



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

SB 2032: Relating to the Office of School Redesign

Testimony Presented Before the
Education and Military Affairs

02/13/06

by

Randy Hitz, Dean
College of Education, University of Hawaii Manoa

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SB 2032: Relating to the Office of School Redesign

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

The University of Hawaii supports the intent of SB 2032 which is to fund the Office for School Redesign (OSR) provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Executive Supplemental Budget.

We note that another bill, SB 2722, has a similar intent, but recognizes that an Office of School Redesign already exists in the College of Education. There is no need to create another such office in the Department of Education since the current office is run collaboratively with the Department.

The OSR was created in 2003 through a collaborative effort of the College of Education and the Department of Education. To date, all funding has been provided by the two partners. The purposes of the office are clearly articulated in the bill. The University is committed to assisting DOE high schools in creating smaller learning communities which will better engage students and enhance their chances for success. The research on small schools is compelling. Students from small high schools outperform their peers in larger high schools.

The funding requested will enable the Office to better meet the needs of the schools as they seek to create smaller learning communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.