



# 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 Education  
Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

By

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#### SB 2052 – RELATING TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 2052 as it provides educational outreach and engagement programs through the Public Access Room (PAR) under the Legislative Reference Bureau and supports efforts to enhance civic engagement throughout the State. UH has several members who sit on the Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education (PACE), and these individuals have worked with other members of the Commission to develop programming that fosters civic education at all educational levels. Thus, UH agrees with the recommendations for amendments made by the PACE Commission regarding the provisions related to UH.

Specifically, the PACE Commission recommends, and UH supports, that the bill be amended so that section 3, which requires UH to assign staff to coordinate with the PAR on their outreach and engagement, be deleted and that post-secondary education not be included in the outreach and engagement program at this time. The PACE Commission recommends the following specific revisions:

Page 3, line 19: delete “post-secondary,”

Page 4, lines 3-4: delete “and university of Hawaii”

Page 5, lines 1-8: delete Section 3 of the bill regarding Chapter 304A

Page 5, line 17: delete “post-secondary,”

If funding to support systemwide civic engagement personnel is forthcoming so that all ten campuses might coordinate with the PAR, then UH welcomes the opportunity to collaborate and build programming.

At this time, UH is unsure of what the PAR envisions with its outreach and engagement program. With this uncertainty, UH has reservations about including this language in the statute to mandate coordination without an appropriation to provide UH the ability to effectuate the requirements of this measure.

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