



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

February 2, 2007  
by  
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SB 937      RELATING TO NAWAHIOKALAN'IOPU'U LABORATORY SCHOOL  
PROGRAM

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committees:

The purpose of SB 937 is to appropriate moneys to the Nawahiokalan'iopu'u Laboratory School.

Clearly, the University of Hawaii at Hilo is proud of the accomplishments of our Lab School. It has provided a unique and much needed opportunity for students. Further, it has nurtured the perspective that the study of Hawaiian Studies is broad and limitless. At the same time since its inception it has been and continues to be a catalyst for cultivating and fitting Hawaiian into the present and future of Hawaii. In effect, it is a very significant vehicle for binding education, cultural identity and culture.

They have a 100% graduation rate and complimented by the fact that many students who attend the school are primarily from lower economic backgrounds on the Island of Hawaii. This is notable and laudable, a credit to faculty and staff who are committed to supporting and educating students. Clearly, this Bill is of interest to the University and supports the concept and the allocation of resources to the University as long as the funds are in addition to the BOR budget request and is not in conflict with the priorities set by the BOR. Mahalo for the opportunity to present testimony on this Bill.