



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 3162 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO EXPAND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S HAMILTON LIBRARY'S HOURS AN ADDITIONAL FORTY-TWO HOURS PER WEEK.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 2, 2006

by

**D.E. PERUSHEK, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA**

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HB3162 RELATING TO FUNDING TO OPEN HAMILTON LIBRARY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, THREE DAYS PER WEEK

As the only major research library in the State of Hawai'i, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library seeks to meet two overarching objectives: to build a collection of great breadth and depth that responds to the needs of the State, and to make that collection accessible to students and faculty, and to members of the community as well.

Each year both the Library and the Chancellor's office receive requests from students to keep Hamilton Library open twenty-four hours a day. University libraries all over the United States are responding to similar requests by staffing their buildings or part of their buildings continuously. Hamilton Library ran a successful pilot program during the spring semester of 2004 opening the library on a 24/3 basis. We are requesting funds to reinstitute these hours in order for our students to have a quiet place to study and conduct research during the hours when they are very much awake and motivated to study. This request is also a part of the University's Supplemental Budget Request. We do not recommend keeping the library building open 24/7 as gate counts have shown that the midweek days are the only ones with sufficient student attendance to merit continuous opening.

Our pilot program report showed that 4,000 people used the library during a nine-week period between the hours of 11:00 p.m. (our previous closing hour) and 7:00 a.m. (our usual opening hour). Seventy-eight percent of the users were undergraduate students, and 14% graduate students. Average attendance ranged from a high at 11:00 p.m. of 144 people to a low of 15 people at 4:00 a.m. Users predominantly came to the library to study and read, but many also did research and writing, consulted library materials, and used computers in the library.

The library cannot institute the 24-hour open hours without more funding. Our budget is flat this year, our journal subscriptions have gone up \$100,000s this year, and we are confronting unplanned expenses to restore the library after the flood of October 2004. We propose to hire a modest number of staff members and guards to keep the building open and secure.

If "access" is our library's middle name, we would like to change that to "overnight access."

Thank you for the opportunity to present this statement.