



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
January 31, 2012 at 2:00 pm

by  
Lui K. Hokoana  
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs  
University of Hawai'i System

HB2053 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee:

I am testifying on behalf of the University of Hawai'i and its 10 campuses.

HB 2053 exempts certain University of Hawai'i students who attended and graduated from a Hawai'i high school, including those without lawful immigration status from paying nonresident tuition under certain conditions. It allows those students to receive scholarships from non-state funds and participate in financial aid programs. It also requires the Board of Regents to adopt rules. Limits relief allowed if a court finds any applicable statute unlawful.

The University supports the intent of this bill that is aligned with proposed Federal legislation known as the "Dream Act". The University is committed to providing access to a college education for all those who call Hawai'i home and want to improve themselves and their community.

The University is ready to develop policies and procedures to improve college access for the undocumented immigrant; consistent with Federal law, and would ask that any legislation in this area provide sufficient flexibility to enable such policies and procedures to be crafted to avoid potential conflicts between State and Federal laws, regulations, and policies. We also note that the bill is not limited to undocumented immigrants but would extend resident tuition to other students who meet the specified criteria, including former Hawai'i residents who have moved elsewhere and no longer satisfy the general residency criteria set forth in HRS section 304A-402.

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