

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 3039 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII EDUCATOR LOAN  
PROGRAM

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

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 Hawai'i System

SB 3039 – Relating to the Hawai'i Educator Loan Program

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

The purpose of SB 3039 is to allow recipients to attend any state-approved teacher education program recognized by the Hawai'i teacher standards board, to define the years of service as 6 years, and to allow loan recipients to teach in charter schools as eligible schools for the purposes of the fulfillment of loan program.

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.