



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

S.B. 2068 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Testimony Presented Before the  
Committee on Education

February 13, 2004

By

Dr. Doris Ching  
Vice President for Student Affairs  
University of Hawaii

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SB 2068 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Hooser, and Members of the Committee:

SB 2068 and SB 2999 under consideration at today's hearing are very similar. The University requests the approval of the language in SB 2068 which is the language of the administration bill.

The University of Hawaii supports SB 2068 which establishes a "Student Scholarship and Support Special Fund" within the University of Hawai'i to administer financial assistance and obtain additional tuition and scholarship support from various sources of funds. The fund would be used solely to provide financial assistance to qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University.

The proposed special fund would provide a consistent place for scholarship initiatives established by the legislature, such as specific appropriations for critical statewide issues like workforce development, key shortage areas, and financial assistance funded with University, federal or private funds. The special fund should also facilitate comprehensive reporting of financial support for students. Although the University will continue part of its tuition waiver program, the University is considering providing more assistance to students in the form of scholarships rather than tuition waivers. This practice is consistent with common practice nationwide and will enable more families to obtain tax benefits they would otherwise not benefit through tuition waivers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2068.