

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 3229 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

February 6, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

Presented by

Carl Clapp, Interim Athletics Director

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

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

Aloha! On behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, mahalo for the opportunity to express our view on SB3229, which would require at least 90 percent of revenues from University of Hawai'i post-season athletic appearances to be allocated to the UH Athletics program.

We intend to utilize the funds that will become available as a result of our participation in the Sugar Bowl to support our student athletes and hope our assurances will lead you to hold this measure.

We are all members of a large team, i.e., the University of Hawai'i, and we need to have the flexibility to address our opportunities and challenges. Our success going forward requires that University and Athletic Administrators work closely together in our pursuit of academic and athletic excellence. At times Athletics will be called on to support significant University-wide needs. More frequently, Athletics is going to require assistance from the University Administration in addressing challenges, including fiscal issues related to funding a broad-based NCAA Division I athletic program. We are committed to working together and we are confident that all involved will allocate resources with the one goal of providing the most significant impact for our students, including our student-athletes. As a reminder, the vast majority of all post-season appearances by our athletic teams do not produce enough revenue to cover the cost of our participation. The recent Sugar Bowl experience is an exception to this.

The following principles will be used in spending funds received from post season athletic appearances and, in this specific instance, the Sugar Bowl:

- a. We will be fully transparent on the purposes for which proceeds are used,
- b. The proceeds will support our student athletes, and
- c. We will stretch these resources as far as they can go and deploy them in the most nimble, flexible way possible.

We certainly appreciate the Legislature's attention to and concern for this important issue. We assure you that we are working closely together to distribute funds in ways that will support and nurture our student-athletes. We believe that further assistance deciding exact allocations is not needed as proposed in this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this matter.