



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
March 27, 2008 at 2:15 pm

By

Linda Johnsrud, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy,

HCR 274/HR 232 – URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO OPPOSE
H.R. 4137, THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2007.

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

I am Linda Johnsrud, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy of the University of Hawai'i System. On behalf of the University System, I am testifying on House Concurrent Resolution 274/House Resolution 232, which urges Hawai'i's congressional delegation to oppose H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully disagrees with the intent of HCR 274/HR232. We support H.R. 4137 which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, and observe that Federal requirements for maintenance of efforts such as those in H.R. 4137 are a routine feature of the Federal-state relationship in many areas. Moreover, higher education research results strongly suggest a high degree of causality between declining state appropriations for higher education and rising tuition levels at public universities across the nation. Such Federal incentives during the late 1990s may have helped the University at a time when the Legislature reduced the level of general funds support promised in 1995 to the UH from \$350 million to \$260 million by 1998. The \$350 million level was not reached again until 2006.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.