



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

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By

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H.B. No. 1869 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of this bill is to require net general fund appropriations to the University of Hawaii for each fiscal year to be not less than 10% of the total general fund appropriations for the executive branch.

For the last five years, net general fund appropriations to the University have averaged approximately 8.2% of the total general fund appropriations for the executive branch. In FY2000-01 the University's share was 9.2%. If this level of funding is allowed to continue, it would be extremely difficult to make any significant progress towards addressing the higher education needs of the State. As you may recall, these needs were identified in our Second Decade Project and includes the following:

1. Increase the educational capital of the state
 - Increase college going rate
 - Increase transfer from 2 year to 4 year campuses
 - Increase production of certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees
2. Expand workforce development initiatives
 - Increase outreach to those not in the workforce
 - Expand program capacity in critical shortage areas
3. Assist in diversifying the economy
 - Increase education to encourage entrepreneurship
 - Increase technology transfer
 - Increase responsiveness to training needs
4. Address underserved regions and populations of the state, particularly Native Hawaiians
 - Increase educational services to western Oahu (Waianae, North Shore, Ewa) and West Hawaii

- Increase student participation and success in all regions of the state, particularly East Hawaii

The minimum level of funding as proposed in this bill will result in an increase in funding and provide a measure of financial stability and predictability, both of which are necessary to sustain the long term effort that is required to offer and maintain a level of educational programs and services that is consistent with the future needs of the citizens of this State.

In keeping with the spirit and intent of this measure, we would like to propose amending § 1(b) of this bill to read:

“(b) Except as provided under subsection (c), the net general [] funds appropriated to the University of Hawaii for each fiscal year shall [] be no less than ten per cent of the total general fund appropriation to the executive branch.”

This amendment would clarify that the 10% ratio is to be the minimum level of net general fund appropriations to the University for each fiscal year.

In summary, we support the purpose and intent of this bill and believe that it will enhance the University’s ability to meet the future higher education needs of the State.

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