



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 1906 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

January 29, 2004

By

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

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Chair Takai and Members of the Committee:

The University supports HB 1906. This bill requires the University to give a full tuition refund for Hawai'i national guard or military reservists who are ordered to active duty for more than 60 days during a school semester and provide information to the Legislature on the number of these refunds annually.

Since the University already has authority to provide refunds and currently provides refunds for national guard and military reservist students and other students in special situations, this bill may not be necessary. The University is also taking action, now, to incorporate this current practice as a policy. The University appreciates the importance of this issue and need to assure continuity and predictability, and supports HB 1906.

We recommend deleting the following text in brackets:

"The board of regents shall provide a report and make recommendations as appropriate to the legislature on all tuition waivers [and refunds] no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session. This report shall include [but not be limited to the number of tuition waivers and scholarships, stipends, and mandatory fees granted to financially needy students from ethnic groups that are under-represented in the student population of the University of Hawaii through the Hawaii opportunity program in education [.] and] the number of tuition refunds granted to students who are members of the Hawaii national guard or military reserves by virtue of their being called to active duty." The reasons for these suggested changes are: (a) The University is willing to provide information about the active duty refunds but request that it not be required to provide information on all other types of refunds (e.g. students who decide not to continue enrollment for family reasons); and (b) the legislature deleted the Hawaii opportunity program in education special fund for scholarships.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1906 and your continuing support for our students.