



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

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by

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HB 1528, HD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of House Bill 1528, HD 2 is to appropriate general funds for the State of Hawai'i B Plus Scholarship program for fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09. It also changes the program's eligibility criteria.

The University of Hawai'i deeply appreciates the Legislature's efforts on behalf of student access to higher education and this increase in need-based aid for Hawai'i residents.

For the 2006-07 academic year, we awarded the entire initial allocation of \$500,000 to needy freshman students from the state of Hawai'i who are attending one of the ten campuses of the University of Hawai'i. With the continuation of this state scholarship for the 2007-08 academic year for \$1,000,000, we look forward to widening access to higher education to qualified Hawai'i students. Furthermore, with the number of financially-needy students enrolled on our campuses, we anticipate that we will easily be able to continue the trend to award \$1,500,000 in the following year and \$2,000,000 after that.

The University also supports the changes to the program's eligibility criteria for students to complete a rigorous high school curriculum and to pledge early to meet the criteria. We would like to respectfully request that the language regarding priority to Hawaii residents who have pledged, via an early intervention program, mirror the language crafted by the Senate Committee on Education in companion bill SB 1156 HD2.

The University strongly supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Board of Regent approved Biennium Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.