



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 3181

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S
MAUI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 7, 2006

By

Clyde Sakamoto
Chancellor for Maui Community College
University of Hawai'i

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 7, 2006
by
Clyde Sakamoto
Chancellor for Maui Community College
University of Hawai'i

H.B. 3181 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S
MAUI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Chair Waters and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the staff and faculty of Maui Community College, I express strong support for House Bill 3181. This act supports the college's workforce development initiatives and provides critical infrastructure support for new facilities on the Kahului and Molokai campuses. As indicated in the bill, one of the college's top priorities is workforce development. This bill will provide the college the necessary resources to develop a Dental Assisting program and Biotechnology program as well as expand our Early Childhood Education program.

Dental Assisting Program

One third of Maui County's residents are without adequate dental health care and therefore there is a growing shortfall of dental assistants to support this unmet need.

Biotechnology Program

The high technology research park in Kihei, Maui has attracted Biotechnology companies such as Monsanto and Micro Gaia, therefore although still in its early stages, there is an emerging need to support the biotech community and student opportunities.

Early Childhood Education Program

Maui is also experiencing a rapidly increasing segment of the population characterized as children 5 and under. As a result, the County projections indicate a 33.3% growth in employment for preschool and kindergarten teachers.

Over the past ten years, with tremendous support from the Legislature, the college has added and/or renovated six new buildings on the Kahului campus and one on the Molokai campus. This totals more than 200,000 gross square feet. This investment addressed a critical shortfall of classrooms, offices, computer labs as well as specialized culinary and high technology facilities. This bill provides for the necessary operating support for the new facilities, such as custodial and maintenance staff along with funds to support various maintenance contracts such as air conditioning, hood and duct cleaning, elevator and fire systems. Current levels of current service base resources do not allow for an adequate level of maintenance and therefore we have developed a tremendous backlog of routine repairs and deferred projects, as well as a decline in the level of cleanliness of our facilities. The morale of our custodial and maintenance staff has deteriorated over this time period.

There is campus wide support for HB 3181. As the only institution in the County of Maui representing the University of Hawaii System, we respectfully request that you consider this bill. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.