

LATE

Larry Geller
Honolulu, HI 96817

SB2387
HRE
Tuesday, February 2, 2010
1:15 p.m.
Room 225

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER
EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

February 2, 2010

Re: SB2387—Related to the University of Hawaii

In Opposition

Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Sakamoto, and members of the Committee:

Although I am no longer a UH student, I am a frequent visitor to UH Manoa, the East-West Center and to Kapiolani Community College and a frequent parker. At \$5 a pop, parking is no doubt a significant profit center for the University, but my point is that it is not just an internal matter. Members of the public as well as university students, faculty and staff make regular use of university system parking facilities.

Anyone attending a UH sporting event or visiting the East-West Center is subject to UH parking rules and fees.

Accordingly, it is inappropriate to lock the public out of the review process even if the university administration considers following the law to be a burden. At most, it is a minor burden, for good public purpose. Chapter 91 allows public participation in the decision making process. The six days proposed in this bill is inadequate to study a proposal and prepare a response.



There is another reason why UH should not be granted an exemption: if UH can be exempted, where does it stop? May each state agency that feels it is too much trouble to follow the requirements of Chapter 91 come to the Legislature and cite the UH exemption as a precedent?

This is something I know a bit about. If a rat is in your house, assume it is pregnant. If you let it stay, before you know it, there will be many more rats. It's important not to let bad things get started.

Larry Geller