HB 3161 Making An Appropriation to the University of Hawai‘i for Campus Security

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

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by

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Good afternoon Chair Waters and members on the Committee for Higher Education. We support the intent of House Bill 3161, which appropriates $480,000 for sixteen campus security officer I positions for the University of Hawaii Manoa campus provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Executive Supplemental Budget. The intent of this bill is also represented in our Supplemental Budget request and I would like to defer to your committee on the best course of action.

Campus Security currently has 37 full-time employees; there is 1 Chief of Campus Security, 1 Captain, 1 Clerk Typist, 1 Clerk III, 5 Security Officer II (sergeants), and 28 Security Officer I (patrol officers). Of the 28 patrol officers, 2 are on military leave. At present, Security Officers I and II, totaling 31 patrol officers, are responsible for the patrol, safety and security for all students, staff, faculty, and campus constituents and monitoring of the campus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to patrolling and monitoring the campus, a large per cent of a security officer’s duty includes but not limited to, conducting investigations and renders written reports on traffic accidents, assaults, thefts, criminal property damage, disorderly conduct, and other incidents and unusual happenings and takes appropriate action; picks up and delivers locked or sealed cash bags from various departments on campus for delivery to the Cashiers Office; enforces traffic and parking rules and regulations; prevents unlawful entry, trespassing, loitering, and the unauthorized use of department facilities and equipment; and apprehends persons attempting to commit or are in the act of committing a crime or other incidents in violation or and punishable by law.

Manoa Campus Security is responsible for the entire Manoa Campus which is approximately 350 acres in size and extends from the Lyon Arboretum and the Institute for Astronomy in Manoa Valley to the Lower Campus Athletic facilities in Moiliili. The security officers must also patrol Waahila and Mauka Faculty Housing, the University President’s residence, University High School, and other off-campus facilities like the Student Dormitories.

There are three shifts in which a designated count of officers are assigned to work. The first shift is from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., utilizing 11 officers and 1 sergeant
to supervise the shift; the second shift is from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., utilizing 9 officers and 1 sergeant; and the third shift is from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., utilizing 10 officers and 1 sergeant.

To provide the security presence needed on campus 24/7, we have logged over 7,600 hours of overtime during the past FY. This places an excessive strain on our staff and patrol officers and could compromise the patrol officers abilities to operate at full capacity.

To lessen the overload impact and staffing constraints, we are requesting $480,000 for 16 campus Security Officers I positions. The positions will be used to patrol the Manoa campus areas during the evening and late night shifts and may assimilate with current officers who choose to continue their assigned schedule during the first and third shift.

Manoa’s Administration has requested the assistance of the Office of Public Safety for training and possible extension of their services to the campus. Discussions are currently being held.