Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
and
House Committee on Education
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by
Brian K. Minaai
Associate Vice President for Capital Improvements, University of Hawai'i

HB 1217 – RELATING TO EDUCATION PROJECTS

Chairs Chang and Takumi, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Berg, and Members of the House
    Committees on Higher Education and Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 1217 – Relating to Education Projects. The
University of Hawai'i strongly supports the intent of HB 1217, which proposes an
appropriation in the amount of $50 million to the University of Hawai'i for improvements to,
and/or repair and maintenance of, University of Hawai'i instructional facilities.

The proposed $50 million will greatly assist in the restoration of the University of Hawai'i's
Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2009-2011, which
consists of $335 million for Capital Renewal and Deferred Maintenance (CRDM). Our
current request of $335 million is part of the University's six-year plan to eliminate our
maintenance backlog.   It should be noted that the Governor's CIP Budget
Recommendations reduced the University's CRDM request for fiscal biennium 2009-2011
by sixty percent (-$201 million). The impact of the Governor's lower funding proposal would
result in a significant increase to our $351 million maintenance backlog.

We understand that the intent of the legislation is to accelerate public construction contracts
to benefit the State's economy. The University is excited to be an integral partner in this
process, as it will greatly assist in meeting our capital renewal needs and to reduce our
maintenance backlog.

We would like to note that HB 1217 includes a lapse date of June 30, 2011; however, we
respectfully recommend that this date be extended to June 30, 2012, to be consistent with
the State Executive Budget's CIP lapse date.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 1217.