



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Submitted to the
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
March 11, 2014 at 9:30 am
by
David Lassner
Interim President
University of Hawai'i

SB 2816 SD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COSTS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports Senate Bill 2816 SD1 making an appropriation to support University of Hawai'i collective bargaining agreement costs for Unit 7 faculty members and their excluded counterparts.

This is a high priority item that is included in the University's Board of Regents FY15 Supplemental Budget Request and is fully supported by the Governor in the FY15 Executive Supplemental Budget Request. We also want to acknowledge the support of the leadership of the University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly (UHPA) and the Hawai'i Government Employees Union (HGEA).

These funds represent the restoration of general funds for faculty salaries that were reduced during the recession, as well as for the modest 3 percent salary increases that were negotiated for each year of this current fiscal biennium. This funding request is fully consistent with the appropriations made for all other public employee collective bargaining unit settlements.

The funding requested in this bill is an important cornerstone for supporting the financial sustainability of the University of Hawai'i System and for enabling us to provide the 21st-century facilities for learning our students need and deserve. We consider this item to be our highest funding priority within our FY15 supplemental operating budget request.

We respectfully ask for legislative support for the restoration of faculty salaries to their base levels, as was done for all other collective bargaining units, and for these modest negotiated collective bargaining increases that are consistent with all other collective bargaining settlements for this biennium.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the support of Chair Luke and the House Finance Committee in approving our request for UHPA funding in House Bill 1700 HD1 at their recent decision making meeting on March 5. We defer to Chair Luke and Senate Ways and Means Chair Ige to ensure the reconciliation of this item as reflected in this measure and in HB 1700 HD1 as the budget is further considered by their committees.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments in strong support of Senate Bill 2816 SD1.