



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Tourism and Culture
February 7, 2007

by
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HB 282 – RELATING TO THE ALOHA STADIUM

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Manahan and Members of the Committee:

HB 282 raises important issues for our community. Aloha Stadium has served Hawai'i well, providing a quality venue for college and high school football games, the Pro Bowl, and other events over the years.

However, the current structure will require substantial funds in order to be maintained in good operating capacity. A new stadium may cost more to construct, but would have a longer expected useful life. The associated land acquisition, environmental studies, arranging financing, design and construction would require several years to accomplish.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's football program needs an appropriate venue in which to play its games. As is the case with many athletic programs in the country, a surplus of revenues over expenses in football offsets deficits in most other sports, permitting UH Mānoa Athletics to be more self-sufficient.

Beyond its direct role in serving UH's mission, our athletics programs at Mānoa and Hilo are important to the community. Each year nearly 700,000 admissions are recorded at games played by UH Mānoa's 20-odd athletics programs, and at UH Hilo's programs.

The University supports having an appropriate facility in place in the years to come.