



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 2:45 p.m.

By

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University of Hawai'i System

SB 200 – RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Chairs Kim and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 200, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) to fund one or more programs sponsored or organized by a UH Community College or a four-year campus to expand opportunities for international college experiences for UH students, and also requires UH to work with the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and requires a report to be submitted to the legislature. The University offers the following comments.

UH has a long history of supporting opportunities for students to study abroad. Because of our location and international scope of our programs and faculty, it has been natural for the university to develop ways for students to learn about other cultures, languages, and peoples by studying in places outside Hawai'i.

The university also has a well-established working relationship with DBEDT to increase the number of students from abroad studying in Hawai'i. The robust programs at multiple campuses that bring faculty and students from other countries to work and study with us offers a significant enrichment of our programs and builds interest among our students in themselves studying abroad. Eight campuses and the system are members of the Study Hawai'i consortium, with whom we regularly engage at conferences and other events to encourage international students to study in Hawai'i. Together, Study Hawai'i and DBEDT promote Hawai'i as the pre-eminent study destination, "The Best Classroom in the World."

Each campus supports, organizes, and offers over-seas study opportunities for students in different ways. More than 500 students systemwide study abroad each year in 30 countries. These credit programs range from one-week intensive courses to year-long adventures; some students live with host families while others choose to live in residence halls. And, most any major's requirements can be met while studying abroad – students can study language and culture, biology, business or architecture, to name just a few courses that are offered.

We appreciate and support the intent of this bill, which would provide funding to grow some study abroad programs at one or more UH campus. We are concerned, however, with how campuses or programs would be selected, or how funds would be appropriated. In some cases, funds to support students and faculty in a study abroad program might be the most impactful way to foster growth of opportunities. In that case, a scholarship fund for students studying abroad might be a mechanism to consider to implement the goals this bill supports.



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Statement of
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Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Thursday, February 7, 2019
2:45pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SB 200
RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Chairs Kim and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi and members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers the following **comments** on SB 200 that appropriates funding to the University of Hawaii to support one or more programs to expand opportunities for international college experiences for students enrolled at a University of Hawaii campus.

DBEDT recognizes the value of international educational experiences for students as it contributes to long-range economic benefits for Hawaii's economy. Students with a global outlook have the opportunity to apply those experiences to cultural, educational and business relationships in the future.

DBEDT looks forward to supporting the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-200

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 3:17:39 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:20:29 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tim Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Study abroad programs have been changing our students lives, and I am confident to say that it has made our students globally competitive. The students at the University of Hawaii - West Oahu who had participated in study abroad programs have broadened their view of this world and have become culturally enriched by these opportunities. This fund will tremendously help and encourage our Hawaii students to participate more in future international opportunities.

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Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:43:26 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: