



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Education

February 22, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by
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Presented by
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SB 2333, SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair Jill Tokuda, and Members of the Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2333, SD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i. We support the intent of the SB2333, SD1 and agree that robotics is a powerful vehicle for K-12 students to explore and develop exemplary skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. For nearly a decade, the College of Engineering has been involved in multiple aspects of robotics education and outreach and has witnessed its tremendous impact on our students, teachers, and community. The many successful robotics competitions and the dramatic increase in interest and participation are strong testaments to this achievement.

We understand that much thought and effort is needed to leverage interest in robotics and to examine opportunities to effectively sustain robotics initiatives and programs. There are many possibilities and models for collaboration which can be explored and we would welcome and support further discussion.

At this time, the College of Engineering does not have the personnel or funding to support a "feasibility" study. It might be appropriate to convene a working group to discuss an Institute of Robotics or related Institute with consideration of the appropriate background science and technology fields, and application areas, on which an Institute will focus. In this respect, we recommend that any requirements for any type of study be deleted, the language be broadened to include Institute of Robotics or related Institute, and replace the term "consider" with "discuss." Once again, we support the intent of SB2333, SD1 however the College of Engineering does not have the resources to fulfill the requirements as detailed in SB 2333, SD1.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify and for your continued interest and support in the UH College of Engineering.