



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 1710 HD 2 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

March 19, 2004

By

Dr. Doris Ching
Vice President for Student Affairs
University of Hawaii

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Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Hooser and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii supports HB 1710 HD2 which establishes a "Student Scholarship and Assistance Special Fund" within the University of Hawai'i to administer financial assistance and obtain additional tuition and scholarship support from various sources of funds. The fund would be used solely to provide financial assistance to qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University.

The proposed special fund would provide a consistent place for scholarship initiatives established by the legislature, such as specific appropriations for critical statewide issues like workforce development key shortage areas and financial assistance funded with University, federal or private funds. The special fund should also facilitate comprehensive reporting of financial support for students. Although the University will continue part of its tuition waiver program, the University is considering providing more assistance to students in the form of scholarships rather than tuition waivers. This practice is consistent with common practice nationwide and will enable more families to obtain tax benefits they would otherwise not benefit through tuition waivers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1710 HD2.