



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

January 26, 2007

By

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SB 80: Relating to Education

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

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 80, which establishes a revolving fund for the collection of stipend payments for University of Hawai'i students in breach of the Felix consent decree memorandum and provides funding for special education teaching programs.

As presented, this bill relates to UH students who were recruited and were paid stipends to teach in special education classes in the DOE, but failed to meet their multi-year commitments, a condition of receiving the stipend. Establishing such a revolving account enables the DOE to recover stipend funds from those who fail to meet their obligatory commitments to teaching and makes those recovered funds available for use by new special education teacher candidates. This approach means that less additional monies would be requested in the future to address this critical need area.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.