



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 Ways and Means
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By

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HB 2158 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) would like to provide comments on HB 2158 HD1 SD1 - Relating to the University Of Hawai'i, which proposes the establishment of a program-level transparency dashboard and annual reporting requirements.

UH is committed to data-informed decision-making and agrees with the Legislature's goal of providing students, families, and policymakers with clear and actionable information on academic outcomes. The UH already maintains a robust data infrastructure, and this measure aligns with our ongoing efforts to modernize how we report and utilize institutional data.

Several data elements required under Subsection (a) are not yet collected or published at the program level across all campuses. Specifically, instructional cost per student credit hour and per degree awarded are not yet available systemwide. Additionally, program-level reporting of faculty full-time equivalent (FTE), course section fill rates, median time to degree, and within-program retention will require new data pipelines across ten campuses.

UH recognizes that a centralized, searchable dashboard, as described in subsection (c), will enhance the student experience by enabling easier comparisons across campuses and fields of study. Currently, much of the data described in this measure can be found via the Institutional Research, Analysis and Planning Office (IRAPO) website, which was recently updated in Fall of 2025. This website includes access to UH data regarding campus-level retention and graduation rates and also the Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) dashboard, which provides high-quality data on median earnings and employment status. Additionally, UH currently utilizes the Annual Report of Program Data (ARPD) for our community college campuses. We have recently launched initiatives to apply similar cost-tracking methodologies to our four-year campuses, including UH Mānoa, to better understand instructional costs per credit hour. These separate tools would need to be integrated to adhere to the request for a unified report.

Meeting the December 31, 2026, reporting deadline under Subsection (e) will require dedicated institutional research capacity. UH respectfully requests that the Legislature consider appropriating resources sufficient to support at minimum one analyst FTE and associated technology infrastructure to execute this mandate with quality and consistency.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.