

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



**UOH 700 University of Hawaii – West O‘ahu**

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education, and  
House Committee on Higher Education

January 14, 2008

by

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Chancellor  
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The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Jerry L. Chang  
House Committee on Higher Education

Dear Chairman Sakamoto and Chairman Jerry L. Chang and Members of the Committees:

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some recent achievements, challenges and needs at UH West O‘ahu. I also would like to discuss the rationale for our supplemental budget request that was approved by the Board of Regents but not included in the Governor’s executive budget.

**Achievements:**

After 30 years of being a two-year upper division institution, in November 2006, UHWO received approval from the University of Hawaii Board of Regents to become a full-fledged, four-year baccalaureate university with a mission to provide a comprehensive array of majors focusing on career-related fields that can meet the workforce needs of the State of Hawai‘i. This Board action allowed UHWO to enroll its first freshmen class in Fall 2007.

In addition, we have established several new degree programs that further strengthen our ability to produce well-qualified graduates for various high-need professions.

1. Bachelor of Applied Sciences will accommodate students interested in fields such as culinary arts management, respiratory care, and computer technology.
2. Our new Bachelor of Education program is targeting non-traditional students from the Leeward Coast to become Elementary Education teachers who will return to their home area to teach. We believe this will help reduce the high number of teachers who leave Waianae district schools annually. UHWO is now working on establishing secondary (middle and high school) and special education teacher training programs as well.
3. The Bachelor’s program in Early Childhood Education focuses on teacher development at the preschool level (ages 3-5) and is available to O‘ahu and neighbor island students via UHWO’s distance education program.

**New programs under consideration:**

1. Bachelors of Arts in Public Administration-Health Care Administration Concentration: Beginning in Fall 2008, UHWO will be the first university in the state to offer a program in Health Care Administration. It's designed to meet the increasing need for health care managers.
2. Bachelor in Social Work: UHWO will develop a new BSW program with a projected start date of Fall 2009.

Other programs being planned include a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and an Information Technology degree. These initiatives are being developed to not only meet critical workforce needs but also to provide easy access for students in the fastest growing region of the State.

**Challenges:**

Transforming into a comprehensive, four-year university means multiple initiatives need to be addressed concurrently, thus presenting a multiplicity of daunting challenges.

UHWO must revise and upgrade its academic plan to meet the increasing demand for the full complement of majors that most incoming students expect. To increase our disciplinary offerings we must hire additional faculty and staff.

In addition, we must prepare for the anticipated move to the new Kapolei campus in early 2010 by "staffing up" in critical auxiliary support areas such as groundskeeping, maintenance and administrative services.

At the same time we are doing all of this, we must prepare for a special visit by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in Fall of this year. Among several issues we must address, they would like us to ensure that the University of Hawaii System has made the necessary resource commitments to assure UHWO's viability and continued sustainment as a four-year baccalaureate institution.

**Campus Needs/Budget Request:**

We submitted a supplemental budget request for \$1,743,000 and total of 23 positions. This request was approved by the BOR. The governor's executive budget only includes \$57,000 for security. We believe that to ensure UHWO opens doors without undue human or technical problems, our BOR approved request must be funded.