

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2482

February 1, 2008

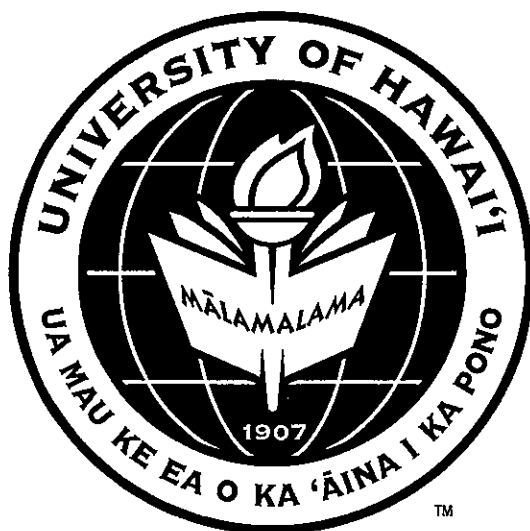
RELATING TO THE HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY

Senate Bill No. 2482 would extend the capital improvement appropriation for the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology Research Lab at Coconut Island, Oahu. \$31,000,000 revenue bond appropriation will lapse on June 30, 2008. This bill extends the lapse date to June 30, 2010.

It may be more appropriate to lapse the current appropriation and reauthorize the project in the supplemental appropriation bill, rather than amending Section 119 of Act 178, SLH 2005. Section 119 sets the lapse date for all of the capital improvement appropriations for Fiscal Biennium 2005-07, with two major exceptions for projects that qualify for federal aid financing and projects funded by the State Educational Facilities Improvement special fund. This section should not be amended to address the lapsing of individual projects.

Further, this bill would not prevent the lapsing of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology appropriation as the bill takes effect on July 1, 2008, after the lapse date of June 30, 2008.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 2482 Relating to the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

February 1, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
Presented by

Dr. Brian Taylor, Dean
School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education**

Friday, February 1, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 225

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

Presented by
Dr. Brian Taylor, Dean
School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2482 Relating to the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The University supports SB 2482, requesting an extension of the lapse date of the \$31 million in revenue bonds to 2010. Coconut Island is an invaluable resource for the State of Hawai'i and we are requesting this extension to pursue opportunities for enhancement of this unique research facility. The activities on Coconut Island support the goal of understanding and enhancing Hawai'i's ability to maintain our unique ecosystem, as well as sharing that knowledge at a global level.

The Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology represents a world-renowned research institute situated on Coconut Island in Kāne'ohe Bay. Coconut Island itself provides excellent opportunities for research. It is surrounded by 64 acres of coral reef, designated by the state of Hawai'i as the Hawai'i Marine Laboratory Refuge. Only researchers associated with HIMB are allowed to collect specimens from the refuge. The island itself covers approximately 29 acres, with 6 acres enclosed in lagoons that are used for keeping organisms in captivity for study.

HIMB provides research facilities for its faculty and students, who come from all over the world. Ongoing research at HIMB covers many disciplines of tropical marine science. Graduate and undergraduate students conducting research on Coconut Island are most often enrolled in the departments of Zoology and Oceanography at the University of Hawai'i, but also include students from a variety of departments and programs across campus such as the departments of Microbiology, Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering (MBBE), Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences (HNFAS), and the Global Environmental Sciences program at the department of Oceanography.

Enhancement of the facilities to support these activities is surely needed and supporting SB 2482 will enable the University to pursue that goal.