



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 1685: Relating to University of Hawai'i

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 15, 2005

By

Randy Hitz
Dean
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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

The University of Hawai'i supports H.B. 1685 as long as the appropriation does not supplant the University's biennium budget request.

H.B. 1685 establishes a center for school redesign at the University of Hawai'i, which is housed within the College of Education. The College of Education, in cooperation with the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) has begun an office for school redesign for the purpose of providing support to high school principals and teachers who wish to create small high schools or schools within schools.

There is compelling evidence to indicate that high school students in smaller schools achieve better than their peers in larger high schools. Smaller high schools under 400 students are able to develop learning communities that keep more students engaged in academics as well as music, athletics, and other extracurricular activities. Students so engaged are more likely to graduate and to lead successful lives as adults.

As noted above, the DOE and the College of Education are currently allocating resources to this effort in partnership and are seeking funds from private sources. The funds provided through this bill will enable the office for school redesign to begin operations and leverage support from outside the state system and from outside the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Though the funding suggested in this bill is above that requested by the University, it is important, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of this bill.

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