Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Tuesday, February 24, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

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Debora J. Halbert, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy University of Hawai'i System

SB 2532 – RELATING TO PRISONS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2532 relating to the establishment within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) of a working group to reduce recidivism by providing business education to inmates.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of this effort for the reasons described in the bill and defers to the Department of Public Safety. Reducing recidivism and providing inmates with meaningful educational opportunities will positively benefit the citizens of Hawai'i and have a positive economic benefit for the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.