



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

*LATE*

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### Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 3, 2009, 1:15 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Kathy Cutshaw

Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance and Operations

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **SB 504 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Sakamoto, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 504 to make an appropriation to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for the establishment of a sustainability internship program.

Unfortunately, we cannot support the bill in its current form because of our many other pressing budget priorities, such as our tremendous need for repairs and maintenance, which are critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawaii. We are grateful to the Legislature's attention to these needs. 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. We are open to continuing this discussion with you and any interested parties in support of this measure.

We appreciate and share the interest expressed in this legislation for supporting sustainability efforts, particularly focusing on education and energy conservation. UH Mānoa currently supports several initiatives in this area:

- We currently utilize one graduate student in the Facilities Management office to conduct research on sustainability, promote energy-savings projects, and to oversee student volunteers;
- We've established an energy management office within Facilities Management consisting of 2 FTE positions and two graduate assistants;
- We fund the UH Mānoa Sustainability Council with 1 FTE and an operating budget of approximately \$80,000;
- Sea Grant has 1.5 FTE and financial support of \$50,000 to plan and conduct a campus-wide delamping program;

- We have a .5 FTE position at the School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology devoted to energy conservation efforts; and
- We are in the process of staffing an Office of Physical and Environmental Planning to focus on integrating sustainability into long-range planning and daily resource management.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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**From:** Rene Bangert [bangertjoy@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 01, 2009 7:33 PM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Subject:** Please support sustainability internship  
**Attachments:** SSIP Bill Final Draft.pdf; Draft-SSIP Proposal-01.05.09.doc

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION:**

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 3, 2009

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Please pass the Bill allowing interns to work on sustainability at the University of Manoa. Not only will this reduce the carbon emissions from UH, it will save money, support students interested in sustainability, and follow our President's initiatives to create green jobs.

Thank you.

Rene Bangert  
1610 Owawa Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

## **Testimony for Hearing on SB504**

**Attention to:** Committee on Higher Education

**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, February 3, 2009

**Time:** 1:15 p.m.

**Place:** Conference Room 225, State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, Hawai'i

**Re:** Testimony of Richard A. Figliuzzi, Jr. in support of SB 504

Dear Committee on Higher Education

TESTIMONY: As president of Energy Management Group, Inc. and a citizen of Honolulu, Hawaii for the past 29 years; we are involved in the development of alternate energy, primarily utilizing Hawaii's abundant, tropical wind and solar resources.

EMG is Hawaii's exclusive distributor of vertical axis wind turbine's ("VAWT") manufactured by PacWind, Inc. and we are in the process of developing urban systems employing vertical axis wind turbines. EMG is also the exclusive distributor for Green WiFi, a solar-powered WiFi mesh network technology as well. Also, we have interests and expertise in conventional and high-efficiency industrial/utility scale solar photovoltaic ("PV") systems.

Previous business developments were as a director of EcoSoul, Inc., a California 501c3 involved in developing K-12 and post-secondary educational programs for the National Fuel Cell Education Program, ("NFCEP"), and participation in the initial planning and draft of the white paper for a Sustainable Power Park for Avalon, Santa Catalina Islands in California.

For the past six or seven years, I have been serving as Executive VP and Director on the Board of Directors of the United Nations Association of the USA Hawaii Division, (UNAUSAHawaii.org) and also as a Director of Global Environment and Energy in the 21st Century, (GEE-21.org).

I am a Member of the International Scientific Council for Island Development (INSULA.org) which was created in 1989 as a Non-Governmental Organization; the primary objectives of the council include developing island awareness, islands' common future and supporting necessary cooperation and information actions in scientific and technological fields.

I write in support of SB 504 which seeks to establish a Sustainable Saunders Internship Program (SSIP), which creates paid sustainability-related internships as a primer for meaningful "green-collar" jobs.

For example, this program trains students to perform energy audits on campus while assisting the Department of Education in finding low-to-no-cost energy savings, such as the \$146,000 in energy savings found by employing energy conservations measures, ("ECMs"), at Saunders Hall.

With the highest utility rates in the country, it is inconceivable for us to not have a robust program designed to focus on and implement conservation measures and to initiate sustainable renewable energy programs at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and all other public post secondary institutions throughout the State of Hawaii.

We have worked with Sustainable Saunders for over a year and we have donated many thousands of dollars in time and equipment to the Sustainable Saunders program. This is mainly because there have been no significant campus funds available to progress this ever important agenda and purpose; frankly, we believe there is nothing more important.

The best we can do to serve the State of Hawaii and our country is to abide by our commitment to reduce our dependence on imported, foreign oil. I believe, today, there is no priority more important.

We can enjoy successful results where energy conservations measures are achievable in our post secondary institutions. Accordingly, SB 540 is an important measure that we recommend and urge you to add your support to. We strongly support this bill and the savings of energy and financial resources for which it is intended to provide to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for hearing my testimony on this important issue.

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**From:** Paulette Feeney [pfeeney@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2009 7:42 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Subject:** Bill SB504

I support this bill to fund the UHM Sustainable Saunders Internship Program. It's a great idea to train students - and focus on ways campus buildings can be made more efficient to lower our outrageous energy costs!

Sincerely,

Paulette Feeney  
Program Specialist, NonCredit Programs  
University of Hawai'i Outreach College  
2530 Dole St, Sakamaki D-405  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
(808) 956-2037 • fax (808) 956-9422

To whom it may concern,

A sustainability internship program at University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) is an essential ingredient in making the university a leader in sustainability, reducing the universities operating budget, and increasing the sustainability of local businesses in Hawaii. In the past year, the Sustainable Saunders initiative at UHM has already managed to save ~\$100,000 annually through elimination of incandescent lights, removal of excess lighting, and night-time shutdowns of the air-conditioning system. Similar programs in Hamilton Library are projected to save ~\$700,000 annually. These are just two of over 50 buildings on campus, so you can see the potential is huge on campus and similar throughout Hawaii. The group has the knowledge and experience to mentor interns in the implementation of such projects both on and off campus.

Not only would the intership program save the University money, but it would also form a symbiotic relationship with the community. Inters would be trained in "green" jobs, readying them for the workforce. A good sustainability rating for the University would draw more students to it. The program will actually become self-sustaining after a couple of years while making the campus and local businesses (those hiring interns) more sustainable.

I fully support this bill and hope to see it pass.

Jeremy Kowalczyk  
Research Assistant  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

## Testimony Letter

*COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION:*

*Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair*

*Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair*

*DATE: Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

*TIME: 1:15 p.m.*

*PLACE: Conference Room 225, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street*

My name is Assaf Azouri, a graduate student at UHM, and a member of Sustainable Saunders energy team. I am sending you this letter as a testimony that the Sustainable Saunders Internship Program (SSIP), which started last year (2008) is an excellent program that both, the energy team, and the participating interns, benefit from it. I therefore highly support the continuation of this program in the upcoming years, and I am sure that this will increase the interest and awareness of students at UH as well, as the productivity of our energy team, especially since we have already witnessed it in the past year since the program has begun.

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,

Assaf Azouri



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**From:** Ann Brandman [brandman@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2009 2:37 PM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Subject:** SB504

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION:

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 3, 2009

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

I am writing in support of SB504 to fund the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Sustainable Saunders Internship Program.

The students involved with Sustainable Saunders have a proven track record of "getting things done" to create a more sustainable environment and reduce energy costs here on campus.

This program offers opportunities --beyond the classroom-- for students to engage in a critical issue of our times, to train for future professional work, and to assist the University and state in becoming more energy efficient.

I urge you to consider the passage of SB504.

Ann Brandman  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
Outreach College  
2530 Sakamaki Hall, D-408  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
[brandman@hawaii.edu](mailto:brandman@hawaii.edu)  
808-956-9883

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**From:** Isao Kaji [isaokaji@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2009 9:57 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

*LATE*

Aloha,

My name is Isao Kaji, I have been attending UH manoa for the last three and a half years, and have noted a huge change on campus, thanks to sustainable saunders. I have seen and been a part of de-lamping projects, and know that Funding for the internship program will help bring about more inspired change for the University and possibly the whole island.

Mahalo

Isao Kaji

UH Student