



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 3165 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 2, 2006

by

Jon K. Matsuoka, Dean
School of Social Work
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Chair Tommy Waters and Members of the House Higher Education Committee

I am testifying in support of House Bill 3165. First and foremost the bill will provide us monies to develop our Distance Education program at the School of Social Work. We need the additional funds to hire three tenure-track faculty in order to establish a graduate program that offers the Masters of Social Work degree to virtually every community on every neighbor island. This program is essential to addressing severe workforce shortages in social work to address growing incidences of substance abuse, domestic violence and child abuse and neglect, and social problems pertaining to a growing aging population. These problems are especially severe on the neighbor islands where social changes are occurring, the populations are growing, and there are insufficient numbers of services and personnel.

State monies can be matched one-to-one with federal Title IVE monies. The State monies we receive along with the matching federal monies will allow us to launch the program in the Summer of 2007. We plan to begin offering courses as early as the Fall of 2006. We are the only School of Social Work in Hawai`i that has (and qualifies for) a Title IVE Child Welfare Program.

A Director of Research for our Social Work Evaluation Research Unit will enable us to further develop our research endeavors at the School of Social Work. There is widespread demand for evaluation research at human service agencies in our local communities. Such research will assess the extent to which programmatic goals and objectives are being met and allow for the promotion of "best practices." In the end, promoting best practices will serve to reduce service costs and enhance program effectiveness and efficiency. Monies from indirect can be reinvested in the Unit's personnel and infrastructure in order to expand evaluation services to more programs.

Scholarship monies across our three degree programs are essential to recruiting and retaining qualified students in social work. Financial assistance through scholarships will become even more critical with the impending tuition hikes.