

**LATE**

**SB 963**

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February 7, 2013

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 963

Aloha Chairperson Taniguchi, Vice Chairperson Kahele and Senators of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Dwane Ikaika Tegman, a 2010 graduate of Honokaa High School and an undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am also a Senator-at-Large and serve as Chairperson of the Committee on External Affairs. I am speaking to you here today on behalf of the Office of the ASUH President Richard Mizusawa, who cannot be here today due to classes. I also do not speak on behalf of the University.

I would like to firmly state my opposition to SB 963 for the following reasons:

- 1) As a student, I have experienced increasing tuition fees every year since I began attending college. While the tuition is burdensome, I at least was guaranteed that the money I spent attending UH Manoa would stay at the university, and if this piece of legislation passes, I am not guaranteed the services that I specifically paid for.
- 2) I was also assured that the funds would be utilized to improve and maintain the quality of UH Manoa- there are no such guarantees of this if university tuition funds are placed in the General Fund and then possibly appropriated back to the university.

While the tuition at UH Manoa has been rising to meet various costs, there have been some positives in that the amount of UH awarded scholarships and financial aid that has been increased in order to assist those struggling to pay for their college attendance.

Although the failed concert blunder last summer happened, I strongly believe the University needs the tuition and fees it takes in to provide the best educational experience it can for me and my fellow constituents. As future leaders of not only our community, but of our State, I ask you please stop this bill from passing to not affect both the education and experiences I have at my University. Thank you for your time.

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February 7, 2013

Good Afternoon,

Chairperson Taniguchi, Vice Chairperson Kahele, and Senators of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

My name is Heather Schulz and I am a graduate from Aiea High School and am currently majoring in political science and economics at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I do not speak on behalf of the University. I am in strong opposition to Senate Bill 963.

As a Hawai'i resident, I chose to attend the University of Hawai'i at Manoa believing that the amount of money I would be paying each semester in tuition would go directly to fostering my educational experience at my specific campus. The tuition rate at UH Manoa is substantially more than of the other campuses in the state and I am concerned that if all tuition funds are to enter a general fund, not all monies from the Manoa campus would be returned. I want to ensure ALL tuition I pay for that year goes to MY education. I should be guaranteed that right as a customer of the UH system and I believe retaining the tuition monies on each campus would do so.

Adding yet another organization to the mix of people dealing with the money could also potentially slow down processes and projects student's benefit from. For example, financial aid and scholarships are important and necessary to the students who receive them. The University of Hawaii at Manoa administration offices should and do know what is best for the students of our campus in terms of financial aid and other services. This goes for the other campus administration offices as well. They are trained to deal with these specific areas, which helps maintain the "care" aspect all universities should have when dealing with a student's education. While the legislature is a responsible body, the inevitable disconnect they have with students who attend UH Manoa and the other campuses could pose a potential threat to meeting student needs.

Students should not have to face the possible consequences of SB 963 and passing this bill could pose such a threat. I strongly encourage this committee to say no to Senate Bill 963. Thank you for your time.

To Whom It May Concern:

Please don't take the student fees and apply it elsewhere. I personally have seen what a contribution Student Life Office does to help the students, which is primarily young adults, to become the adults they should be.

I am almost 40 years old and I am returning to college late in my life. Yes, I am not the traditional student on campus. I recently got a work-study job at the Student Life Office at Leeward Community College. I never understood what my student fees were until I worked there. I thought it was just another fee administrative came up.

The programs and events that are coordinated by this office and all its mini-departments are amazing. I have watched young adults (18-20) take on positions and grow with the opportunities that this office gives them (through student fees). I am realistic and know that these young adults would soon enough be one of my bosses in the near future. Exactly that, they will become our future.

Our Student Government consists not only of traditional students, but also older students and some of our U.S. Veterans are on board. They all come together to make sound decisions for our campus and represent us well. Our Student Activities Board is majority young adults and they handle all our activities. I am a bit old to go to them, but I watch how they all work together to make a function for the campus and they all do a great job. We have Budget & Finance, Kamano, and several other departments that help to make Leeward Community College, not only a learning facility but a place of experience.

Please don't take that away from them. Yes, I will be done with school in couple of semesters and soon my daughter will be attending college, as many other people's children will be, too. Why take away something that is working? Don't take away the opportunities for learning, which is also through experience.

Sincerely,

Melina Perez

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2013 1:40 PM  
**To:** HRETestimony  
**Cc:** soniae@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB963 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM  
**Attachments:** SB963.docx

**SB963**

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sonia Evans	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Why does the state find this necessary? It seems that when people become politicians and get elected, they become dum, lacking common sense and logic because they left their brains at the door. Be responsible and conduct government affairs as you would conduct your lives. I hope this bill will not become law

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Sonia Evans  
February 7, 2013

I am appalled of the state plan to take University of Hawai'i student fees to help balance the budget. As a single, unemployed mom returning to school, it is very baffling why the State of Hawai'i is not able to managed its finances properly and stop ranking poorly of all the states when it comes to managing its finances. The state needs to be more fiscally responsible in managing the budget. The state does not seems to offer much assistance to the people of Hawai'i; therefore, why does the state finds it necessary to reach into the pockets of students and the University of Hawai'i funds to hide in the general funds like the state does everything else because they don't want to account for their financial irresponsibility.

I sincerely hope that this proposal does not become effective because

1. It was very deceitful in the length of time that this proposal became public
2. Student tuition will increase with no doubt
3. Students and parents are already paying enough taxes with few little service from the state
4. With no doubt, the colleges will become dilapidated like the condition of the elementary and high schools that is plague with nothing but major repair problems

If you as our elected officials manage your personal lives and finances the way in which the elected officials manage the State of Hawai'i operations, you would be homeless by now on the streets with nowhere to go. The elected officials should realize that the state is a business, with many different departments and if someone that is hired to do a job within budget and they failed consistently, they would be fired. The practice of hiding money in the general fund because of fiscal irresponsibility should be do away with and the state finances should be managed properly without taking money away from the University and community colleges.

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Aloha, my name is John Steffel, a fee-paying student at Kapi'olani Community College. I appose SB 963 upon the ground that the student government should control the student fees money because it should stay within the KCC system. If it is absorbed into a general fund it is just a tax and should not exist at all.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2013 9:21 PM  
**To:** HRETestimony  
**Cc:** letecia@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB963 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM

**SB963**

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Letecia R. Martinez	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am Letecia R. Martinez a student in Kauai Community College. I am OPPOSING for the bill that take away the students revolving funds, tuitions, and students activities fees.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2013 10:16 PM  
**To:** HRETestimony  
**Cc:** leinaalaolivas@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB963 on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM\*

**SB963**

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leina'ala Olivas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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