



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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House Committee on Finance
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by

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HB 315 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) is supportive of HB 315 HD1 which would raise the statutory limit of an annual cap of \$3 million to \$6 million that the UH may provide to the University Foundation (UHF) from the UH tuition and fees special fund. The University does not represent that it would necessarily result in paying more funds to the UHF. Rather, the UH prefers the ability to assess and determine how UH funds could be effectively leveraged to generate revenue and thereby contributing to more services for the UH, students, faculty, and programs.

The UH currently does provide \$3 million annually to the UHF to pay for some of the operational expenses needed by UHF to generate philanthropic donations which returns to the UH. In this way, the UH views UHF's role as a major community partner that helps raise funds for UH programs. The UHF also generates a major portion of its operating budget from its own philanthropic activities as well.

The UH would like to be able to support the UHF so that they can, in turn, be more productive in their philanthropic efforts. The UH manages its limited resources and funds prudently. Being able to provide additional funding to UHF if that funding can result in greater return of funds on our investment, can be a very prudent approach.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.