



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 3182

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S
KAUA'I COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 7, 2006

By

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Chancellor for Kaua'i Community College
University of Hawai'i

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Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Kaua'i Community College.

As a part of the University of Hawaii System, the mission of Kaua'i Community College is to provide access to quality, post-secondary educational activities and respond to the workforce needs of the Kaua'i community. Through transfer level programs and the University Center, the College extends opportunities for the community beyond community college degrees and certificates to baccalaureate and graduate level credentials. This greater access is particularly important for the growing high technology arena, which has needs ranging from technicians to scientists.

Fundamental to Kaua'i Community College's ability to respond to these challenges are infrastructure needs, including safe and industry standard equipment for the heavily hands-on career and technical programs, which respond directly to workforce needs. These programs, such as Electronics and Transportation technologies, have been especially hard pressed by the budget reductions for the past decade. Kaua'i CC must be able to train students on the kind of equipment that will be used in industry. Without a stable and dependable funding source for these essential instructional tools, the college is unable to plan efficiently to respond to the changing technological requirements in these fields.

In the area of information technology, all operations of the college, from facilities maintenance to academic support and direct instruction to student services are dependent upon reliable computing equipment and high speed connections to centralized databases located on O'ahu. Sufficient computer hardware, software and training support are essential tools on the 21st century campus.

Your support of these needs will help to ensure that Kaua'i CC can continue to provide excellent educational opportunities for our community.