



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 Higher Education
Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 3:07 p.m.

By

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SCR 171/SR 126 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO TRANSFER
THE SCHOOL OF TRAVEL INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII AT MANOA TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII - WEST OAHU

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SCR 171/SR 126. These resolutions request that the University of Hawai'i transfer the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM) from the University of Hawai'i Mānoa (UHM) to the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu (UHWO).

Effective September 1, 2019, the TIM school successfully merged with the Shidler School of Business, including fiscal, administrative, and alumni support. This unification strengthened and expanded relationships with the tourism industry, community, alumni, and students to include new opportunities and resources along with increased financial support. Some of these successes include: generating \$1.5 million in new student scholarships, \$500,000 for international study abroad, raising \$2.5 million for six new faculty endowments, enabling the school to recruit and retain high-quality faculty, and providing summer research support for TIM faculty to conduct research on important issues facing the visitor industry in Hawai'i and beyond.

There are numerous continued benefits of the current alignment, including the fact that TIM offers both graduate and undergraduate degrees while UHWO is not authorized by the Board of Regents (BOR) to offer graduate programs. Additionally, the TIM school is developing a PhD specialization in Travel Industry Management with the Shidler College of Business. To date, 471 Shidler and TIM students (based on a five-year cumulative average) were annually placed in industry-specific internships in Hawai'i, U.S. Mainland, and internationally.

While UHM has maintained a successful program, it also needs to be noted that UHWO has its own hospitality and tourism concentration within its Business Administration degree program. The UHWO program, which was explicitly established as a workforce-focused program, can actively serve the surrounding community.

UH understands this measure's intent, and we agree that workforce development is integral to industry growth for one of our most important economic sectors. We welcome the opportunity to report back next session on what UH is doing as a System to support workforce development for hospitality/tourism throughout the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these measures.