



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
Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

by

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on behalf of

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 172/SR 148 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO COLLABORATE WITH UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE TO CONVENE THE HAWAII CREATIVE INNOVATION GROUP

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports SCR 172/SR 148 as it continues the Legislature's long time and crucial support for building Hawai'i's creative economy through education.

The Academy for Creative Media, UH System, which has been the recipient of legislative support for twenty years, now offers students access to 16 different programs across UH's ten campus on all islands. Honolulu Community College's Fashion Technology program, which has been recognized internationally for starting the careers of noted graduates Kini Zamora and Ari South; and its Music & Entertainment Learning Experience (MELE), are further examples of innovative creative programs originating at UH.

The University of Hawai'i welcomes the opportunity for closer collaboration with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and other stakeholders through the proposed Hawai'i Creative Innovation Group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.