Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education and Committee on Housing

March 30, 2006

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HCR 203 / HR 167 – RELATING TO A STUDY FOR CREATING CONTRIBUTORY AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS THROUGH MANDATED STATE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THAT ACCRUE TO COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LESSORS THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF FULL-TERM EXPIRATORY REVERSION CLAUSES IN GROUND LEASE CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1963.

Chairs Waters and Kahikina, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Nishimoto, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawaii supports the intent of this resolution. The Legislature's interest in investigating methods to provide additional affordable housing is admirable and necessary.

The task outlined in HCR203 is a large one. The complexity of conducting such a study or even gathering the data to do the study seems enormous. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa does not have the resources to conduct such a study without additional support from the Legislature. Performing this task would require significant faculty time and thus additional resources. We request that the resolution, if passed, be amended so as not to adversely impact our limited budget.

We would be happy to convene welcome a meeting with various stakeholders and interested parties to discuss the issues raised in this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.