



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
April 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

by
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SCR 115 SD1 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO EXAMINE THE REASONABLENESS AND FEASIBILITY OF THE EXISTING POLICIES, STANDARDS, RULES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE UNIVERSITY HOUSING PROGRAM

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SCR 115 SD1, which requires the University of Hawai'i (University) and its Board of Regents (Board) to examine and assess its policies and procedures governing the University housing program and submit a report to the legislature. The University recognizes that in 2010 and 2013, several deficiencies in the University Housing program were identified. However, these issues have since been resolved. As such, while the University appreciates the Legislature's interest in and support of our housing program, the University does not believe further examination is necessary at this time.

Following the audit reports completed in 2010 and 2013, which identified several deficiencies, University Housing performed a significant overhaul of its policies and procedures to address these deficiencies, completing the process in 2014.

Progress on implementation of the revised 2014 policies and procedures was examined in subsequent audit reports issued in 2019 and 2021. As recently reported to the Board in March of 2021, these audit reports conclude that University Housing has improved their processes and procedures and has implemented, to the satisfaction of the auditor, all of the recommendations issued in prior audit reports. These include recommendations regarding maximum term of stay, IRS compliance, and restrictions on sub-leasing.

The University Housing program has been a very positive tool for recruitment, particularly in light of the pandemic, giving incoming faculty and their families piece of mind when moving to the islands. Currently, University Housing has a total of 15 applications outstanding and hopes to place everyone interested this summer.

As the issues from 2010 and 2013 have been resolved through the implementation of improved policies and procedures, the University respectfully requests that this resolution be deferred. If the Committee has any specific concerns on the program, the University is open to responding to any direct inquiries, concerns or requests for information. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.