

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

The William S. Richardson School of Law

LATE TESTIMONY

Joint Hearing of House Higher Education Committee and Committee on Education
Thurs. Feb., 5, 2009, 2:00 p.m. (Conf Room 309)

Testimony in Support of HB1217 (Late)

Dear Chairs Chang and Takumi, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. The University of Hawaii at Mānoa supports the intent of the bill provided it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request, most notably in health and safety and repairs and maintenance issues. Addressing these urgent needs is critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawaii. We recognize that you have many priorities and issues to weigh for the state, so the following substantive information on this program is provided to assist you in your decision-making process.

The School of Law, like many other units at the University of Hawaii, is pursuing exciting opportunities to leverage public and private resource for its proposed building project with funds from the upcoming federal stimulus programs.

Accordingly, HB1217, which proposes GO bonds of \$50 million to match federal funds appropriated under the new federal stimulus funds, could be of major benefit to our proposed expansion and renovation project, as well as to the University and State as a whole.

Making matching funds available will not only help make projects like ours become a reality but will put Hawaii and University of Hawaii projects higher on the priority lists for the various stimulus opportunities and increase the variety of programs for which our state projects may qualify.

This is a wise investment of scarce state funds because it attracts more federal funding to Hawaii at a critical economic time.

In closing, we appreciate all interest in the University, and want to emphasize that we will be able to perform better in all arenas and best serve the state with support of the current campus priorities approved by the Board of Regents.

Mahalo,

Dean Avi Soifer, William S. Richardson School of Law 956-5560
Assoc. Prof. Denise Antolini, Chair, School of Law Building Committee 956-6238