



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 31, 2006
by
Howard Todo, Chief Financial Officer

Re: HB 1866 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Taniguchi, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii supports the repeal of the sunset provision contained in section 12 of Act 321, Session Laws of Hawaii 1986.

Act 321, Session Laws of Hawaii 1986 was one of several laws that provided the University of Hawaii and the Department of Education with greater autonomy over internal operations. It allows the University to assume authority and responsibility for all matters related to the acquisition of goods and services, pre-audit payments, fund accounting, and business and accounting forms. Act 321 also provides the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii with the authorization to approve certain exceptions to statutory competitive bidding requirements and authorized the University to install its own accounting system in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles as applied to colleges and universities. However, the provisions of Act 321 also included a sunset provision that was subsequently extended to June 30, 2006 by Act 137, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005.

Since 1986, the University of Hawaii has used the greater flexibility afforded by Act 321 to effectively increase efficiency in financial administration. Therefore, the University believes that it has successfully demonstrated its ability to independently administer its financial operations with no adverse effect on the state and that the sunset provision originally included in Act 321 is no longer necessary. We respectfully request that the provisions for the University of Hawaii be consistent with the Department of Education and the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.