



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
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By  
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### SB 2328 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2328. The University understands and appreciates the intent of this legislation but cannot support the bill as currently written which, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, requires all courses at all campuses within the University of Hawai'i system that require the use of instructional materials to exclusively use instructional materials from the open educational resources at the University of Hawai'i.

The University recognizes the financial burden of the high cost of textbooks on students. Beginning in 2015, our ten campuses have been intentionally investing in Open Educational Resources (OER) by providing workshops, grants, trainings, technology support and opportunities for faculty and staff to promote the adoption, adaption and creation of OER.

A mandate for OER use in all courses is not possible due to the wide variety of materials used in thousands of courses, some of which will remain under copyright. Faculty need to be able to choose the instructional content that is most appropriate for their courses and their students, and be encouraged to adopt OER when possible. Faculty have responded well to the outreach, training, and support being provided to them.

Recognizing that there are other alternatives for free resources in addition to OER, the University also has a zero textbook cost initiative. In addition, faculty at our campuses provide other alternatives including placing copies of publisher produced textbooks on reserve at our libraries, using materials available through library subscriptions, and supporting faculty as they create their own instructional materials.

Finally, OER does not fit all teaching and learning situations. In some of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses, manufacturer manuals and materials are needed while learning (i.e, student working on brakes for an automotive vehicle or an engine for a particular airplane). For Honolulu Community College, 60% of the students are in CTE programs.

For the above-mentioned reasons, the University of Hawai'i recommends that this bill be deferred, and may we suggest that we work with the committee on drafting a concurrent resolution to look further into OERs and other alternative cost saving measures for textbooks.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2328.