



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 3170 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI`I AT HILO

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 4, 2006

by

Rose Y. Tseng
Chancellor
University of Hawai`i at Hilo

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Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai`i at Hilo is not in compliance with the federal requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. HB 3170 requests the essential funding that will place the University of Hawai`i at Hilo in full federal compliance with the spirit and requirements of the Title IX amendment by September 2007. The requested funding will enable the university to provide the needed opportunities for women required by this federal law. The university has made many efforts to actively move towards Title IX compliance over the past three years. UHH-Hilo Athletics has limited the number of men's sports, reduced men's scholarships offerings and the number of male participants and added new women's sports in 2004 (women's golf). Even with these efforts, the University of Hawai`i at Hilo has gained limited ground in our compliance evaluation.

The numbers needed to meet Title IX compliance is 45-50 additional female student-athletes. The minimum numbers of 45 new female athletes will take UH-Hilo women student-athletes from 52 female participants to 97 female participants. UH-Hilo will in fact be doubling our female student-athlete population. Scholarships will be made available in the new sports (up to the maximum NCAA allowable) thus affording the participants a reduction in cost toward their educational expenses in return for their talent and athletic participation. Lastly, the new opportunities created by the addition and expansion of the new women's athletic programs will not only bring the female student-athlete population into the appropriate proportionality required by law, but balance athletic department expenditures into the required ratio of 60% expenditures for 8 women's programs and 40% for our 5 men's programs. Six new FTE positions for coaches of women's sports will be created providing new employment opportunities for an under-represented population of professionals that being coaches of girls/women.

The projected new sports for UH-Hilo athletics program expansion would be women's basketball, women's soccer, women's track and an expansion in the number of permissible participants in women's golf, volleyball and softball.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Executive Supplemental Budget.