

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



HB 2192 – RELATING TO TEACHERS

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

January 25, 2008 at 2:00pm

by

Donald B. Young, Acting Dean
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

January 25, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

by

Donald B. Young, Acting Dean
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2192: Relating to Teachers

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i opposes HB 2192, which appropriates "funds to the department of education to explore various resources for educating teachers to find innovative ways to motivate their students."

While the intent is admirable, the Bill as drafted is vague and provides insufficient guidelines to determine how the intent of the bill is to be met even if appropriated funds are expended. There is ample research available on student motivation, which could be examined for innovative practices that increase motivation, and there are existing professional development programs that focus on differentiated instruction to increase student motivation and ability to engage in learning. The Bill assumes that a problem exists within students and that teachers do not have the knowledge or skills to stimulate them to learn. There is little evidence to support this assumption.

We would favor instead a bill that provided funds to the department of education to implement research-based professional development practices to enhance teacher effectiveness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.