



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

February 9, 2007
by
Gene I. Awakuni, Chancellor

SB1232 -- AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII - WEST O`AHU.

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

You cannot begin to image how deeply we appreciate your support of University of Hawai'i - West O`ahu (UHWO). We support the intent of SB1232 as we prepare to move forward with construction of a new campus and the launch of new programs to make higher education accessible and meaningful to the residents of Leeward, 'Ewa and North Shore O`ahu.

After many years and numerous changes over those many years, we believe we now have the most reasonable, well thought out and achievable plan to develop the long awaited UHWO campus at Kapolei.

The first phase of campus construction is estimated between \$135 million and \$150 million. Of that, \$100 million will be provided by a private developer, selected previously by RFP, in an agreement that is expected to be finalized within the next couple or three weeks. The remaining \$35 million is encompassed in the CIP request before this year's State Legislature and will cover some infrastructure costs and planning and design.

At full build-out, the Kapolei campus will feature student and faculty housing and also includes a 53-acre site of commercial and mixed use. Operating needs for the new campus are based on commercial rents from the 53-acre site as well as tuition based on a total student population of more than 7,000 students at build-out.

Given all of the planned developments for Kapolei over the next decade, we know that UHWO has a significant contribution to make to this growing community and the future of Hawaii. Thank you again for your support and we hope that we can continue to count on your support to make UHWO a reality for the thousands of families who call the Kapolei and 'Ewa region home.