

**Testimony Presented Before the  
Committee on Economic Development and Taxation  
Committee on Education**

February 2, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

by

**Judith Inouye**  
RET teacher coordinator

**SB 2862 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Chair Carol Fukunaga, Chair Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair Will Espero, Vice Chair Jill Tokuda, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Taxation, and Committee on Education.

**I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2862.**

I am Judith Inouye, recently retired Science / Math / Reading teacher from Kawananaoka Middle School. Throughout my teaching career, I witnessed first hand how middle school students learn and become motivated through meaningful curriculum. My last year of teaching (2004-2005 SY) was perhaps my most exciting year because of my participation in the RET project. Since my retirement in summer 2005, I have continued to participate in the RET project as a teacher coordinator. The curriculum generated through collaboration between classroom teachers and HCAC staff validates a strong focus in the STEM philosophy.

I would like to thank you for the passage of ACT 111. This legislation will allow HCAC to expand the program to additional schools and provide teachers needed classroom support. The curriculum generated through collaboration between classroom teachers and HCAC staff validates a strong focus in the STEM philosophy. It will most definitely impact teachers and student learning.

In the past three years we have seen the development of meaningful relationships among all the stakeholders. Working together, teachers with the support of researchers can engage students and increase the motivation to learn by all.

I'd like to urge you to consider SB 2862 in order that ACT 111 can be effectively implemented. Late release of funds has put some constraints on meaningful implementation of curriculum. SB 2862 will alleviate the problems.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify for SB 2862.

**Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation  
and  
Senate Committee on Education**

Saturday, February 2, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 229

by  
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

Presented by  
Peter Crouch, Dean  
College of Engineering  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**SB 2862 Relating to Education**

Chair Fukunaga, Chair Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports SB 2862, which would allow for an extension of the lapse date of funds supporting science, technology, and education that were appropriated in ACT 111, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2007. This bill would further ensure the success of Hawai'i's students in the global economy by providing continued support for innovative educational programs in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and prepare them for further education and employment.

ACT 111 from SLH 2007 included the Administration's *Innovation in Education Initiative – Fostering Innovation and Relevance through Science and Technology (FIRST) Pre-Academy Program*. ACT 111 appropriated \$1,402,230 for each year of the biennium and 9 FTE positions to the College of Engineering to expand these programs in efforts to substantially boost student interest in pursuing courses of study which lead to postsecondary access and STEM careers, beginning at an earlier stage in the K-12 trajectory.

The two major programs in the initiative are as follows:

The Robotics and problem-based, applied learning program provides significant opportunities for students in the State of Hawaii to participate in scholastic robotics programs. Recent interest and demand for participation in robotics competitions is staggering. Clearly, this will become a key vehicle to engage students in math and science, and to develop critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills. Research Experiences for Teachers: The vision of the RET-Middle Schools is to bring the knowledge of engineering and technological innovation into the middle school classrooms specifically in the area of wireless technology. RET provides a unique

opportunity for the University to share its research knowledge and technological tools with middle schools teachers at the same time strengthening opportunities for teachers to work with faculty, graduate students, and industry.

I understand there was a delay in the release of the ACT 111 funds which has resulted in a 2008 Spring implementation as opposed to Fall 2007. With schools six months into the academic year this has created unexpected challenges. This bill will allow for a smoother statewide roll-out of the programs and in the hiring of personnel.

In closing, I'd like to take a moment to also remind you that our top priority this year is addressing the urgent repair and maintenance of our facilities. If Mānoa is to continue to blossom and support program such as this, we must have support to repair and maintain our facilities. We must enhance our efforts to become a destination of choice for student, faculty, and staff, the citizens of Hawaii and beyond. We look forward to a productive partnership.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We appreciate your interest and support for Hawaii's premier institution of higher learning.

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**Testimony Presented Before the  
Committee on Economic Development and Taxation  
Committee on Education**

February 2, 2008

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

by

**Magdy F. Iskander**

Professor and Director, Hawaii Center for Advanced Communications  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Engineering

**SB 2862 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Chair Carol Fukunaga, Chair Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair Will Espero, Vice Chair Jill Tokuda, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Taxation, and Committee on Education.

My name is Magdy Iskander, Professor and Director of the Hawaii Center for Advanced Communications, University of Hawaii College of Engineering.

**I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2862 and the Legislature's commitment to the Administration's Innovation in Education – Fostering Innovation and Relevance through Science and Technology, specifically the Research Experiences for Teachers.**

And these are the reasons why:

- I mentioned in an earlier testimony for the implementation of the RET part of ACT 111, that the Hawaii Center for Advanced Communications is committed to the continued success of this visionary initiative, which is already proving to be very successful in Hawaii's middle schools.
- Due to an unforeseen delay in the release of funding, the program expansion slated for Fall 2007 will be implemented in Spring 2008 instead. SB2862 will allow for the continued rollout of the RET program, which already shows the traits of hallmark achievement for our State.
- We are looking forward to continued collaborative efforts between the University of Hawaii, the schools, the State DOE, corporate sponsors, proactive members of the community, and federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation which provided the seed funds for the program.
- I understand that this bill is an opportunity to address the impact of the delay in the release of ACT 111 funds. This will help ensure greater planning, stability, and sustainability of the RET program.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share with you these thoughts and provide this supporting testimony.



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Statement of

**THEODORE E. LIU**  
**Director**

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Saturday, February 2, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**SB 2862**  
**RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Espero, and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development & Taxation, and Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Education.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism understands the concept behind SB 2862, which would establish a science technology and education special fund and amends Act 111, SLH 2007, to provide funding for a special fund.

The Administration continues to place a high priority on empowering our public school system with increased opportunities to improve STEM education and believes that a good start has been made. We hope that a long-term funding strategy can be developed that does not rely on yearly appropriation bills, but rather on expanded core budgets to create STEM programs as part of our schools regular curriculum and extra-curricular activities. We suggest that the creation of any funding mechanism await such a long-term funding strategy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.