



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 25, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

by
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HB 2670 HD 1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The University of Hawaii System supports the intent of HB 2670 HD1. This measure increases the cap on the amount of expenditures to \$5M that the UH Board of Regents can authorize from the University of Hawaii Tuition and Fees Special Fund for deposit into the University of Hawaii Foundation for the purposes of promoting alumni relations and generating private donations.

The collaboration between the University of Hawaii System and the University of Hawaii Foundation has a direct impact on the university's service to the state. It strengthens and improves student access to higher education; supports research projects whose findings which may result in critical healthcare, environmental and other key breakthroughs; and enhances programs throughout our 10 campuses for our community.

The University of Hawaii Centennial Campaign, led by the University of Hawaii Foundation, was launched to celebrate 100 years of public higher education, raised a grand total to \$336 million. This campaign officially ended on June 30, 2009 and concluded the most ambitious fundraising campaign to date in the state of Hawaii, providing valuable support for UH students, faculty, and programs.

During these difficult economic times, fundraising is more important than ever for UH. Our ability to mount a new campaign and to increase our efforts in generating private support is vital to the future health of the university.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.