



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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By
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SB 3374 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill (SB) 3374 relating to the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC). The University of Hawai'i (UH) strongly supports the bill to support workforce development.

UHCCS' CRITICAL ROLE IN MEETING HAWAII'S WORKFORCE NEEDS

Unique among UH campuses, the UHCCs' mission includes workforce development and personal development for career mobility. UHCCs take seriously its responsibility to provide a trained workforce, offering occupational, technical and professional courses and programs to prepare students for immediate employment and career advancement. Through its seven campuses and six education centers throughout the state, UHCCs provide accessible and affordable options for education and training through its degree and certificate programs and non-credit workforce training programs. UHCCs offer a range of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs including healthcare, human services, skilled trades, business, technology and agriculture. Last year, in its degree and certificate programs, UHCCs served 8,512 students in CTE majors, offered 2,343 CTE classes and awarded 2,678 degrees and Certificates of Achievement. In its non-credit workforce training programs, UHCCs provided nearly 16,000 training opportunities, some leading to industry-based certifications including federally recognized Registered Apprenticeship Programs for 3,517 apprentices in the trades and healthcare.

DEDICATING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WILL ALLOW UHCCS TO INCREASE THEIR ENGAGEMENT WITH EMPLOYERS AND SUPPORT HAWAII'S EVOLVING WORKFORCE NEEDS

UHCCs are committed to meeting the state's workforce needs. Resources for workforce development would be invested in workforce innovation. This includes increasing our responsiveness to current needs and anticipating future needs through alignment of CTE programs with current and forecasted needs for the skills and certifications as well as the number of trained residents for workforce needs and employment opportunities. Additionally, for key workforce sectors, such as information technology and healthcare, UH will expand its convenings of industry leaders with faculty and administrators systemwide to address critical workforce needs. UHCCs plan to strengthen its partnerships with employers, industry associations and UH faculty to systematically develop its workforce training capacity, innovate new models for working with employers and communities and develop pathways between non-credit and credit programs to provide advancement opportunities through both degree programs and short term noncredit training opportunities. Also, UHCCs will collaborate across the colleges, education centers and with partners to provide more training opportunities

throughout the state, including some of the state's remote communities. Finally, UHCCs plan to work more closely with other workforce development partners, especially other governmental agencies, to coordinate and leverage resources to benefit the state's residents.

We appreciate the opportunity to share about UHCCs' workforce development programs and plans, and strongly support SB 3374, as we believe additional investments in the UHCCs workforce development programs will be crucial to Hawaii's continued economic recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.