



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 2037 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
TUITION AND FEE EXEMPTION

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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HB 2037 Relating to the University of Hawaii Tuition and Fee Exemption

Chair Takai and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 2037. We share the legislator's interest to provide tuition and fee exemptions to children of law enforcement officers, firefighters, reserve police officers, emergency medical services personnel, disabled Hawaii veterans and Hawaii veterans declared Prisoners of War or Missing in Action and others who have been totally disabled or killed in the line of duty.

The University needs additional information and has not had sufficient time to adequately confer with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services to identify ways to certify eligibility of these individuals (e.g. volunteer firefighters) for tuition assistance or the methodology to determine the appropriate amount of tuition assistance. In addition, it may be appropriate to consider additional guidelines or criteria for awarding financial assistance if there is a limited appropriation. Although we have no cost estimates for this initiative, the University requests that any appropriation to the University does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Executive Biennium Budget.

The University respectfully requests time to address these and other issues. We would like some time to work with the Committee on Higher Education, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Office of Veterans' Services to come up with suggestions to improve the bill and meet Legislative deadlines.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns on HB 2037.