

testimony

From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 6:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: HB 2521 HD 2 SD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

SUBMITTED BY:

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LATE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Roslyn Baker, Chair
Sen. Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Notice of Decision-Making

9:45 am

Thursday, March 27, 2008

Conference Room 211

HB 2521 HD 2 SD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION**Support With Comments****TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS:**

My name is Shannon Wood, a Kailua, O`ahu resident, speaking only as an individual on my own behalf and not representing any group or organization.

Even though I support the intent of **HB 2521 HD 2 SD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION** and urge that it move forward for further discussion, I also have a number of concerns about this newest draft.

First, the contents of **HB 2521 HD 2 - RELATING TO EDUCATION** were deleted and two *Senate* bills inserted - **SB 2820 SD1** and **SB 3168 SD 1**. The former was not heard in **WAM** so, of course, it did not get sent to the *House* while the latter which did went first to a joint **Committee** hearing on **Tourism & Culture and Economic Development and Business Concerns** and then sent on to the **Finance Committee**. As yet, no hearing has been scheduled, but I expect that it will be posted shortly.

NOTE: It is interesting to note that the **Committee on Higher Education** did not hear this bill.

Second, it bothers me that the dollar amounts have been removed so that it is impossible to understand how much money is being talked about here and, specifically, how much will be allocated to the **Department of Athletics** for their much-needed improvements.

Third, the contents of the two bills are quite dissimilar. One deals with maintenance & repairs

while the other supports the establishment of a new program.

Fourth, as far as I've been able to determine, no one from the *University of Hawai'i System* was consulted prior to the release of this draft. How does this square with the legislative and public decision several years to grant the *University of Hawai'i* autonomy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony for the **Committee's** consideration