Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 3:05 p.m.
By
Erika Lacro, Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 3340 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MAUI COLLEGE, MOLOKAI EDUCATION CENTER

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i is in support of SB 3340 that proposes to purchase land for the relocation of the Moloka'i Education Center from its current location that lies in a flood and extreme tsunami evacuation zone to a Mauka location.

The Moloka'i Education Center was built in 1999 on 3 acres of land in Kaunakakai. The center has served between 250 and 100 students each year and serves as a learning center for the Moloka'i community. The 3,300 square foot facility is equipped with classrooms, a library common area, office space, and a parking lot.

Due to sea level rise, a strategy to relocate the Moloka'i Education Center is necessary. This bill will secure a viable relocation site for the Center.

In closing, the University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 3340 on the condition that any appropriated positions or funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget Request.