



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 1591 RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE UNIVERSITY

**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education**

February 8, 2005

by

**Linda K. Johnsrud
Interim Associate Vice President for Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i**

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Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

HB 1591 requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to prepare legislation that establishes the Hawaii State University. The University has concerns regarding the separation of a public university from the public higher education system in Hawai'i.

Although there are states that have more than one system of higher education, in a state as small as Hawai'i there is merit in including all ten campuses in one system. We gain economies of scale, we enhance our ability to articulate courses and programs within the system, and we lessen the competition that happens when systems compete with one another for scarce resources. The cost of the loss in efficiency and resources outweighs any potential benefit.

We respectfully request that the Committee not support HB 1591. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.