

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 2333 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

February 12, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
Presented by
Peter Crouch
Dean, College of Engineering
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Chair Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Will Espero, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2333 relating to the University of Hawai'i. We support the intent of the SB2333 and agree that robotics is a powerful vehicle for K-12 students to explore and develop exemplary skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. For nearly a decade, the College of Engineering has been involved in multiple aspects of robotics education and outreach and has witnessed its tremendous impact on our students, teachers, and community. The many successful robotics competitions and the dramatic increase in interest and participation are strong testaments to this achievement.

At the current time, it is not reasonable for us to support the recommendation of establishing a task force to research the possibility of creating an institute of robotics within the College of Engineering. We understand that much thought and effort is needed to leverage interest in robotics and to examine opportunities to effectively sustain robotics initiatives and programs. There are many possibilities and models for collaboration which can be explored and I would welcome and support further discussion.

In closing, I would like to add that ACT111 marked a milestone in K-12 outreach for the College of Engineering. Through the Administration's Innovation in Education Initiative - Fostering Innovation and Relevance through Science and Technology – Pre-Academy, Robotics and the Research Experiences for Teachers – Middle School Program, the College will further expand its role in STEM outreach.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify and for your continued interest and support in the UH College of Engineering.