

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 2698 – RELATING TO TEACHERS

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
January 30, 2008 at 1:15 pm

by

Karen C. Lee
Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
University of Hawaii System

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

The purpose of SB 2698 is to allow recipients to attend any state-approved teacher education program outside of the University of Hawai'i and the State of Hawai'i. It also appropriates funds for the loans.

The University supports the intent of the Legislature to broaden the scope of the program to include students who attend non-University of Hawai'i institutions as there is a shortage of teachers across the State. If adequately funded, we believe the Hawai'i Educator Loan Program can be of value to students. However, as an institution of higher education, the University of Hawai'i is not equipped to serve as a loan agency, and the expansion of the loan program would cause an administrative burden to the University, in particular because of the difficulties of administering a loan to students who would attend non-UH institutions. As a result, we oppose the bill as written.

Should it be the desire of the Legislature to pass this bill, we respectfully request that there be an appropriation to adequately fund the administration of the expansion of this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.