

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2862, S.D. 1

February 25, 2008

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Senate Bill No. 2862, S.D. 1, establishes the Science Technology and Education special fund to provide additional resources and expertise to stimulate student interest and achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The fund would generate revenues through legislative appropriations, private contributions, and moneys from other sources. The bill proposes to deposit \$1,402,230 in general funds from Act 111, SLH 2007, into the Science Technology and Education special fund for expenditure. Act 111 appropriated \$1,402,230 in general funds to establish the Fostering Inspiration and Relevance through Science and Technology Pre-Academy program at the University of Hawaii.

As a matter of general policy, this department does not support the creation of any special or revolving fund which does not meet the requirements of Sections 37-52.3 and 37-53.4 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. It is difficult to determine whether the fund will be self-sustaining.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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### Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Peter Crouch

Dean, College of Engineering

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2862 SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Shan Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports SB 2862 SD1, 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.



**SB2862 Relating to Education  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Date: February 25, 2008

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Room:211

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) supports the passage of SB2862. An education special fund will, indeed, foster inspiration and relevance through the science and technology pre-academy program in the University of Hawai'i College of engineering into the science, technology, and education special fund.

Seven years ago, the College of Engineering at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, with federal funds from the U.S. National Science Foundation, created the Minority Engineering program. In 2001 there were only 14 students of Hawaiian ancestry in the engineering program. Last year, thanks in large part to this funding, there were 100 students of Hawaiian ancestry in the Native Hawaiian Engineering Mentorship Program. This past December, 8 of them graduated and 100% of them gained employment in engineering in the state and elsewhere. The success of this program illustrates what can occur when significant funding is made possible and available.

Again, OHA supports SB2862 and we urge you to pass this measure. Mahalo nui loa.