



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 1641: RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education, Committee on Transportation &
Government Operations, and Committee on Education & Military Affairs

February 15, 2005

By

Randy Hitz
Dean
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Chair Hee, Inouye, & Sakamoto, Vice Chair Inouye, Espero, &
Hooser, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports S.B. 1641 as long as the
appropriation does not supplant the University's biennium
budget request.

S.B. 1641 establishes a center for school redesign at the
University of Hawai'i which is housed within the College of
Education. The College of Education, in cooperation with
the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) has begun an
office for school redesign for the purpose of providing
support to high school principals and teachers who wish to
create small high schools or schools within schools.

There is compelling evidence to indicate that high school
students in smaller schools achieve better than their peers
in larger high schools. Smaller high schools under 400
students are able to develop learning communities that keep
more students engaged in academics as well as music,
athletics, and other extracurricular activities. Students
so engaged are more likely to graduate and to lead
successful lives as adults.

As noted above, the DOE and the College of Education are
currently allocating resources to this effort in partnership
and are seeking funds from private sources. The funds
provided through this bill will enable the office for school
redesign to begin operations and leverage support from
outside the state system and from outside the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Though the
funding suggested in this bill is above that requested by
the University, it is important, and we appreciate the

opportunity to provide this testimony in support of this bill.

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