



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 10:15 a.m.

by

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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 Manōa Athletics Department (UHM Athletics) on HB 2206 HD1 SD1, which would provide funding in support of our Division I intercollegiate athletics program.

Our vision for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa athletics program is to attract the best student-athletes from Hawai'i and the region and to compete at even-higher levels. This would further increase the pride of the people of Hawai'i in the only major athletic program within 2,200 miles and enable greater revenue generation from other sources. We strive to be a program that is nationally recognized at the top-tier of mid-major programs and a candidate for invitation into a Power-5 conference when conference realignments occur at the national level.

UHM Athletics therefore thanks the committee for considering this funding. Restoration of this appropriation would help UHM Athletics offset higher costs unique to Hawai'i that our peer competitors do not face. Additional funding could help upgrade athletic facilities and enhance programs for the health and well-being of our student-athletes to make our program even more attractive.

We respectfully request that the funding for Athletics be appropriated in the base budget rather than for one year only in a separate bill.

In a state with no professional sports and as the only Division I intercollegiate athletics program in Hawai'i, UHM Athletics serves as an ambassador of aloha as it represents Hawai'i nationally and internationally.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony in support of an increased appropriation for Hawai'i's major athletics program.