



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

S.B. 3238, S.D. 2 (SSCR 2537)  
Relating to Education

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Education,  
the Committee on Labor and Public Employment, and  
the Committee on Higher Education

March 15, 2004

By

Randy Hitz  
Dean

College of Education, University of Hawaii

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**S.B. 3238, S.D. 2: Relating to Education**

Chairs Takumi, Oshiro, and Takai; Vice Chairs Evans,  
Nakasone, and Tamayo; and Members of the Committees:

I am writing on behalf of the University of Hawai'i in  
support of Part VIII of S.B. 3238, S.D. 2

Part VIII provides funding (\$1.4 million) for the College of  
Education to hire faculty and increase its capacity to  
prepare teachers for Hawai'i's schools.

The university is painfully aware of the shortage of  
qualified teachers in Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Department of  
Education (DOE) hired 1,363 new teachers in 2002-2003 and  
only 32% of those teachers came from the University of  
Hawai'i. Twenty-eight percent came from Mānoa and just over  
4% from Hilo. The University system is a long way from  
meeting the DOE need for teachers.

The funding provided through Part VIII of S.B. 3238, S.D. 2  
will make it possible for the College of Education to  
rebuild its capacity and prepare more teachers. Because of  
limited resources, the College must currently turn away  
qualified teacher candidates in elementary education and in  
our Masters of Education in Teaching program. The proposed  
funding will make it possible for the College to accept all  
qualified candidates and increase its output of teachers.  
It will also stabilize our special education program and  
remove our dependency on Hawai'i State Department of  
Education funding.

The seven special education faculty will essentially replace  
those currently hired on a temporary basis with funds  
provided by the Hawai'i State Department of Education. The  
DOE has provided this support for the last five years as  
part of their effort to meet the need for more special  
education teachers. This partnership between the DOE and

the College of Education has been successful. Over the last five years the college has more than tripled its output of special education teachers from approximately 35 per year to over 100. The college has also created two new programs in special education and we offer these programs on the neighbor islands as well as Oahu in order to provide more options for teacher candidates wishing to enter the field.

The DOE need for new special education teachers each year is between 300 and 400. It is safe to say that for the foreseeable future the DOE will need more than the 100 special education teachers prepared by the College of Education. A more permanent state investment in the preparation of special education teachers is warranted. The DOE cannot and should not be expected to continue to subsidize teacher preparation. Teacher preparation is a university responsibility and it is appropriate that the university be provided the resources necessary to address the need for special education teachers.

The university also needs an additional position in educational administration in order to help the DOE meet the ongoing need for more school administrators.

Though the funding suggested in this bill is above that requested by the university it is important and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of this bill.

