



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
and  
House Committee on Education  
March 25, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

By  
Lui Hokoana  
Interim Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

#### SB 3062 SD2 – RELATING TO LIQUOR.

Chairs Garrett and Woodson, Vice Chairs Amato and La Chica, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) stands in strong support of SB 3062 SD2. This measure provides a necessary and narrow exemption that will allow our campuses to focus on their core mission: preparing students for the workforce.

Currently, our culinary and hospitality programs are forced to navigate a complex, county-by-county licensing process just to fulfill basic curriculum requirements. This creates a disconnect between the classroom and the industry. For a student to meet global accreditation standards, they must understand the chemistry of alcohol in food preparation—such as deglazing and reductions—and the logistics of beverage management. SB 3062 SD2 removes the "commercial" red tape that currently treats a classroom like a private bar.

While the University fully supports the intent of this bill, we respectfully offer three amendments to ensure the language aligns with our actual operational needs:

#### 1. Broaden Program Eligibility for Emerging Industries

We suggest expanding the list of exempted fields to include emerging technical and agricultural sciences. Providing these students with hands-on laboratory and field training is essential for workforce readiness and aligns with the requirements of established vocational arts. Hawaii is seeing growth in local brewing and agricultural sciences; our students in these emerging fields need the same hands-on training as those in culinary arts.

#### 2. Standardizing Server Training

The University remains committed to the highest safety standards. We propose an amendment requiring that any student or staff member selling liquor to the public (through our laboratory dining rooms) must complete a Liquor Commission-approved

server training (e.g., "yellow card" training). This ensures our students are not just trained in cooking, but in the legal and safe service of alcohol before they enter the workforce.

### 3. Clarifying Public Sales

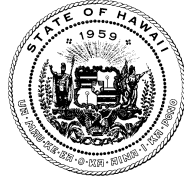
To ensure we are good neighbors to our local business community, we suggest clarifying that public sales must be incidental to the educational programming. This ensures our campus restaurants function as training labs—not as commercial competitors to the local bars and restaurants that we aim to staff with our graduates. To achieve the above and the intent of SB3062, SD2, we would suggest the following friendly amendments to SB3062, SD2, as the language pertains to the University:  
"§281- Liquor; limited license exemption. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or any other law to the contrary, the following entities may utilize, serve, or sell liquor without obtaining a liquor license under part III; provided that the entities comply with section 281-4(c), HRS, and any student or employee serving or selling alcohol must satisfactorily complete the applicable county liquor commission-approved server training and test:

(1) The university of Hawaii and its campuses, solely to support education and training in culinary arts, hospitality, fermentation sciences, or a related field of study; provided further that liquor may be sold to the general public if incidental to the educational programs; and....

In closing, SB 3062 SD2 is a practical modernization of our statutes. It trusts the University to manage its internal safety policies (EP11.202) while giving our students the industry-standard training they deserve.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STACEY A. ALDRICH  
STATE LIBRARIAN  
Ke Po'o Hale Waihona Puke Moku'āina

STATE OF HAWAII  
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**House Committee on Higher Education  
And  
House Committee on Education  
March 25, 2026, 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 309**

**SB 3062 SD2 – Relating to Liquor**

To: Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett, Chair  
Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports the intent** of SB3062 SD1 as it provides that the University of Hawaii and its campuses and state libraries may utilize liquor in certain educational settings without obtaining a liquor license, subject to certain limitations.

The HSPLS supports the language of SD2 as it clarifies the intent of this measure and limits the use of alcohol to educational exhibitions that are separate from public school campuses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB3062 SD2 and for your continued support of the Hawai'i State Public Library System.