



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 991 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 8, 2005

By

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Acting Chancellor, University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu

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Chair Hee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of SB 991 is to relocate the University of Hawai'i College of Education to the UH West O'ahu campus. The University recognizes that the current teacher preparation programs in the state are not producing sufficient numbers of licensable teachers to meet the need. A system-wide meeting was held this past spring to determine how best the UH system could respond to this critical state shortage.

There are two initiatives that relate to the intent of this bill. The first is an Associate of Arts in Teaching (ATT) degree being planned at Leeward Community College. This degree will provide a program at the lower division to capitalize on student interest in teaching and nurture it until the student is ready to transfer to a baccalaureate-granting campus. The second initiative involves UHWO. In recognition of the shortage of teachers and the need to produce more teachers in the geographical areas in which they are needed to teach, UHWO is seeking Legislative support to initiate programs in early childhood education and teacher preparation. The campus is working with LCC to ensure that their program builds on the AAT degree planned by the community college. Establishing an education program at UHWO is a priority in the campus's biennium budget request, approved by the Board of Regents.

We respectfully submit that the state needs to expand its capacity to prepare teachers rather than to relocate an existing program. Addressing the teacher shortage requires the continued effort of the UH Mānoa College of Education plus the establishment of a teacher preparation program at UHWO. UHWO requests that priority be given to the funding of the Board of Regent approved biennium budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S. B. 991.