



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

S.B 2997 RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S  
ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education and Committee on Transportation,  
Military Affairs and Government Operations

February 13, 2004

By

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

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Scholarship Program

The University of Hawaii is pleased to support SB 2997 which establishes a civil engineering scholarship program to be administered by the Department of Transportation with funds from the special fund of the general administration of DOT. The University endorses the purpose of the bill to promote the civil engineering profession by offering financial assistance, on-the-job training and employment opportunities to qualified students of Hawai'i.

The University appreciates the need to train more DOT engineers to address state needs and we look forward to working collaboratively with DOT to implement this scholarship program. The University wishes to point out the administrative work required of DOT to obtain needed information on scholars' academic progress and employment status at the DOT over a period of years. To support engineering students at UH and to decrease the logistical problem of following up with students enrolled in mainland accredited engineering colleges, we recommend eligibility for the scholarship be limited only to students enrolling at the University of Hawai'i College of Engineering or give priority to students enrolling at UH. The legislature funded a similar forgivable student loan program for education majors enrolled at UH and required to teach with the Department of Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2997 DOT scholarship program and your continuing support for student access and state needs.