



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

BOARD OF REGENTS

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing,
Water and Land, and Agriculture
February 11, 2014 at 2:45pm

by
James Lee, Vice Chair of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

SB 3065 – RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE

Chairs Dela Cruz, Solomon, and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Slom, Galuteria, and Kouchi, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to express concerns on one component of this measure.

Senate Bill 3065 authorizes the State to exchange lands, including University of Hawai'i lands in West O'ahu, for certain agricultural and conservation lands owned by Dole Food Company, Inc.

The Board of Regents respectfully request the University of Hawai'i lands be deleted from this bill. These lands are an asset to the University to help fulfill the vision and mission of UH – West O'ahu and the University as a whole.

We wholeheartedly acknowledge that a master plan for UHWO's future and place within the University system is needed. Recently, the Board of Regents authorized the formation of a task group to conduct the master planning process immediately. The task group will produce a master plan by the end of August 2014. We respectfully request that the University of Hawai'i lands in West O'ahu be deleted from SB 3065 pending the completion of the UHWO master plan. The University is also currently updating its Board policy on land and its statements on their purposes, which include the promotion and support of the University's educational and research mission while advancing the principals of environmental stewardship and sustainability. This legislative measure conflicts with the University in meeting its mission.

Accordingly we request that the University of Hawai'i lands be deleted from this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.