



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

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by

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SB 1156 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

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

The purpose of Senate Bill 1156 is to appropriate general funds for the State of Hawai'i B Plus Scholarship program for fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09. It also changes the program's eligibility criteria.

The University of Hawai'i deeply appreciates the Legislature's efforts on behalf of student access to higher education and this increase in need-based aid for Hawai'i residents. For the 2006-07 academic year, we awarded the entire initial allocation of \$500,000 to needy freshman students from the state of Hawai'i who are attending one of the ten campuses of the University of Hawai'i.

To allocate the funds across our campuses equitably, we first determined the number of Federal Pell Grant recipients per campus. We then allocated the funds by campus percentage of total Pell Grant recipients. With the exception of UH West Oahu, which does not currently enroll students directly from high school, each of our campuses was able to award the scholarship.

Campus	Total Awarded
UH Manoa	\$189,709
UH Hilo	\$ 91,469
Hawaii CC	\$ 40,398
Honolulu CC	\$ 17,753
Kapiolani CC	\$ 55,830
Kauai CC	\$ 10,978
Leeward CC	\$ 38,040
Maui CC	\$ 37,259
Windward CC	\$ 18,564

The average award per recipient was about \$2000.

For UH Manoa, the high schools that had the most number of State of Hawai'i B Plus Scholars were Kaimuki, McKinley, Roosevelt, Farrington, and Kalani. For UH Hilo, they were Hilo, Keaau, and Pahoia. Unfortunately, at this time, we do not have all of the high school enrollments from the UH community colleges.

Working closely with GEAR UP Hawai'i, the Department of Education, our admissions and recruitment officers, and contacts with Hawai'i high schools, we have worked diligently to promote the scholarship across the state. With the continuation of this state scholarship for the 2007-08 academic year for \$1,000,000, we look forward to widening access to higher education to qualified Hawai'i students. Furthermore, with the number of financially-needy students enrolled on our campuses, we anticipate that we will easily be able to continue the trend to award \$1,500,000 in the following year and \$2,000,000 after that.

Furthermore, the University supports the changes to the program's eligibility criteria for students to complete a rigorous high school curriculum. We recommend that the language in criteria #4 be amended to give priority to those students who have pledged, via an early intervention program, to meet the requirements for the scholarship.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.