



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology
Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

By
Debora Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 126 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO CO-CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WITH A FOCUS ON THE PRIORITY ECONOMIC CLUSTERS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE STATE'S NEW ECONOMY

Chairs DeCoite and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Wakai and Lee, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 126. The University of Hawai'i (University) supports the intent of SCR 126 and stands ready to collaborate with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) and the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to create pathways into essential sectors in the State.

The University works closely with the Department of Education and Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education to develop educational pathways that meet current and future labor market needs. We are committed to continuing our work with DLIR and DBEDT to gain even more clarity about labor market needs throughout the State so that we can effectively design programs for students to meet labor market needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of the intent of SCR 126 and the University's collaborative efforts to further workforce development.