



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

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by

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SB 1146 - RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

The purpose of SB 1146 is to create the Senator Hiram L. Fong scholarship program and the Senator Oren E. Long scholarship program at the University of Hawai'i Foundation, to be administered by the University of Hawai'i. The program is to provide financial support for students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawai'i. The Bill provides that \$250,000 for fiscal year 2007-2008 is to be appropriated from the general revenues of the State and deposited as an endowment into the Senator Hiram L. Fong scholarship program at the UH Foundation. It also provides that \$250,000 for fiscal year 2007-2008 is to be appropriated from the general revenues of the State and deposited as an endowment into the Senator Oren E. Long scholarship program at the UH Foundation.

The University of Hawai'i Foundation is unable to accept general fund appropriations from the state of Hawai'i. However, the University has an endowment account into which the general funds may be deposited. The University will be able to administer the Senator Hiram L. Fong and Senator Oren E. Long scholarships from this endowment account.

Furthermore, the University is unclear as to the Legislative intent to appropriate \$200,000 from the general revenues of the University of Hawai'i scholarship and assistance special fund to be used for the Senator Hiram L. Fong scholarship program. Currently, the only general revenues in this fund come from the State of Hawai'i to support the State of Hawai'i B Plus Scholarship Program. We respectfully recommend that this section be deleted.

Last Friday, the House Committee on Higher Education amended the language of the House version of this bill (HB1529) per our concerns above. The University concurs with these amendments.

The University supports the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents approved Biennium Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.