



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

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By

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SB 97: Making an Appropriation for Science Education

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

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 97, which appropriates \$4,000,000 for science textbooks to be used in an articulated K–12 science sequence within a school complex, with amendments.

The resources are badly needed by our public schools to upgrade existing science textbooks, which have become increasingly expensive in recent years. We especially support the requirement that the funds be used to stimulate discussions and planning to create an articulated science sequence for students entering Kindergarten through graduation. The recent efforts at establishing standards within each subject area was accomplished with the idea that for all students to achieve those standards, they must have opportunities to learn in a planned sequence in which each grade level adds to their knowledge and skills. Yet in many places this planned sequence has not been realized within schools, and even more infrequently in complexes.

The College of Education through its Curriculum Research & Development Group (CRDG) with its established expertise in curriculum design, development, and evaluation has developed such a sequence of nationally recognized programs in science for grades K through 10 that is available for use in Hawai'i's schools. The results of their work in building these programs can be seen in action in the University Laboratory School, one of the highest achieving charter schools in the state.

The present language of SB 97 appears to provide funding only for DOE schools. We recommend adding language that specifically includes charter schools. For example, a pro rata amount could be set aside for charter schools and administered by the Charter School Administrative Office.

The College of Education not only supports SB 97, but also is available to assist schools in its implementation if funded.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.