



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources  
and  
House Committee on Judiciary  
2 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2009  
Conference Room 325

by  
Gene Awakuni  
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### SB 1677 SD1 – RELATING TO LANDS CONTROLLED BY THE STATE

(Requires two-thirds majority vote of the legislature to adopt a concurrent resolution to sell or exchange certain public lands.)

Good afternoon Chairs Ito and Karamatsu, and Vice Chair Har, and members of the joint committees,

My name is Gene Awakuni, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu. I am not here to speak against the intent of SB 1677 SD1 but rather to address what I believe are unintended consequences contained in the draft bill that have grave implications for UHWO's ability to move forward with its plan to raise revenue through the sale of land to which it holds title. Our land is not ceded land but in the opinion of our legal counsel, the language of SB 1677 which revises HRS Chapter 171 is so broad that it infers our land would be bound by the same requirement as ceded land. That is to say, before we could sell our land, we would need the adoption of a concurrent resolution by two-thirds majority vote of each house of the legislature. This would bring to a halt our effort to get Phase I of our new campus built by 2011 as planned to ensure compliance with the Campbell Estate covenants which were agreed upon when the land was conveyed to the university.

I urge you to consider a small revision that allows us the opportunity to sell a portion of our land for the purpose of building our campus as authorized by HRS 304A-2166.

Thank you.