



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 1089: RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education and Military Affairs

February 14, 2005

By

Randy Hitz
Dean
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education and Military Affairs

February 14, 2005

By

Randy Hitz, Dean
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

S.B. 1089: Relating to Education

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

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of S.B. 1089.

S.B. 1089 creates an educator loan program through the Department of Education (DOE) for teacher education candidates who take employment with the DOE. The intent of this bill appears to be entirely consistent with the intent of a program begun by the legislature in 2001, the Hawai'i Educator Loan Program. Funding for the Hawai'i Educator Loan Program ran out last year. S.B. 1820 calls for renewing funding for that program. The University has the infrastructure to handle student loans, and we have the policies and procedures in place to handle it.

We ask, however, that the requested funding for the Hawai'i Educator Loan Program not supplant the current University biennium budget request.

We also note that there is another bill, S.B. 1071, that will create a needed forgivable loan program for teacher candidates from private universities in Hawai'i. This bill, and the Hawai'i Educator Loan Program were recommendations of the Hawai'i NCTAF Policy Group in 2001 and that group continues to support both programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.