



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the House Committees on Education and Higher Education

March 15, 2007

by

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SB 1933 SD2 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Takumi and Chair Chang and Members of the Committees

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in general support of SB1933 SD2 relating to education specifically to Section 8 and Section 13, establishing and funding the Research Experiences for Teachers – Middle School (RET) program. The amount needed to support the program is (College of Engineering FY 08) \$250,540 and (College of Engineering FY09) \$250,540 providing this does not replace or adversely impact budget priorities indicated in our Board of Regents approved Biennium Budget request. The program is a teacher driven model for advancing science and technology in the middle schools through a partnership which includes the National Science Foundation, College of Engineering, industry, Gear-Up (Shidler College of Business), and other affiliates.

The Hawai'i Center for Advanced Communication (HCAC), UH College of Engineering has expanded this NSF sponsored program from a single pilot school to a total four middle schools on O'ahu and the Island of Hawai'i. Shortly, the plan is to include schools on the island of Kaua'i and Maui. In the UH Biennium Budget, the University had requested one position in FY08 (\$42,000) to provide administrative support for HCAC as research and outreach activities have tremendously increased due to the importance of communication research and development. The College recognized the importance to support K-12 outreach as well as provide a highly educated technical workforce to support industry.

The UH College of Engineering has been an active participant in K-12 outreach in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in Hawai'i. We clearly recognize the critical importance of getting students interested in pursuing courses of study which lead to postsecondary access and STEM careers.

We urge the State to support state-wide programs and initiatives which promote student interest and improve achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This in turn will contribute significantly in preparing our students to participate fully in our society and contribute to our State's economic growth.