

# LATE TESTIMONY

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## GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

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January 31, 2012

**TO:** HONORABLE SCOTT NISHIMOTO, CHAIR, MARK NAKASHIMA, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**SUBJECT:** **SUPPORT OF H.B. 2633, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MANOA CAMPUS CENTER COMPLEX.**  
Authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates the revenues to the UH for the renovation and expansion of the UH campus center complex.

### HEARING

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012  
**TIME:** 2:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima and Committee Members:

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of over six hundred (600) general contractors, subcontractors and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. GCA is submitting this letter in **SUPPORT** of H.B. 2633, Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds and Making an Appropriation for the University of Hawaii Manoa Campus Center Complex.

H.B. 2633 proposes to authorize the use of general obligation bonds for improvements for the 2012-2013 fiscal year to renovate and expand the University of Hawaii Manoa campus center complex, which will include the campus center, student recreation center, and Hemenway Hall. These improvements are necessary to upgrade the frequently used campus center to meet student's needs.

GCA supports H.B. 2633 because it will directly result in job creation in the construction industry that has experienced a significant slowdown. The authorization of general obligation bonds for the campus center improvements will create jobs for local residents, both in construction and industry related businesses, and will also stimulate tax revenue and help improve Hawaii's overall economy. Most significantly, it will provide the students with better facilities and support services.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

# LATE TESTIMONY

## TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By  
Carl H. Furutani

### H.B. 2633

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MANOA CAMPUS CENTER COMPLEX.

Chair Nishimoto Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 2633. I am currently an employee of the University of Hawaii and serve as Associate Director of Student Recreation Services at the Manoa campus. I am offering this testimony on behalf of the students and colleagues in our department. I write in support of HB 2633.

In the heart of the Campus Center Complex is the Student Union for the University of Hawaii Manoa and as such, serves as the main meeting place for educational, wellness, recreational, and cultural activities. The Campus Center offers a number of important services and programs that can be found nowhere else on the UHM campus. We are proud of our programs being student run; giving the students an out of classroom experience to enhance their education. The Campus Center is over 30 years old and reflects a different era of higher education and architecture. Currently the Campus Center is in need of modernization and upgrading of its structural infrastructure (floors, meeting rooms, electrical, telecommunications, computing capabilities, etc) to be able to meet the needs of the students. The request for funding for renovation and/or new construction is seen as paramount to providing an enriching educational experience for students.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2633.

# LATE TESTIMONY

## TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By  
Jason Higa

### **H.B. 2633**

**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MANOA CAMPUS CENTER COMPLEX.**

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 2633. I am currently a student the University of Hawaii and also serve one of the Graduate Assistants for Student Recreation Services at the Manoa campus. I am offering this testimony on behalf of the students, faculty, and staff in our department. I write in support of HB 2633.

The Campus Center offers a variety of services and programs, which have made major contributions to my college experience. My most memorable experiences have come in the Campus Center; being able to participate as well as facilitate various activities and events, working with my peers, and getting that true out of the classroom learning experience. However, when comparing the Campus Center complex, our Student Union, to other Student Unions across the nation, I along with my peers agree that, although the facility is well maintained, the infrastructure of the facility is outdated and unable to accommodate the continually growing and evolving student body. The request for funding for renovation and/or new construction is important to providing the needs of students.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2633.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE  
HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By

Aaron Bain, Michael Magaoay & Michelle Tagorda

H.B. 2633

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND MAKING  
AN APPROPRIATE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MANOA CAMPUS CENTER  
COMPLEX.

Chair Nishimoto Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee:

We are here today to show support of Housebill 2633. I currently write this testimony to support this bill because programs being conducted by Campus Center Board were not given the opportunity to put in a request to be put on the CIP budget for UH manoa. The Campus Center Complex is going through a big renovation and the recreation center is currently in construction, In order to full fill the students needs additional funding is needed to initiate phase 3 of the renovation project.

A brief overview of the goals for Phase 3 is to renovate the campus center building. If you have visited UH Manoa Campus center, our student union is not welcoming. This is due to the big concrete walls and low visibility of student life from the outside. The campus center complex, is outdated and needs to accommodate the changing needs of todays constituents.

For the renovation of the building, we plan to add more glass windows so the student life is visible from the outside and it has a welcoming atmosphere. We also plan to add more multi-purpose rooms, so we are able to accommodate bigger conference, and to have enough offices for the administration working in campus center. We plan to move the administrative offices out of the prime retail area so it can be filled with more retail opportunities. These retails spaces can be anything from food places to student services. We would like to be able to provide students with the resources that will make them have a better college experiences. Another plan is to add more seating, so students are able to find seats to study or eat lunch. As a current student of UH Manoa, the campus center forum area seating is very limited, so most other students and myself opt to eat somewhere else like off campus where there are more spaces to sit and hang out. The final goal is to create a space where we house all our CSO together. Currently the different CSO's are scattered between Campus center and Hemenway Hall. Our goal is to be able to all fit them in one area, so they would be able to collaborate on things easily.

At the University there is a high demand for more space where students can eat, gather, and share both educational and creative thoughts outside of the classroom. Campus Center, which serves to be the heart of the campus, is in much need of renovating and modernizing to stay in touch with student trend, keep students on university grounds, and to provide more avenues to teach. We would like to offer a more welcoming venue for students to see what their peers are doing and learning on campus through our programs that provide the out of classroom experience. Funding

for this project is extremely vital to meet the needs of the students and to also change the culture of students on campus.

We have been actively utilizing our resources to better our campus center complex. We have committed an additional 10 million dollars of our operating and reserve funds to supplement the 26 million dollars in revenue bond payments we have outstanding for our rec center. The approximate lump sum of 36 million dollars has and will continue to be used toward campus center renovation projects such as Hemenway Hall reroofing, repainting and grease trap replacement. Our student fees also fund the salary of our administrative and front line staff.

The improvements of the campus center will better help to improve the activities, lifestyle and opportunities for our constituents.