



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 27 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 8, 2005

by

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Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai`i at Hilo is not in compliance with the federal law referred to as Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 part of the 1964 Civil Rights Act which states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Under the simplest Title IX guideline, the University of Hawai`i at Hilo is required to provide opportunities for women and men that are substantially proportionate to their respective rates of enrollment as full-time undergraduate students. The 2004 EADA (Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act) report submitted by the University of Hawai`i at Hilo indicates a 59% female undergraduate enrollment and a 38% athletic female athletic participation rate. A federal violation is immediately evident. Conformity by the University of Hawai`i at Hilo to Title IX guidelines is a simple numbers problem. By law, the University of Hawai`i at Hilo must provide through adequate funding, scholarships, coaching, and competitive environment an additional 50-65 new athletic opportunities for females.

Two major programs are suggested to enhance the female intercollegiate program. They are women's basketball and women's soccer. In Hawai`i, both of the mentioned sports for women are played at high participation rates in high school and in youth community programs. Interest and ability is a natural match for the UH-Hilo female athletics program, especially at the NCAA Division II level of competition.

We are in support of this bill and defend the rights of young women to have comparable opportunities. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate and maintain the necessary funds that would enable 50 -65 young women to attain an education and provide an opportunity for talented females to continue to have a positive athletic experience. At the University of Hawai`i at Hilo over 60% of our athletes are from Hawai`i, have Hawai`i family ties or have parents or grandparents who have retired or settled in Hawai`i. The University of Hawai`i at Hilo's primary mission would be to support the young women of Hawai`i

first. Let UH-Hilo provide the same number and quality of opportunities we have historically provided for our men. Only new funds can help the University of Hawai`i at Hilo achieve what is demanded by law. Someone must care enough to advance our young women. Someone must insist that the university system and the State of Hawai`i honor their obligations within intercollegiate athletics programs for women. Title IX must be enforced, supported, and full compliance must be mandated. The impact of Title IX compliance is all about opportunities, specifically opportunities for young women.