



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Higher Education
January 31, 2012 at 2:00pm
by
MRC Greenwood
President, University of Hawai'i System

HB 31 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i System supports HB 31. This measure affords the University additional flexibility to invest in private fundraising and alumni relations by increasing to \$5 million the cap on the amount of expenditures that the UH Board of Regents can authorize from the University of Hawai'i Tuition and Fees Special Fund for deposit into the University of Hawai'i Foundation for those purposes.

The UH Foundation is currently in the process of planning the next major fundraising campaign for the University. The success of the upcoming campaign will be critical to the University and our students. The upcoming campaign will follow the success of the University of Hawai'i Centennial Campaign, which celebrated 100 years of public higher education and raised a grand total of \$336 million. Since the conclusion of the Centennial Campaign in June, 2009, the UH Foundation has raised an additional \$88 million in the last two fiscal years.

The University's past investments in fundraising through the UH Foundation have returned \$8 in private support for every \$1 in expenditures on fundraising. The University looks forward to working with the Foundation to generate even greater private support in the next campaign.

We support this measure because it affords the University flexibility in the amount we are authorized to invest in the next campaign. This bill does not commit additional funding to the Foundation, but simply increases the University's flexibility to determine the appropriate level of investment in private fundraising and alumni relations. The University system is not in a position at this time to determine the level of funding that will be needed or appropriate for the next campaign.

Being that this bill was introduced last year, the effective date would need to be revised to July 1, 2012.

Thank you for your support of the University and the opportunity to comment on this bill.