



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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by

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SB 2905 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 2905 which would fund 5 graduate assistants to conduct and disseminate research and support students interested in Asian American and Pacific Islander educational issues as well as careers in higher education and student affairs. Recent research shows AAPIs are underrepresented and underserved in many higher education institutions. AAPIs are only 5% of the nation but are the two fastest growing racial groups in the United States. Hawai'i is the state with the highest proportion of AAPI population and these groups are the majority in the state and the University of Hawai'i.

Funding graduate student assistants will increase the capacity of the Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity at Mānoa to work collaboratively with AAPI scholars nationally and with faculty from academic units at Mānoa and other campuses to address critical issues in higher education, and support careers in student affairs and higher education.

We support the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.