

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM 'ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI'I

Legislative Testimony Hōʻike Manaʻo I Mua O Ka ʻAhaʻōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Education House Committee on Higher Education & Technology Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. By Erika Lacro Vice President for Community Colleges University of Hawai'i System

SCR 144 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND HAWAII P-20 PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATION TO DEVELOP CLEAR PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACADEMIES TO SEAMLESSLY CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Chairs Woodson and Perruso, Vice Chairs La Chica and Kapela, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges support SCR 144 which urges the Department of Education (DOE), University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC), and Hawai'i P-20 to develop clear pathways for students in DOE career and technical education (CTE) academies to seamlessly continue their education in CTE programs at the UHCC.

The UHCC recognize the importance of providing strong educational pathways that lead students to good jobs in Hawai'i. Developing clear pathways into careers has been a focus for the UHCC, and we continue to identify ways to better articulate and communicate pathways for students. CTE curriculum alignment among pre-college, two-year, and four-year providers can be complex and challenging to communicate to students and parents in a simple and straightforward manner. We acknowledge the need for co-designed, shared pathway maps that ensure students can move efficiently and effectively from the K-12 to post-secondary educational system and into a career with the requisite job skills needed to be successful in the workforce and earn a living wage job.

The UHCC are committed to continued collaboration with the DOE and Hawai'i P-20 in order to better serve the local communities in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 144.