



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2055, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: Thursday, February 1, 2024 **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

This bill: (1) establishes a three-year summer tuition pilot program to be implemented by the University of Hawai'i; (2) requires the University of Hawai'i to submit interim and final reports on the summer tuition pilot program to the Legislature; and (3) makes an appropriation for the program.

Article X, section 6, of the Hawai'i Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



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, February 1, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert

Vice President for Academic Strategy

and

Erika Lacro

Vice President for Community Colleges

University of Hawai'i System

SB 2055 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the intent of SB 2055 which establishes a three-year summer tuition pilot program to provide funding to offset the costs of aligning the resident tuition rates across fall, spring, and summer semesters at the community colleges. However, given our current plans to implement a pilot program, this bill is not necessary.

Independent of this bill, the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges are designing a pilot program that would provide the regular tuition rate in the summer to continuing students from the spring semester and entering high school students that register for the summer and fall semesters. Under this pilot, the lower summer tuition rate would target current students and local high school students. Those students attending a mainland college that return for the summer and take courses would continue to pay the higher summer tuition rate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for SB 2055.