



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 2286 RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMISSION FOR
NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Testimony Presented Before the
Committee on Higher Education

February 5, 2004

By

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

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Chair Takai, Vice Chair Tamayo, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii supports HB 2286 appropriating \$142,000 for the Hawai`i Commission for National and Community Service to be expended by the University of Hawaii as matching funds for federal funds. The University supports HB 2286/SB 3039 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The University is very pleased to support the Commission and its goals which are consistent with the University's mission and strategic plan. Currently the Commission administers six community volunteer programs on O`ahu, Maui, Moloka`i, Kaua`i, and Hawai`i. Our Americorps members provide support and education on domestic abuse prevention; an array of services to Hawai`i's elderly population, including the Meals on Wheels program for homebound seniors; and programs for endangered species restoration, invasive species removal, native forest recovery, coastal clean up, aquatic resource management, and trail building and management.

The \$142,000 requested in the bill will be used as matching funds for the administration of the commission and will allow the State to receive an additional \$1,000,000 in program and training funds.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2286 and your continuing support for the University and our partnerships with community agencies.