



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 10:05 a.m., Room 211
by
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SB 318 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 318, which appropriates \$143,784 for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum for fiscal year 2020-2021 for three full-time equivalent positions (3.0 FTE) for the custodial and maintenance staff at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo).

UH Hilo appreciates and supports the bill, which will allow the UH Hilo campus to meet the increased needs of added improved interior and exterior space to the campus. Well maintained facilities and grounds supports and environment that attracts and retains students and employees who want to learn and work in a 21st century environment.

Over the last five years, the UH Hilo campus has grown with the addition of two new buildings, with at third, the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy building scheduled to open in Summer 2019. Completion of new buildings and space requires upkeep and maintenance, both to interior and grounds. In addition, the new buildings have increased the air conditioning infrastructure to the campus, which requires on-going maintenance and upkeep.

This appropriation will allow UH Hilo to establish 2.0 FTE Building and Grounds Custodians and a 1.0 FTE Air Conditioning Mechanic position. The Building and Grounds custodians will be able to maintain both interiors of buildings and grounds, supplementing current Janitor and Groundskeeper positions. The Air Conditioning Mechanic position will allow UH Hilo to reduce contracted services, provide regular maintenance of systems, and be more responsive to air conditioning issues that occur on campus.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 318.