



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 1787 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO ESTABLISH
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WEST O'AHU UNIVERSITY CENTER

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 8, 2005

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Acting Chancellor
University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu

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Chair Hee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of SB 1787 is to appropriate funds to establish a University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu University Center at Kapolei or Waianae. The University Centers were established on Kaua'i, Maui, and in West Hawai'i to provide access to higher education services in geographic areas without baccalaureate-granting campuses. Each of these centers is administratively tied to the community college on the island. Any of the ten campuses in the system can provide degree programs using the services provided by the respective Center.

There is good reason to consider the establishment of a University Center in western O'ahu. Given the traffic congestion, any services that can be provided without requiring students to drive to the Manoa campus or even the UHWO Pearl City campus would be advantageous. Currently, Leeward Community College supports an Education Center in Waianae. It may be that the resources suggested by this bill would best be used to convert the Education Center into a full-fledged University Center. Or, if the intent is to begin to provide services in Kapolei, the establishment of a Center there, affiliated with UHWO, would be the first step to fulfilling the promise to deliver a full range of educational opportunities to the region.

The two major considerations, an appropriate facility and operating funds, deserve careful attention. While the University supports the intent of this bill, it respectfully requests that priority be given to the Board of Regent approved biennium budget requests

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.