



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 3189

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S
WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 7, 2006

By

Angela Meixell
Chancellor for Windward Community College
University of Hawai'i

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Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3189.

The language of this bill well states the situation that Windward Community College is in. We have been experiencing a Renaissance for the past few years. It has been both exciting and challenging. New facilities have given new life to the campus and have given us the opportunity to invite the community in. The community now attends events on campus regularly and the college has taken its place as a vital educational and cultural center for the windward community.

Our students and faculty finally have better facilities in which to learn and teach. At the same time, however, our infrastructure has been sorely strained. The utility bills have threatened our ability to provide adequate course schedules for our students. We need to maintain the beautiful buildings that you have built for us, and the equipment that you have purchased for us, so that they do not fall into disrepair.

We need trained technicians to keep our equipment in working order. We need computer specialists to assist students and faculty in making good educational use of their computers. Computer programs operate the air conditioners and door locks in the new buildings. It takes a trained technician to manage those efficiently and securely. Security for our people and our property has become increasingly important.

Last year, the legislature generously supported our top priority requests. In this supplemental year our request is modest, but for us it is incredibly important. These few items make a critical difference.

We are proud to be the stewards of this important place, and we are proud to manage it efficiently. With your help we can continue to serve the students and the community with high quality educational resources.