

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



HB 2521 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 5, 2008 at 2:00 pm

by

Sam Callejo
Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai‘i System

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

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 2521 that would create a University of Hawai'i repair and maintenance account.

This dedicated account for the repair and maintenance of our ten campus system would be a big help in addressing our \$257 million backlog of deferred maintenance. Knowing we will have a definite stream of revenues for repair and maintenance will allow us to be proactive in our planning and more efficient in implementing our repair and maintenance programs.

However, I'm sure you've heard the saying that the "devil is in the details." Well, in this bill, we would like to clearly understand the timing of all the moving parts in order to produce an efficient implementation plan.

As an example, the bill's effective date is July 1, 2008, the start of the 2009 fiscal year, and it goes on to say that the director of finance shall deposit into the account on at least a semi-annual basis and these moneys shall be appropriated and expended solely for repair and maintenance of facilities of UH.

From a timing perspective, if the intent is to start using the funds in FY 2009, we would ask that this bill include an appropriation or at least an appropriation ceiling and request that the director of finance deposit the funds into this account on at least a quarterly basis, beginning with October 2008.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your support of the University of Hawai'i.