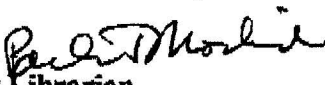


TESTIMONY FOR HB2521:**RELATING TO 1% OF GENERAL REVENUES FOR SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR
REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FACILITIES**

February 5, 2008
2:00 pm
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Rep. Jerry Chang, Chair
House Committee on Higher Education
and
Members of the Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Paula T. Mochida 
Interim University Librarian
UH Mānoa Library

The bill requiring 1% of general revenues for a special account for the University of Hawaii for capital renewal, deferred maintenance, repair, renovation, improvement, and replacement projects is another excellent way to provide funding to allow the University to begin addressing the over \$400,000,000 in backlogged projects.

The Sinclair and Hamilton Libraries are among the buildings that have suffered greatly because the University has been unable to address routine maintenance as well as major repair, renovation, and building upgrades. Both buildings have lost collections of materials due to leaky roofs, walls, and the lack of consistent temperature and humidity control. Both buildings deal with mold and bug infestations. In November 2007 the Library was in danger of losing tens of thousands of books because dozens of leaks rained water onto two of Hamilton's floors. Quick staff action saved the Library and University from a major disaster, but it cost the Library \$200,000 – money that could have been more wisely invested elsewhere – had the roof been repaired on schedule.

Another example of the underfunding of facilities maintenance is the rare book vault that has been dysfunctional for FIVE years. Rare, one-of-kind, and expensive Hawaiian, Pacific, and general materials were moved into less than perfect temporary quarters FIVE years ago, and only this year will there be money to replace the vault. Meanwhile staff have had to constantly check the fluctuating temperature and humidity of the temporary quarters, preservation staff have had to conduct emergency treatment of rare materials at risk, and staff in an adjacent workroom to the dysfunctional vault work under or next to plastic funnels and canopies because of moisture from the vault.

These conditions are not acceptable and are an embarrassment not just for our students and faculty, but also for the many scholars and researchers who use the library year round.

Your support of this bill would be a wise decision and smart investment in support of the future of the University.

From: Carl Clapp

Testimony on HB2521

Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 2 p.m., Capitol Room 309

Attention: Chair Jerry Chang and the members of the House Higher Education Committee:

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to support HB 2521 that requires one (1) percent of general revenues to be annually deposited into a special account for the repair and maintenance of University of Hawaii facilities.

We are reacting to facility challenges at the University due to a lack of appropriate repair and maintenance over a period of time. Additionally the University facilities experience emergencies such as floods and fires. Scarce resources have forced us to focus on patches rather than planning for regular repair and maintenance.

This bill is a proactive solution that will provide funding to assist with addressing repair and maintenance on an annual basis. The opportunity to plan to address these needs will prove to be less expensive over time than the reactive approach currently in place.

The University of Hawaii is important to the State in so many ways. The State's greatest asset is our people. Many of them are educated in some form by the University. I have always believed that education occurs in many settings. Our classrooms give way to experiences in athletics, band, debate, student government, and many other activities. Hawaii has great people that represent the state with terrific talent and as ambassadors of Aloha! The facilities that they learn in should be reflective of their talent and the pride we take in the contributions they make to the world.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support HB 2521.

LATE TESTIMONY