



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 3156

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 2, 2006

by

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Director of Capital Improvements

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

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports the intent of HB 3156. The purpose of this bill is to make capital improvements program (CIP) appropriations for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Section 1 of HB 3156, Items A, B, and C, proposes the appropriation of projects that are in the Board of Regents' CIP Budget for Supplemental Year 2006-2007. The projects include \$3.845 million for the design of a new classroom building, \$951,000 for the design of Gartley Hall Renovations, and \$2 million for equipment for the Institute for Astronomy's Advanced Technology Research Center in Kula. Information on these projects and the entire Board of Regents' CIP Budget for Supplemental Year 2006-2007 were previously transmitted to the Committee.

Section 1 of HB 3156, Items D to A53 includes 101 repairs and maintenance projects, the majority of which is from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Unfunded Deferred Maintenance Report from January 2005. We strongly support increases to our repairs and maintenance budget. As a note, HB 1900, the Executive Supplemental Budget, includes a Systemwide CIP appropriation for the University of Hawai'i for Capital Renewal and Deferred Maintenance. HB 1900 currently includes \$43 million in general obligation bonds, and the University will welcome any additional funding for this important project which will benefit all campuses of the University of Hawai'i.

The University supports the intent of Section 2 of HB 3156, as it pertains to energy efficiency and sustainable design as established by the United States Green Building Council. However, we are concerned with establishing a minimum rating level (i.e. silver) for new construction or major renovation work, as this will have a major impact on the total cost of developing/renovating a facility. We are currently unaware of any public facility in Hawai'i that meets the silver standard which is stipulated in Section 2; therefore, we recommend omitting the section, or amending it to read as follows:

The University shall implement sustainable design technology in new construction and major renovation projects to the extent possible and feasible within the total project appropriation.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on HB 3156.