



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
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By
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H.B. 953 RELATING HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 953, which proposes to establish a textbook lending library program at each community college to assist students in need. The cost of textbooks has become a significant portion of the cost of education over the past two decades. In a 2005 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, textbooks and supplies for students attending public community colleges averaged 72% of the cost of tuition and fees. However, current Federal financial aid policies do allow the cost of books to be included in the financial aid packaging provided to students.

Each term, the community colleges offer nearly 2,000 different courses across its seven colleges. Establishing and maintaining a textbook loan program could become quite costly if we needed to acquire and maintain a collection of current textbooks for most of these classes. An alternative to a textbook loan program is the capacity each campus currently has to respond quickly to students' urgent financial needs. According to the Deans of Students at each college, there are sufficient resources available to meet the expressed student needs for textbooks at this time.

We will continue to monitor the demand for a loan program in the future.