



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

Senate Bill No. 3121 S.D. 1, Relating to the University of Hawaii

Testimony Presented Before the
Committee on Ways and Means

February 23, 2006

by

Linda Johnsrud
Interim Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawaii

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Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of Senate Bill 3121 is to establish a Hawai'i State Scholars program to provide financial assistance to high performing graduates of Hawai'i high schools who enroll in any campus of the University of Hawai'i within eighteen months of graduating. The University of Hawai'i appreciates the Legislature's efforts to encourage more of Hawai'i's high achieving students to enroll at one of our public universities.

The Hawaii Scholars program would parallel in some respects the Regents and Presidential Scholarship program, and it would be desirable to ensure that they are complementary in maximizing their value to students, and thus, their recruitment value. The Regents and Presidential Scholarships are awarded without regard to financial need, and if that is to be the case with the Hawai'i Scholars program, it will be important to specify whether a student could receive both, whether need is a factor, and how a maximum award would be determined. Presently, the number of Regents and Presidential Scholarships is limited to 20 new Regents awards and 10 new Presidential awards each year. If the Hawai'i State Scholars program is established and funded, it will be very helpful in recruiting and recognizing the accomplishments of a larger number of high performing Hawai'i students.

The University supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Board of Regent approved Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.