



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

HB 3184

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S  
HONOLULU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education

February 7, 2006

By

Ramsey Pedersen  
Chancellor for Honolulu Community College  
University of Hawai'i

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Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

Honolulu Community College stands in strong support of HB 3184, "Relating to the University of Hawai'i's Honolulu Community College". We appreciate the Chair's introduction of this measure as a way for our campus community to stress our budget priorities and needs.

We believe each of our 10 individual operating requests for FY06-07 are necessary to address campus or program needs. The College's request totals 10.00 FTE positions and \$1.165 M. Nonetheless, we recognize that there are competing interests for one pot of money. Accordingly, our highest priorities are as follows:

**\$100 K Operating Request for Increased Technological Support**

Technology is an integral part of the general operating functions of all colleges and universities. This is especially true in regards to the delivery of technology-based curriculum on campus. Moreover, because HCC is the primary technological training center within the UH Community College system, the College's tech programs have rapidly expanded and require basic infrastructure support to meet the evolving needs of students and industry.

In the past HCC has attempted to find creative solutions to take care of increased support needs. People have been retrained, student interns have been utilized, and funds have been reallocated. However, with these band-aid solutions questions of service quality and technical ability have become larger issues. For HCC to realize its potential and maximize its relationships with high-tech programs and corporate partners, such as CISCO and SUN Microsystems, the College must make a substantive and visible commitment to providing technology support for all programs.

The addition of 2.00 FTE positions and \$102,676 will enable HCC to not only support fundamental campus needs, but also improve advanced technology programs that will meet workforce training needs.

### **\$122 K Operating Request for Student Recruitment & Retention**

Promoting the College, developing a vibrant student life program, and providing career development counseling for students are fundamental to ensuring that students meet success in higher education. This request for 3.00 FTE positions and \$121,944 will provide HCC with the resources to meet these student needs.

At present, the College does not have a counselor dedicated for “at-risk” and special population students. A Counselor position of this nature will enhance retention and assist students in future career success. With the addition of an Educational Specialist the College will be better positioned to expand student activities and services as well as increase the number of students who can be served in the areas of student leadership and peer-mentoring. And, finally with a devoted Media Specialist the College can support recruitment and retention through the design of promotional materials. Although decreasing student enrollments in community colleges are a direct result of a strong economy, we firmly believe that using our internal resources in a coordinated promotions campaign will assist with recruiting and retaining students in the years ahead.

The active recruitment and retention of students is essential to sustaining College operations and to ensuring that the State’s level of education remains competitive.

### **\$50 K Operating Request for Increased Security**

The College has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students, faculty, and staff. Additional funding will be used to augment its current security staff with contract security services. This request will also provide security mirrors that will assist in eliminating blind spots in buildings as well as provide emergency phones on campus. An increase in this area was one of the priorities for the College’s students.

### **\$324 K Operating Request for Airport Facility Lease Rent Retro Payments**

HCC currently has a lease agreement for space on Honolulu International Airport property that is used for the College’s Aeronautical Maintenance Program. HCC has been fortunate to keep this program operational in large part because the State Department of Transportation (DOT) has not been charging us for lease rent. A recent Federal Aviation Administration audit has mandated that these payments be made retroactive to 1998.

As mentioned previously, these requests are not our only needs. Below please find a listing of the College's requests in order of priority.

<b>Campus Specific Operating Requests</b>	<b>HCC Request</b>	<b>BOR Approved</b>	<b>Executive Budget</b>
	2.00	2.00	-
Increase Tech Support	\$102,676	\$102,676	-
	3.00	3.00	-
Improve Student Recruitment/Retention	\$121,944	\$121,944	-
	-	-	-
Security	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
	-	-	-
AERO Lease	\$324,000	\$324,000	-
	-	-	-
Faculty/Staff Development	\$50,000	\$50,000	-
	-	-	-
Equipment Replacement	\$100,000	\$100,000	-
	3.00	3.00	-
Distance/Blended Learning Infrastructure Support	\$ 231,404	\$ 231,404	-
	1.00	1.00	-
Improve Academic & Student Support Services	\$41,762	\$41,762	-
	1.00	1.00	-
International Student Recruitment and Services	\$39,753	\$39,753	-
	-	-	-
Teaching Load Reduction	\$103,965	\$103,965	-
	<b>10.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,165,504</b>	<b>\$1,165,504</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, and administrators, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.