



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 13, 2007

by
Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 428, Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of HB 428 is to increase the educational capital of the state through an appropriation to the Center on the Family at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

The University supports the intent of HB 428, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities expressed in our Board of Regents approved Biennium Budget request.

The Center on the Family's on-line Data Center (uhfamily.hawaii.edu) offers Web-based access to important indicators relating to Hawai'i's children, families, and elderly. It is the most comprehensive collection of such data available. Before the Data Center was established, this wealth of knowledge was scattered among many different government, private, and philanthropic agencies. Now this vital information has been brought together into one place, analyzed, and presented in user-friendly formats. The nationally recognized Data Center is used by government officials, service providers, community leaders, teachers, and students to inform their efforts to gauge and improve the well-being of Hawai'i's residents.

Center on the Family also produces publications for a wide range of audiences. Among these are cogent reports, often published in partnership with community organizations such as Aloha United Way, that offer information on social and demographic issues affecting Hawai'i's people, including drug use, homelessness, economic self-sufficiency, and profiles of our geographical communities. The Center has also developed outreach materials and programs for children, parents, caregivers, and teachers to promote child development and family strengthening.

These services increase Hawai'i's educational capital from preschool to the University. Funding their continued availability will benefit all of Hawai'i's residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.