



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI`I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 3175 RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE
BENEFIT OF 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,

In last legislative session, a \$20million CIP appropriation was funded for the construction of a badly needed Science and Technology Building on the UH Hilo campus. This amount was substantially less than the original design of the building where 5 of the 8 departments of the Natural Sciences Division will be housed. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the top priority is to house the Chemistry department and their labs where their current facility was more than 35 years old and posed some serious safety issues. In addition, the Physics and Astronomy department will also be moved to this new building. However, even with the elimination of the other three departments, our architect informed us that we need an additional \$5million for construction due to the escalation of construction cost. Thus, our top priority is to obtain this additional funding for the completion of this building.

The current student services building were constructed over 25 years ago to house both the administration and the student services. However, due to the rapid increase in student population at the time, the administration moved out over 15 years ago. Since then the student population increase again and it has outgrown the current building. At present, many student services functions are scattered all over the campus and students cannot get their needs met easily. We have already received planning and design money from past sessions to complete the design shortly. We are asking you to fund the \$21million plus construction cost in this session.

The last long-range development plan for our campus was completed in 1996. Since then, we have acquired additional acreage, and off-campus sites, such as Mauna Kea Science Reserve, Puako marine education center, Keaukaha aquaculture center, etc., as well as developed new programs and units, such as College of Business and Economics, College of Pharmacy, etc. It is time for us to update both our on-campus and off-campus development plans to guide the future physical development.

The Campus Center was constructed in 1975 with less than 1,500 students. Currently, it serves over 3,400 students from UH Hilo as well as over 2,000 students from Hawai`i Community College. The plan is to move the College Bookstore to this building as well as expanding the current dining facility. We need your authorization to use revenue bonds for this purpose.

In addition, there are numerous projects on campus related to health and safety, ADA compliance, infrastructure renewal and deferred maintenance. We appreciate your support.

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