UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 9:00 am
by
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SB 325 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

SB 325 appropriates funds to the University of Hawaiʻi to pay student employees at new or expanded worksites on each of the campuses.

The University of Hawaiʻi System supports the intent of SB 325 especially as articulated in Section 1 of SB 325. On campus employment for college students benefits both the students and the campuses on which they are employed. For students, employment provides funds needed to cover rising college costs and affords opportunities to gain critical workforce and life skills as they matriculate and learn. For the college campuses, on campus student employees serve as a talented workforce, performing a myriad of critical functions that enables each campus to meet the needs of the campus community.

In addition, national research findings show that students who work on campus perform better academically than those who work off-campus. They also persist toward graduation at higher rates. The University of Hawaiʻi System recognizes that it is in its best interest to have our students work with us, and for us, in order to improve their persistence towards degree completion.

In summary, the University of Hawaiʻi System welcomes the financial support offered by SB 325 provided that this support does not adversely affect the University's priorities as articulated in its budget request. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.