



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 Higher Education
Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 3:07 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert

Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 79/SR 72 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONVENE WORKING
GROUP TO CREATE A PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARITIME
COLLEGE AND TO ESTABLISH A MARITIME COLLEGE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 79/SR 72. These resolutions urge the University of Hawai'i to convene a working group to create a plan for establishing a maritime college.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) agrees with the observations of the many advantages establishment of a maritime college would bring to Hawai'i. The UH System strategic plan includes support for workforce development in areas of State need and efforts to provide more employment opportunities for UH graduates in Hawai'i. We would welcome participating in a working group to investigate the feasibility of standing up a maritime college in Hawai'i under the auspices of the UH System.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these measures.



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • **OAHU DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
MAUI COUNTY DIVISION: 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • **KAUAI DIVISION:** 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766
HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

LOCAL 142

March 27, 2023

The Thirty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2023

THE SENATE

Committee on Higher Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Thursday, March 30, 2023; 3:07 p.m.

STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON SCR 79/SR72 RELATING TO URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONVENE AT WORKING GROUP TO CREATE A PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARITIME COLLEGE AND TO ESTABLISH A MARITIME COLLEGE

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 142 (ILWU 142) testifies in strong support of SCR79/SR72 urging the University of Hawaii to convene a working group to create a plan for the establishment of a maritime college, to submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations including any proposed legislation, and further urging the University of Hawaii to establish a maritime college as soon as possible and in appropriate consultation with the working group.

The ILWU 142 is a labor union comprised of 18,000 members in the longshore, tourism, pineapple, and general trades industries. We are committed to ensuring that local families can access family-sustaining jobs to live and thrive in Hawaii. Too many local families are forced out of Hawaii due to economic pressures and escalating costs. We stand in strong support of SCR79/SR72 because a comprehensive maritime training center with a corresponding training ship would serve as an important resource for local workers pursuing careers in Hawaii's maritime industry.

The University of Hawaii has emerged as a leader in ocean-based education and research and adding an ocean-based workforce development program is a practical addition to this important work. Maritime colleges are 4-year programs that provide the strongest set of credentials in the industry by combining career technical training with the well-rounded curriculum provided for by a bachelor's degree program. Other than a marine training center, the University of Hawaii already has the components needed for a comprehensive maritime college.

Not every worker can afford to attend college outside of Hawaii nor can every worker afford to spend years away from family and community obligations. Housing a maritime college within the University of Hawaii System allows for greater access to financial aid, external funding, and administrative expertise. A maritime college would allow Hawaii's maritime industry to hire highly skilled and trained labor from within the State instead of searching for qualified workers outside of Hawaii. Moreover, a maritime college will facilitate entry into the maritime industry to build capacity within Hawaii's ports and marine space.

A maritime college would create a stable pipeline of family-sustaining local jobs, address ongoing workforce needs within Hawaii's critical supply chain, and prepare our local community for maritime work into the future. For those reasons, this is a matter of statewide concern.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR79/SR72.

Christian West

President