



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B 1179 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE
HAWAII COMMISSION FOR
NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 10, 2005

By

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

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Chair Waters, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii supports HB 1179 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 1179 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 that are consistent with the University's mission and strategic plan. The Commission was established by Executive Order in 1994 and subsequently re-established statutorily by the legislature in 2002 to promote and support voluntary citizen involvement in government and private programs throughout the State. During the past years the AmeriCorps program has helped disabled students in various school programs; helped deliver meals to homebound seniors through the meals on wheels program; helped establish the courts concierge program; as well as other environmental, educational and human services programs.

Currently the Commission administers seven 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; and programs for endangered species restoration, invasive species removal, native forest recovery, coastal clean up, aquatic resource management, and trail building and management. The members also provided legal services to the low-income population; as well as outreach services to the native Hawaiian population and the youth of our community.

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.

While the University supports HB 1179, the University urges the committee to amend the bill to include an additional \$142,000 for fiscal year 2006 - 2007.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1179 and your continuing support for the University and our partnerships with community agencies.