

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



HB 2986 - MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Tourism & Culture

January 28, 2008 at 10:00 am

by

John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

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Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Manahan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2986. The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges recognize that the tourism market is changing and that if Hawai'i is to capitalize on the increase in visitors from China and Korea that we need to be sure that our hospitality workers better understand the language and culture of these visitors.

Last year the Legislature provided \$250,000 to the community colleges for a rapid response fund to allow us to move quickly when a training need emerges. I have already authorized the expenditure of some of that money to begin the process of designing the language and culture training described in this bill and staff from Maui CC, Kapi'olani CC, and Hawai'i CC have begun to work on the program.

It is a little early to know whether additional funds from HTA would be necessary to meet the need. Perhaps this bill may be kept alive should additional funds be needed and we will certainly keep you informed of our progress with this program.