



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

By
Jan Gouveia, Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1317 – RELATING TO THE ACADEMY FOR CREATIVE MEDIA

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

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the interest by the legislature in SB 1317 to fund \$3 million or so in general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for renovations of soundstages and studio spaces at 2530 Dole Street. As more fully explained below, we respectfully oppose this measure as it does not consider the long-term strategic plans for the site nor the entire condition of the facility.

After over twenty (20) years of occupying 2530 Dole Street, PBS Hawai'i discontinued its long term lease with the University and vacated the facility in the summer of 2016. Given its current condition, the University has secured the services of a third-party consultant to assess the facility's compliance with health and safety codes and regulations. Additionally, there are many basic improvements to mechanical systems of the building that have reached the end of its useful life, as well as other investments in the roof and electrical systems.

The Mānoa campus is in the process of evaluating all of the programs and spaces on its campus to determine whether management and utilization of space aligns with program priorities and operational efficiencies. To this end, part of this evaluation will consider the pros and cons to consolidating all core programs on the main campus and repurposing the ancillary areas for possible third party development and/or monetization.

This measure seeks to make a specific investment in the soundstages and studio space of 2530 Dole Street. However, there is still an open and ongoing assessment on the condition of the entire facility. Additionally, there is also an open and ongoing evaluation of whether relocation of the Communication and Academy for Creative Media presence in 2530 Dole Street better serves students and contributes to an interdisciplinary program model, in accordance with the University's 6-Year CIP Plan approved by the Board.

Finally, as part of its FY 2018-2019 CIP budget approval process, the facility needs on the Mānoa campus were assessed and a capital program was developed accordingly. To that end, investments in improving 2530 Dole Street were not included in the

campus's budget request and, therefore, were not included in the Board of Regents approved CIP and operating budgets.

In closing, the University appreciates the interest of the Legislature in SB 1317 to improve studio space for UH Mānoa's ACM Program. However, we respectfully oppose this measure as it does not consider the long-term strategic plans for the site nor the entire condition of the facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.