



ASUH

Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i

YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

LATE TESTIMONY

February 12, 2013

Testimony in Opposition for HB 1073: Relating to the University of Hawaii

Aloha Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Representatives of the State House Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony regarding House Bill 115 (HB 115): Relating to the Higher Education. My name is Richard Mizusawa, and I currently attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) and live in Aiea, Hawaii. I also serve as the President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (ASUH), the undergraduate student government representing all full-time, classified students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I do not speak on behalf of the University of Hawaii (UH). It is my duty to be the voice of the undergraduate students at the University, and on behalf of the Office of the ASUH President, I would like to oppose this bill as it stands.

According to the description of HB 115, this piece of legislation would establish the Campus Planning Facility Board and the Major Repairs and Replacement Special Fund to address University repairs and maintenance. As one of the 60,330 students who attend UH, I do agree that facilities need to be enhanced to provide a better learning environment that is not only given, but maintained over the long term.

However, within the major repairs and replacement special fund, HB 115 states that what will be deposited into it will be:

- “(1) Beginning July 1, 2017, moneys collected from the major repairs and replacement fee, which shall consist of five per cent of all moneys received by the University of Hawaii, except as provided by law;
- (2) Appropriations by the legislature to the special fund; and
- (3) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and private persons.”

Although the first part to this special fund would not go into effect until July 1, 2017, should this bill pass, it is very concerning to me that future student tuition funds would go into the special fund to prepare for major repairs and replacements. Again, I am supportive of ensuring that the students of UH have learning environments they can feel safe in, but I do not believe that tuition dollars of the students of UH that go towards specific programs and services at each respective campus should go towards this special fund. We are already on a tuition increase schedule, and I would like to see these funds going towards enhancing programs and services at my campus. Also, if the special fund takes 5 per cent of my campus' tuition funds, it is not guaranteed to me

Office of the President
Associated Students of the University of Hawaii at Manoa

that these funds will return back to my campus in terms of repairing and replacing facilities here at Manoa. We are the flagship and biggest campus, but it is not definite that these funds will come back in that way.

I strongly oppose this bill taking away 5 per cent of all moneys UH receives, and ask that the House Committee on Higher Education amend the bill to strike that section out of the bill. I ask the legislature please consider helping to enhance the learning environment throughout the UH System by appropriating moneys to the special fund, as I believe the students I represent would be very supportive of this and their representatives who represents them.

I believe that through collaboration, we can truly accomplish the bottom line of discussing the future of UH: to better student life, academics, and the learning environment of UH students. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony against HB 115 as it stands.

LATE

ichiyama3 - Malia

From: Troy Abraham [tabraham08@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 7:09 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Higher education testimony

I support any and all plans to lower and deduct higher education costs while increasing funds into scholarships and grants.

--
Troy Lopaka Abraham