



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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By
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Chancellor
and
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HB 2206 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Athletics Department (UHH Athletics) on HB 2206 HD1 SD1 which proposes to provide funding in support of a Division II collegiate athletics program for the State of Hawai'i.

UHH Athletics brings in teams to play before Hawai'i residents and competes on the mainland and serves as an ambassador of aloha and a representative of all of the people of Hawai'i. Funding would help UHH Athletics offset higher costs that are unique to Hawai'i that our peers we compete against do not have to address.

UHH Athletics thanks the committee for considering this funding, which would be appreciated and beneficial to all of our sports and student-athletes at the University. Such funding would be used to offset costs for UHH Athletics that are uniquely higher than our competitors, such as travel and recruiting costs. In addition, the funds would be used to support nutritional programs, training services, and enhanced treatment and rehabilitation equipment for student athletes.

Funding would assist in addressing these unique costs, which in turn would make UHH Athletics more competitive while at the same time improve the overall student-athlete experience. As our current and future ambassadors of aloha this is vitally important. This additional funding will also bring immeasurable benefits to the Big Island and Hilo community as a collective source of community pride in our program.

UHH Athletics respectfully requests that the funding for Athletics be appropriated in the base budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.