UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment and
Senate Committee on Education

Tuesday, February 13, 2007
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
by

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SB 1669 Relating to Energy

Chairs Menor and Sakamoto, Vice-Chairs Hooser and Tokuda, and Members of the Committees:

We are concerned that this bill does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Very briefly, there are four UH – SOEST priority items included in the BOR Approved Budget:

1) the Ocean Observing system, which will improve the safety, manage the productivity, and determine the cleanliness, (for users) of our coastal waters.
2) the Small Satellite program, which will launch micro-satellites from PMRF on Kaua'i and develop a pipeline of students through engineering and science into a new high-tech workforce.
3) the Center for Smart Building and Community Design, which will solve issues related to buildings and urbanization and their impacts on the natural and human environments of our coastal regions.
4) Health and Safety Issues at Coconut Island, which require elimination of mold from the Pauley Marine Lab, management of hazardous material use, and training and oversight of small boat users and divers.

Furthermore, UH-SOEST-HNEI is strongly supportive of another bill relating to energy: SB 1866 (companion to HB 1003) that is also being heard by your committees today - see SB 1866 testimony of Dr. Richard Rocheleau (Director of HNEI).

Funding for the projects above has a higher priority for the UHM-SOEST than those proposed in SB 1669.