



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
January 30, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

By
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HB 1886 – RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marcia Sakai, Interim Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for HB 1886.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo supports the intent of HB 1886. This testimony provides our concerns about portions of the legislation and provides specific requests for amendment should this bill move forward.

HCR 144 and SCR 186 of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature in 2007 requested that the University of Hawai'i system implement a system wide Senior Citizen Visitor Program.

The UH System Office of the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs (AVPSA) is currently working to assess the effectiveness of Senior Citizen Visitor Programs on the seven campuses with such programs. Of significant concern is that senior visitors are not formally recognized as students in the UH management information system and therefore are not held to the same policies and procedures as students, including Student Conduct Code and Title IX. Other concerns include the accessibility of services made available primarily through tuition and fees (i.e. student life center, health services, counseling services, student activities, library collections which are licensed based on full time enrollment).

The UH System Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy also has purview over tuition setting for the system. Any adjustments to published tuition rates would need to originate from the VPAPP's office and would apply to all campuses across the system, not just UH Hilo.

We recommend this measure be deferred until the UH System Office of the AVPSA completes the assessment of the Senior Citizen Visitor Programs on the seven campuses that are currently operating such programs and until the Office of the VPAPP is consulted on the issue of tuition adjustments indicated in this bill.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo would support a pilot to re-establish a Senior Visitor Program on our campus. Such a program should be based on best practices and lessons learned from prior implementation on the campus and on-going implementation on other campuses.

Other considerations for successful implementation are allowances of adequate time for appropriate consultation with faculty and support staff on campus and need for adequate financial resources to meet the expectations of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1886. Aloha.