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Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 28, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
By
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and
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SCR 143/SR 172 PROPOSED SD1 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS STUDENT HOUSING FACILITY NEEDS AT THE MANOA CAMPUS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 143/Senate Resolution (SR) 172 Proposed SD1. The University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa ("UHM") is in need of improving its on-campus student housing facilities, as well as increasing available inventory for its students. Addressing both of these issues requires complex evaluation, analysis, and examination to balance financial resources, business operations, and campus development, with affordability and planning. For example, the campus must consider the potential rental rate structures that accompany the various financial models to execute any development plan alternative. The campus is also challenged in develop-able areas for expanding student housing.

Although UH has demonstrated its capability of successfully developing student housing facilities through executing public-private partnerships models, this approach may not be the appropriate universal approach for redeveloping existing student housing facilities on campus. A more involved analysis and evaluation of alternatives recognizes the need to evaluate diverse sources of options to finance, construct, operate, and maintain various housing facilities. This proposed SCR/SR supports UHM undertaking a comprehensive analysis and planning effort to address student housing facility needs at the UHM campus.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.