Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by
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HB 1654 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of this measure.

HB 1654 proposes establishing a Campus Facility Board and a University of Hawai'i Repair and Maintenance Expenditure Oversight Commission.

The University acknowledges the importance for a campus planning facility board that evaluates, identifies, prioritizes, and allocate moneys for repair and maintenance projects of the University. In fact, at end of every Legislative Session, the University convenes such a group consisting of the three vice chancellors for administration of the four year universities, the associate vice president for the community colleges system, their respective directors of facilities management, the associate vice president of capital improvements, and the staff of the Office of Capital Improvements with that overall objective in mind. Thus, statutorily establishing such a board is not necessary.

The University opposes in concept the establishment of a University of Hawai'i repair and maintenance expenditure oversight commission chaired by the comptroller and members of the legislature, legislative auditor, and University president and providing oversight of the expenditure of repairs and maintenance funds. Since the University's Board of Regents provides the necessary oversight of all University funds as well repairs and maintenance funds, such a commission is not necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.