



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

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by

Karen C. Lee, Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

HCR 282/HR 217 – EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AT RECENT CONGRESSIONAL CUTS
TO STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.

Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 282/HR 217 regarding the funding cuts for federal student loan programs.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the Legislature's efforts on behalf of student access to higher education, and we support the intent of this resolution. We have been aware of these federal cuts, and have been discussing the implications with the UH System Student Caucus over the past few months.

The University is increasing UH need-based financial aid beginning in the fall semester of 2006, nearly quadrupling the amount of institutional aid over the next six years. We also are gratified that bills have been introduced this legislative session to increase the appropriation to the State of Hawai'i B Plus Scholarship and to create a Workforce Development Scholarship and Hawai'i State Scholars program. While these initiatives do not replace the need for increased federal financial aid, we are hopeful that they will help to alleviate some of the financial pressures on our students and their families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support on this matter.