Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 4, 2013 at 9:50am
By
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SCR 199 SD1/SCR 151 SD1 – URGING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH A THREE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON ANY INCREASES OF RESIDENT TUITION.

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee.

SCR 199 SD1/SR 151 SD1 urge the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i to establish a three-year moratorium on any increase of resident tuition.

The administration of the University of Hawai'i supports the intent of the SCR 199 SD1/SCR 151 SD1, but respectfully requests that the Senate Way and Means Committee defer them.

The Board of Regents approved a five-year tuition schedule that went into effect Fall 2012 and ends in Spring 2017. As we described in the Tuition Briefing conducted February 5th, 2013, for the Senate Committee on Higher Education, this schedule was approved in a public meeting after holding community meetings on every campus. The schedule was developed after careful consideration of the factors outlined in Board policy, including access and affordability, student diversity, financial aid, the share of the cost of education covered by tuition, differential rates, peer comparisons, and the current and projected financial condition of the University.

It is also important to note that the administration provides a mid-schedule review for the Board of Regents that tracks the impact of the tuition schedule on access, particularly access of low income and underserved students. This review provides an opportunity for the Board to consider any change in the factors that determined the tuition schedule and make modifications as they deem appropriate.

We respectfully request that the Committee defer this action and allow the Board of Regents to exercise their role and responsibility in setting and reviewing tuition.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on these resolutions.