



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 1367 RELATING TO THE PLANNING, DESIGNING, AND CONSTRUCTION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I-WEST O'AHU FACILITIES

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 8, 2005

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

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

The intent of SB 1367 is to authorize the issuance of \$150 million in General Obligation bonds to finance the construction of the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu facilities, and direct the public-private partnership with the provision that no more than 150 acres of adjacent land be developed by private interests.

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 likelihood of the UHWO project going forward would be significantly enhanced if the Legislature were to authorize the issuance of \$150 million in General Obligation bonds to finance the construction of the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu facilities. The amount of land to be developed by private interests is negotiable in the framing of the request for qualifications, and if the Legislature were to authorize this level of support, the need to commit land would be considerably reduced.

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.