



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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House Committee on Higher Education
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by

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SB 606 SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 606 SD2, which provides funds to hire student employees at all the campuses. As noted in SB 606 SD2 hiring student employees at UH benefits both the student and the University: students earn while they learn and the University has a talented workforce. College students can be hired to do many needed jobs e.g. tutors and recruiters at the high schools; jobs in offices, laboratories and classrooms. National research shows that students who work on-campus persists at a higher rate and earn better grades than students who work off-campus. It is in our best interest to have our students work with us and for us in order to improve the retention rate toward graduation. Career related jobs off-campus give our students an edge in securing permanent positions in their field after completion of their academic program.

Students and families continue to seek financial aid and employment to meet the cost of attendance. UH spends approximately \$22 million to hire students systemwide with funds from tuition and fees, federal and state general funds. Our data shows that during the first month of the fall semester, there were 2,534 students who were looking for an on-campus job and not placed at the end of that month. For that same period, there were more than 3 students applying to every off-campus job at Mānoa (figures for other campuses were not readily available online).

We estimate about 1,500 students can be hired if \$5 million is appropriated. The following table shows the allocation per campus based on the number of full time students. A minimum wage increase would change some of these numbers.

	Total FTE Fall 2012 enrollment	% of Total Enrollment	Avg. pay per student per year (2012)	\$ based on % of FTE X \$5M	# of Students Affected
Mānoa	16,773	41%	\$3,558	\$2,045,937	575
Hilo	3,659	9%	\$3,624	\$446,317	123
West O'ahu	1,222	3%	\$2,363	\$149,057	63
Hawai'i	2,288	6%	\$3,726	\$279,086	75
Honolulu	2,612	6%	\$3,422	\$318,607	93
Kapi'olani	4,949	12%	\$3,011	\$603,669	200
Kaua'i	865	2%	\$2,457	\$105,511	43
Leeward	4,586	11%	\$3,172	\$559,391	176
Maui	2,567	6%	\$3,843	\$313,118	81
Windward	1,470	4%	\$2,983	\$179,308	60
Total all Campuses	40,991	100%		\$5,000,000	1491

SB 606 SD2 also request funds to hire student employees and \$160,000 (3.00) for staff support.

The University of Hawai'i System supports the intent of the bill provided it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request.