

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 2700 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
February 1, 2008 at 1:30 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 2700 is to provide funding to the University of Hawai'i system to address the mental health and campus security needs at each campus.

The shooting at Virginia Tech University last year raised the consciousness of the nation to the various mental health needs of our college students as well as to the needs of higher education institutions in the area of safety and security. Already, with the support of the Legislature last year, the University of Hawai'i has been working diligently to provide students with responsive and appropriate mental health counseling this school year. However, it is not enough. As written in this bill, the Manoa campus alone has seen a 26 percent increase in the number of students seeking mental health services from Fall 2006 to Fall 2007.

The University of Hawai'i very much appreciates the introduction of this bill, and we support its passage. The services listed in this bill are in the Board of Regents-approved University of Hawai'i Supplemental Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.