



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the  
 Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
 March 22, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., Room 211

by  
 David Lassner  
 President – University of Hawai'i

### HB1900 HD1 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. The University of Hawai'i (UH) **supports** HB1900 HD1, Relating to the State Budget. We will keep this testimony brief as we had more in-depth presentations of our budget on December 27 and 29 of last year and on January 9, 2018.

HB1900 HD1 would provide \$1,759,000 in additional general funds for UH programs and \$92,828,000 in capital funding for facilities. While we are appreciative of additional funding to support UH programs, it is substantially less than the prudent request of the Board of Regents and less than what was included in the reduced Administration budget. As a result, progress will not be as great as would otherwise be possible in advancing equitable educational and economic opportunity in 21<sup>st</sup>-century facilities across the State.

Provided below is a table showing the Board of Regent (BOR) approved request for the supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 (FY19). All Means of Financing (MOF) are general funds:

Campus	Description	Pos (P)	Pos (T)	\$\$\$
Mānoa	Facilities	7.00		4,038,848
Mānoa	Student Success Initiative - Veterans, Filipinos, Mental Health	7.00		575,000
Mānoa	Native Hawaiian Affairs Action Plan	4.00		700,000
Mānoa	Student Research & Innovation	2.00		535,000
Mānoa	Graduate Student Initiative - Phase I	-		2,850,000
Mānoa	FTEs for Athletics	43.00		-
Hilo	DKICP - Janitorial & Groundskeeping	3.00		120,495
Hilo	Native Hawaiian Development	1.00		260,000
Hilo	Student Workforce	-		200,000
SBDC	10 temp FTE for SBDC		10.00	
UHWO	Health & Safety / Utilities / Equipment	7.00		781,000
UHWO	Academic Affairs Restructure & Growth	10.00		680,000
UHWO	Student Affairs	6.00		446,364
CCs	Hawai'i Promise Program			700,000
CCs	Arch/Eng for Facilities	3.00		273,600
CCs	Additional Pos for Security	31.00		1,083,264
CCs	Apprentice Lecturer Costs	-		260,000
CCs	Filipino Student Support	6.00		614,920
CCs	Veterans Support	7.00		473,108
CCs	Native Hawaiian Student Support	16.00		1,729,908
System	Office of Strategic Planning & Development	4.00		500,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>157.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>16,821,507</b>

## **Mānoa**

\$3 million is requested for the ongoing special repair and maintenance program at UH Mānoa along with seven positions to focus on specific portions of the campus so that we can be more responsive to facilities related issues. Recent data confirms that UH Mānoa is severely under-supported in this area relative to other UH campuses and peers. There is also additional funding requested for an access control card system to ensure the security of students, faculty, and staff.

To assist underserved students, \$575,000 is requested for additional resources for Student Services Specialists and Psychologists. These positions would provide support services for Filipino students, Pacific Island students, Veterans, and students with disabilities. Additionally, the psychologists would support the Counseling and Student Development Center in providing high demand mental health, developmental/wellness, and prevention services to UH Mānoa's diverse student population.

In summer 2017, the inaugural Native Hawaiian Affairs Program Officer position was created and hired in the Office of the Chancellor at UH Mānoa, establishing the Office of Native Hawaiian Affairs. Additional resources are requested to assist in enacting this Office's Action Plan which would seek to increase retention and graduation of Native Hawaiian students and strengthen the Hawaiian sense of place at UH Mānoa. Positions will be established to promote community and student-faculty engagement, campus environment, co-curricular programming, and graduate and faculty development.

\$535,000 is requested for UH Mānoa for student research and innovation projects and support and personnel services such as workshops and an undergraduate research showcase. This initiative will not only support UH Mānoa's research mission but also provide an opportunity for increased engagement by undergraduate students.

The Legislature has previously shown support for graduate student employees who have not seen structural raises for many years. As a result, UH Mānoa is requesting an additional \$2.85 million to raise the base salary for its graduate assistants.

Forty-three (43) General Funded position counts are requested for UH Mānoa Athletics without any new funds. This would enable the conversion of positions that are currently funded by the Athletics Special Fund to the State General Fund, which would provide savings to Athletics representing in excess of \$1.1 million in fringe benefit costs.

## **Hilo**

Two additional janitors and an additional groundskeeper are requested for UH Hilo for maintenance and upkeep of the new Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy Building.

Additionally, UH Hilo is requesting resources to assist in implementing its Hawai'i Papa O Ke Ao (HPOKA) plan, which complements the UH system HPOKA plan. This request would seek to improve the recruitment, retention, and graduation of Native Hawaiians through student support services and high impact applied learning experiences such as internships, community-based/service learning, undergraduate research, and work-based learning.

UH Hilo is also requesting \$200,000 to employ students as both peer mentors and advisors. Peer mentoring and advising are key components of Hilo's strategy to increase retention rates and student success. This request would expand pilot projects that have already demonstrated positive outcomes.

Although a separate program ID from UH Hilo, there is a request for ten (10) temporary positions for UH-Hilo Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which are currently provided through RCUH. This conversion will allow for the functions to be performed by UH employees.

## **West O'ahu**

As the UH West O'ahu (UHWO) campus grows and evolves, various infrastructure and direct instructional needs grow as well and necessitate additional resources. UHWO is requesting \$781,000 for its infrastructure needs, such as security, janitorial duties, funding for utilities cost, and equipment for 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms. Although still a relatively new campus, providing a base level of funding for facilities and upkeep will maintain these new facilities in their current condition and avoid the maintenance backlog situation seen on other campuses. \$680,000 is requested to assist with the restructuring of academic programs at UHWO to accommodate growth, and \$446,364 is requested to improve student services as the enrollment grows.

## **Community Colleges**

The 2017 Legislature appropriated \$1,829,000 for the Hawai'i Promise Program, although the original request was for \$2,500,000. A total of \$1,600,000 was issued for the Fall 2017 semester, and it is anticipated that this number will grow as awareness of the program grows and additional scholarships are issued in the future. An additional \$700,000 is requested to provide full funding.

The Community Colleges are requesting three additional architectural/engineering positions to adequately staff their Facilities Office. Currently this office has only four FTE architectural/engineering positions to manage over three million gross square

feet of classrooms, labs, shops, and office spaces located on seven major campuses and numerous satellite education centers statewide.

The request for 31 additional positions and \$1.1 million for security would provide 24/7 coverage by a minimum of two security officers for all Community College campuses.

Additional resources are also requested to help address the increasing lecturer cost for the Apprenticeship program, counselors to assist Filipino students, and counselors and support staff for Veterans. Finally, \$1.7 million is requested to provide permanent funding for successful programs originally funded by Title III grants from the U.S. Department of Education that are expiring or may have already expired.

### **Systemwide Administration**

This request would establish a small office at the Systemwide Administration level, which would oversee strategic development and partnerships for UH. The office is necessary to increase specialized expertise and resources of UH to develop public-private partnerships to more effectively deliver UH services and to activate UH's objectives to increase utilization of real estate assets as prudently responsible and consistent with the Integrated Academic and Facilities Plan. This office and approach is also consistent with the objectives identified by the Regents' task group on real estate development and the recently established Regents' task group on public-private partnerships.

### **House Draft of the Operating Budget**

The Governor's budget request reduced the BOR's \$16.8 million request to \$6.7 million. The House Draft of further reduced this to \$1,759,000. A breakout is provided:

Campus	Description	Pos (P)	Pos (T)	\$\$\$
Mānoa	Student Success Initiative			300,000
JABSOM	Alternative Medicine			500,000
Hilo	Native Hawaiian Development	1.00		79,000
UHWO	Student Affairs	2.00		130,000
CCs	Student Services Centers (Training)	-		750,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,759,000</b>

The Finance Committee did note that several vehicles exist for appropriations outside of the budget that may be used in lieu of budget line items. The most notable for UH is the Hawai'i Promise Program, which is currently funded at a level that provides partial support in the community colleges only.

## Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

Provided below is a table showing the BOR approved request for FY19. All MOF are General Obligation (GO) bonds:

Project Title	FY19 \$\$\$
Mānoa - Renew, Improve, Modernize (RIM) projects	139,500,000
Mānoa - Sinclair Library Renovation	41,000,000
Mānoa - Keller Hall Renovations, design phase	1,500,000
Hilo - Renew, Improve, Modernize projects	27,900,000
Hilo - Puako Marine Educational Center, design phase	1,000,000
West O'ahu - Renew, Improve, Modernize projects	3,000,000
West O'ahu - Relocation of Dental Hygiene Program from UH Mānoa to UH West O'ahu	10,000,000
CC - Capital Renewal & Deferred Maintenance	25,000,000
CC - Minor Capital Improvement Projects	10,000,000
Hawai'i CC - Campus Development, design phase	2,000,000
Leeward CC - Repave Fascia & Replace Walkways Campuswide	8,800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>269,700,000</b>

UH requested \$170.4 million to renovate, improve, and modernize (RIM) facilities across the State including classrooms, laboratories, and offices into quality learning, teaching, and working spaces. Instead of traditional classrooms lined with rows of single desks, movable and flexible furniture allows for various seating options that encourage small group discussions and hands-on learning configurations. Modern-day needs encourage multi-disciplinary collaboration and the replacement and renovation of buildings provides an opportunity to bring departments together and encourage the sharing of knowledge and ideas. State appropriations over the last decades have been inadequate to fully maintain public higher education facilities, much less modernize them to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup>-century students and faculty.

At UH Mānoa, the renovation of Sinclair Library will repurpose it as a student success center to increase student retention, improve the campus experience, and increase space utilization and effectiveness. And \$1.5 million is requested to begin the design phase of Keller Hall renovations, which will be the first step to establishment of a STEM zone to consolidate STEM programs and provide improved and modernized classrooms and laboratory spaces.

UH Hilo is requesting \$1 million to design the first phase of a Marine Education and Research Center in Puako, consisting of a new boat storage building with restrooms and a new pavilion.

In anticipation of the relocation of the Department of Dental Hygiene from UH Mānoa to UHWO, \$10 million is requested to provide facilities for this specialized program.

For the Community Colleges, \$35 million is requested for CRDM and Minor CIP projects in addition to \$8.8 million for fascia and sidewalk improvements at Leeward Community College and \$2 million to begin the design of a modern campus for Hawai'i Community College.

### **House Draft of the CIP budget**

The Governor reduced the BOR-approved CIP request by \$149.7 million to a total of \$120 million. The House Draft of the budget further reduced the BOR-approved CIP request to \$92.828 million in additional CIP:

Project Title	FY19 \$\$\$
Mānoa - Sinclair Library Renovation	700,000
Mānoa - Athletics (UOH900)	11,100,000
Hilo - Puako Marine Educational Center, design phase	3,200,000
CC - Capital Renewal & Deferred Maintenance	6,275,000
CC - Minor Capital Improvement Projects	10,000,000
Maui - Expansion of Culinary Arts Program to Lahaina	400,000
Hawai'i CC - Palamanui Outdoor Learning Area & Dining Area Improvements	1,173,000
Mauna Kea Cultural and Educational Visitor's Center (UOH900)	3,000,000
UH - Renew, Improve, Modernize (RIM) Projects	56,980,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,828,000</b>

We recognize that Hawai'i has many competing needs for general funds and GO bond appropriation and are appreciative of any additional support that the Legislature can provide.

Thank you for your time and consideration.