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Phone: (808) 532-2244

April 20, 2023

**RE: University of Hawaii  
Board of Regents Budget Request  
FY 2023-2024 & FY 2024-2025**

Dear:

The Hawai'i Business Roundtable supports the University of Hawai'i's (UH) Budget Request as approved by the UH's Board of Regents.

As you know, the Hawai'i Business Roundtable (HBR) is a statewide organization made up of Chief Executive Officers of many of the largest companies in Hawai'i. While it is made up of business leaders, the Hawai'i Business Roundtable is a community organization focused on broad community issues. As such, the HBR partners with government, private, nonprofit and other community organizations, to continue to build a stronger future for Hawai'i.

The future of Hawai'i rests in a vibrant economy with thriving businesses that elevate our communities. The members of the Hawai'i Business Roundtable know that Hawai'i's success is dependent upon education and an educated workforce is key to our state's success moving forward. Hawai'i's public higher education system has done a commendable job of preparing students for current and future careers while keeping tuition affordable – the University of Hawai'i schools are a great option and asset for our state, our students, our residents, and our businesses. The HBR notes that tuition has been flat since 2016 with no increases planned for the next two years. That means that UH is a tremendous value for our residents and our workforce. When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the state and the rest of the country in 2020, UH never stopped educating and graduating students.

There is truly a place for everyone at UH, from career technical training to 2-year, 4-year and graduate degree programs, to options beyond traditional college. The recently announced \$35-million workforce development initiative Good Jobs Hawai'i will provide free training and placement in well-paying jobs for 3,000 local residents. The UH Community Colleges provided free training for more than 4,000 Hawai'i residents during the pandemic.

UH has proven that it is among the most efficient government builders in the state with multiple projects constructed on time and on budget—the UH Mānoa Life Sciences building, the UH West O'ahu Academy Creative Media building and the Ching Athletic Complex expansion project, completed in only nine months after the surprise announcement that Aloha Stadium was no longer available.

As leaders of large organizations, HBR members know the importance of and are responsible for developing fiscally sound, stable, and adequate budgets for their organizations. The HBR believes that the UH budget meets those criteria while allowing UH to fulfill its legislative mandates and investing in initiatives to support students. We urge you to support UH's budget request and we look forward to continue our partnership with the State Legislature and UH in providing our residents with the outstanding education they deserve.

Mahalo for your support.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director  
Hawaii Business Roundtable