the postsecondary setting, and the availability of resources to invest in the faculty training, equipment, and curriculum necessary, especially given significant safety concerns in working with the new technologies. The programs include education about the EVs, HEVs and other alternative fuel vehicles into their programs, focusing on theory and safety components. All programs identified challenges to incorporating comprehensive training due to technology-specific and vehicle-specific requirements for repair and safety, and all programs have identified that incorporating EVs, HVs and other alternative fuel vehicles in their respective programs would require significant investments, such as faculty training, equipment, safety space, vehicles, certifications and curriculum.

Some programs have already incorporated or are planning to incorporate EV and HEV content into their program. Currently, Kaua'i CC offers certificates in Automotive Green Technology, HEV Preventative Maintenance and Repair and HEV Diagnostic and Repair. Leeward's Ford ASSET curriculum provides manufacturer training required of entry-level technicians in EV/HEV

technologies for Ford vehicles; due to safety concerns, all instruction is classroom and web-based only. Hawai'i CC and Maui College are planning for curriculum that includes EV/HEV and fuel cell technologies but need to secure sufficient resources to implement plans.

Consistent with SCR 89, UHCCs' AMT programs will discuss the industry needs with their advisory councils regarding current and projected workforce needs for automotive technologies which are moving toward EVs, HVs and alternative fuel vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration of UH's comments.