



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 2:01 p.m.

by
David A. K. Matlin, Athletic Director
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1424 – RELATING TO COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS INVESTIGATIONS

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Office of Intercollegiate Athletics (UHM Athletics) on HB 1424. This bill would establish how a national organization that regulates collegiate level athletics shall investigate athletics programs in Hawai'i.

UHM Athletics provides opportunities to over 500 student-athletes competing in 21 sports on behalf of the state of Hawai'i. We instill in our student-athletes and staff the virtues of hard work, discipline, and honoring the mantle of being a representative of the people of Hawai'i. We also respect that there are rules and regulations that collegiate athletics programs are required to be in compliance with and that non-compliance could result in corrective action including penalties.

At times, despite best efforts, there may be conduct within the UHM Athletic program that raises a concern if it is in compliance with a national organization's requirements. When UHM Athletics has been made aware of any questionable compliance situations, it has been prompt to conduct its own internal investigation and, if warranted, proactively initiated corrective action including penalizing itself - - even before any investigations by the national organization are completed and rulings issued. In addition, when involved in any investigations, UHM Athletics has endeavored to be forthright and fully cooperative in the investigation.

UHM Athletics is appreciative of the support and the intent of HB 1424 to establish a structure for the process when schools in Hawai'i are involved in an investigation into their collegiate athletic programs. Unfortunately, there is the possibility that national organizations that regulate collegiate athletics, when faced with specific rules for Hawai'i, may opt to not allow schools from Hawai'i to be part of the organization, rather than opt to comply with the rules. It is because of that possibility that while UHM Athletics appreciates the intent of HB 1424, it is not able to support the bill.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1424 and thank you for supporting the student-athletes at UHM Athletics.