



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education and
Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Wednesday, January 31, 2007
by
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S.B. 640, RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTERS TRAINING

Chairs Sakamoto and Inouye, Vice Chairs Tokuda and Tsutsui, and Members of the Committees on Education and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

I am Interim Chancellor Denise Konan, and I am testifying today to support the intent of Senate Bill 640. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has a great deal to offer the state in disaster preparedness, and I am grateful for this opportunity to share those strengths with you.

We appreciate the support that the Legislature has provided to the School of Social Work's Long Term Case Management program, and we support its continuation so long as it does not supplant or diminish the budget requests contained in the Board of Regents Biennium Budget request.

I also am in a position to promote items from our official budget request that would be of assistance to the state in the area of Disaster Readiness:

- Our College of Social Sciences has requested faculty in Disaster Management. This Disaster Risk Reduction Consortium will not only bring new research funding and activity to the University and ensure that this research is applied to Hawai'i's disasters preparedness needs, but will also play a key role in training students in disaster risk reduction. The request funds for two faculty positions to help develop this Consortium.
- The School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology has requested support for their Ocean Observing System for Hawai'i. The project will, among other things, provide warning and protection against marine and coastal hazards, such as tsunamis, floods, and coastal erosion. This is a multidisciplinary effort that offers the marine equivalent of the weather service and leverages major resources from federal agencies.
- We also have a CIP request for an Information Technology Building which will serve as a Systemwide facility and serve as a fortified Emergency Command Center on the Mānoa Campus. This facility would be a statewide resource and ensure that in the event of an emergency the Mānoa campus is capable of being a refuge.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, I'd be happy to answer any questions.