



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 997 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I-WEST O'AHU CAMPUS

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 8, 2005

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

The intent of SB 997 is to authorize the issuance of \$30 million in General Obligation Bonds for infrastructure costs of the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu campus development.

Implementation of UH West O'ahu's long range development plan for a new campus in Kapolei remains unrealized. In order to address the need for higher education facilities in this growing region and to offset the cost, the UH Board of Regents has approved a plan to seek private sector partners to build the campus on the 500 acre parcel owned by the University. A request for qualifications has been issued, and applications have been received from seven teams of developers.

The cost of the first phase of the campus is estimated at \$85 million and the infrastructure costs at \$40 million. The likelihood for a successful public-private partnership to build UHWO would be significantly enhanced if the Legislature were to provide support for the infrastructure.

While the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu supports and very much appreciates the intent of this bill, we respectfully request that the issuance of these bonds be considered as an addition to, rather than a substitute for, Board of Regent approved biennium budget capital improvement requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.