HB 3168
RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 9, 2006

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Chair Waters, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai‘i strongly supports the intent of HB 3168. The purpose of this bill is to make a capital improvements program (CIP) appropriation for the University of Hawai‘i–West O‘ahu.

Sections 2, 4, and 5 of HB 3168 propose an appropriation of $208.553 million for the campus development of the University of Hawai‘i–West O‘ahu in Kapolei. The University of Hawai‘i’s CIP Budget for Supplemental Year 2006-2007 includes $208.553 million in general obligation bonds and special funds for the development of this important project. Information on this project and the entire Board of Regents’ CIP Budget for Supplemental Year 2006-2007 were previously transmitted to the Committee.

For your information, HB 1900, the Executive Supplemental Budget, includes a line item appropriation for the development of the University of Hawai‘i–West O‘ahu. HB 1900 currently includes $33.553 million in general obligation bonds and $175 million in special funds for the project, identical budget figures to those in HB 3168.

The University supports the intent of Section 7 of HB 3168 (Page 3, lines 16 through 22), as it pertains to energy efficiency and sustainable design as established by the United States Green Building Council. However, we are concerned with establishing a minimum rating level (i.e. silver) for new construction or major renovation work, as this will have a major impact on the total cost of developing/renovating a facility. We are currently unaware of any public facility in Hawai‘i that meets the silver standard which is stipulated in Section 7; therefore, we recommend omitting the section, or amending it to read as follows:

The University shall implement sustainable design technology in new construction and major renovation projects to the extent possible and feasible within the total project appropriation.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on HB 3168.