



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

SCR 180

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF
STATE FUNDING CRITERIA AND MODELS UTILIZED AT OTHER PUBLICLY
FUNDED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A PER STUDENT
FUNDING FORMULA

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 29, 2005

By

Linda K. Johnsrud
Interim Associate Vice President for Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Higher Education Committee

March 29, 2005

by

Linda Johnsrud

Interim Associate Vice President for Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i

SCR 180

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF STATE FUNDING CRITERIA AND MODELS UTILIZED AT OTHER PUBLICLY FUNDED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A PER STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of SCR 180 is for the University of Hawaii to conduct a study of state funding criteria and models utilized at other publicly funded institutions of higher education for a per student funding formula. The University of Hawaii appreciates the recognition that appropriations need to accommodate enrollment growth; nonetheless, states that use formulas have taken years to determine the appropriate weights and ratios of the various component costs of education. In the UH system, where we have to consider the differential missions and costs of a research university, two baccalaureate-granting campuses, and seven community colleges, the task is even more formidable.

Section 304-7.5 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes calls for an appropriation that is three to five times the amount of regular tuition, effective 1998-1999. The Legislature has not been bound by this requirement; rather the decisions to fund the University seem to be based primarily on the fiscal condition of the State. The University is hesitant to replace one funding formula with another without considerable attention to its adequacy and the commitment to, in fact, funding the formula. It is worthy of note that California, that has a long history of enrollment-based funding, has recently abandoned the formula given the scarcity of resources.

If there is a desire to pursue a student weighted formula, then we request the time and resources to develop a sound plan for the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.