

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



HB 2586 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
SYSTEM

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
January 31, 2008 at 3:00 pm

by

Karen C. Lee
Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
University of Hawaii System

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

The purpose of HB 2586 is to provide funding to the University of Hawai'i system to address the mental health and campus security needs at each campus.

The shooting at Virginia Tech University last year raised the consciousness of the nation to the various mental health needs of our college students as well as to the needs of higher education institutions in the area of safety and security. Already, with the support of the Legislature last year, the University of Hawai'i has been working diligently to provide students with responsive and appropriate mental health counseling this school year. However, it is not enough. As written in this bill, the Manoa campus alone has seen a 26 percent increase in the number of students seeking mental health services from Fall 2006 to Fall 2007.

The University of Hawai'i very much appreciates the introduction of this bill, and we support its passage. The services listed in this bill are in the Board of Regents-approved University of Hawai'i Supplemental Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.