



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
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by

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SB 816 – RELATING TO A STATE LOTTERY

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 816. Among other things, this bill creates a state lottery and allows lottery revenues to fund university facilities and operations.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the intent of this bill as it opens up a dialogue about providing for an alternative revenue source for the UH facilities. The UH is under the ever constant challenge of finding adequate funding to meet its minimum operational and capital needs. The UH has a severe deferred maintenance backlog at all of its campuses, that in the aggregate totals in excess of \$500+ million. While the UH would welcome additional funding to address its maintenance and facility funding shortfalls, we would be remiss to not also recognize the political and social issues that result by allowing that funding to come from the creation of a lottery in Hawai'i.

The UH takes no position and defers to the Department of Budget and Finance on its position on the creation of a special fund and defers to the Department of the Attorney General and the Office of the Governor regarding the creation of any type of lottery in the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.