SB 3106

Testimony

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.
Report Title:	University of Hawaii; General Obligation Bonds; Appropriation ($)
Description:	Authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for improvements to UH controlled facilities.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HRE, WAM
Introducer(s):	TANIGUCHI

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 2:45 p.m.
by
Tom Apple, Chancellor
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

SB 3106 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on SB 3106 authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for improvements to UH controlled facilities. The University of Hawai‘i supports the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University’s Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Personal Testimony Presented before the

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 06, 2014 2:45 PM
Conference Room 414, State Capitol
by
Peter E. Crouch

SB3106 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of plans and design for the renovation of Holmes Hall University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Engineering

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Peter E. Crouch and I serve as Dean of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa College of Engineering. Let me state from the onset of this testimony that, as a member of the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is important to note that I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the budget submitted by the University.

The faculty, students and staff in the College of Engineering are excited about the progress the College has made in the last decade in which engineering and pre-engineering enrollment has increased by over 50%, competitive research expenditures within the College of Engineering have doubled and the College has made outstanding contributions to STEM outreach, on programs throughout the state such as Robotics and Research Experiences for Teachers in conjunction with teachers and students throughout the State. We have a thriving Native Hawaiian Program to recruit and retain native Hawaiian and part native Hawaiian students, that is steadily expanding to other STEM units, and is a major force in the College's collaboration with the rest of the UH system campuses in the Engineering Coalition and enabling students to more easily transfer from a 2 year to a 4 year STEM program at UH. It is clear that as the College continues to attract more of Hawai'i's students to its programs it will be increasing unable to accommodate all of the students that wish to pursue engineering as a career and the programs that it is able to offer will be increasingly hampered by laboratory conditions that are simply not on a par with the contemporary facilities of other colleges of engineering throughout the nation.

Holmes Hall supplies 75% of the space the College of Engineering occupies on the Mānoa Campus and has been the iconic home of Engineering on the Manoa campus for 42 years and without any substantial renovation in that time. While the faculty has worked wonders to accommodate their teaching and research, it is becoming very challenging to keep abreast of the rapidly evolving nature of engineering and technology as it is taught, as it is practiced, and as associated research is conducted. The planned renovation of Holmes Hall, incorporating over $18 Million in R&M and a modicum of expansion in the Holmes Hall atria, will ensure that the College is able to provide its graduates a contemporary environment in which they are able to learn the fundamentals of the engineering profession while ensuring that they are on a par with or superior to any of the talent can be recruited from the mainland.

Holmes Hall was originally designed to be part of a pair of buildings devoted to engineering and so its design is woefully inadequate to accommodate all that is expected of the College's faculty and accommodate all of its student's aspirations. Its design does not accommodate modern engineering education or research in so many ways. It was not design at all to accommodate student team project work and the scope of hands on laboratory work which plays such an important and formative role training and educating the practicing engineer of today. Many engineering schools now have purpose built facilities to enable these contemporary instructional modes.

We are extremely happy to report that even with the many constraints that the current building imposes we are rapidly expanding the emphasis being placed on student projects and much of this funded by our community supporters and potential employers. This enables the students to participate in many hands on projects of current interest to building and diversifying the state's economy: civil infrastructure (roads, bridges, waste water etc.) aerospace (utilizing PMRF for satellite launch, autonomous water vehicles and now building capacity in autonomous air vehicles), manufacturing including 3D printing, and communications and associated computer and cyber security. These experiences enable the College's graduates to demonstrate immediate expertize upon taking positions in Hawaii. It is this very emphasis that is so hard for the College to facilitate since engineering education 42 years ago did not embrace this contemporary view of engineering education.

Engineering is at the core of dynamic economic sectors in Hawaii such as renewable energy, civil infrastructure, transportation, communications, cyber security, military support, and increasingly manufacturing. It is imperative that Hawaii supports its only Engineering Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa given its unique capacity to support the growth of these important sectors of Hawaii's economy through both its graduates who are the mainstay of engineering talent in Hawai‘i or the research that faculty pursue to support industry on Hawai‘i. Holmes Hall was built and designed of course to accommodate the particular research and laboratory functions active at that time, much of which is now totally unsuitable for the current focus of its programs. So, in order to support the growth of these dynamic economic sectors, as do other colleges of engineering in major economic centers of the US, it is imperative for this role to be recognized in the form of the facilities provided by the State for the College to operate in successfully at a national level.

Finally, Holmes Hall renovation is also critically one aspect considered by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the nation's only engineering accreditation organization. It is therefore imperative that the facilities housing the College of Engineering are able to pass the accreditation standards as assessed at least every 6 years, and with the next evaluation cycle starting in 2015. The current condition of Holmes Hall, without substantial renovation for 42 years, exposes the College's programs to heightened scrutiny, especially since many of ABET's evaluators are clearly accustomed to evaluating programs housed in contemporary facilities on the mainland. The loss of accreditation of the basic civil, electrical and mechanical engineering programs would undoubtedly be a major hardship on Hawaii families/students and the Hawaii engineering industry. Furthermore, most graduates of the College's programs would not be as desirable, or even eligible to work in the engineering profession in Hawai‘i or the mainland since licensed professional engineers in Hawaii (or anywhere on the mainland), students must graduate with an ABET-accredited degree. More than likely, many students would be forced to study engineering on the mainland.

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 2:45 p.m.
Ben Jay, Director of Athletics
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Athletics Department

SB3106 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Jay, and I serve as the director of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s Athletics Department. I am pleased to provide personal testimony on Senate Bill 3106. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai‘i or the Athletics Department.

SB 3106 authorizes the issuance of GO Bonds and appropriate funds for improvements to UH controlled facilities. Among other appropriations, this bill provides Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars ($350,000) in funds for is the plan, design, construction and equipment for the renovation and expansion of the Saake Athletic Training Center.

The Saake Athletic Training Room at the University of Hawaii at Manoa was originally occupied around 1980 and was last renovated eight years ago. The room currently serves 21 intercollegiate sports and more than 500 student-athletes. Over the years, the University has added athletic programs and athletic training staff to meet the needs of our student-athletes. Additionally, the recent renovation of the Nagatani Academic Center and the Women’s Locker Room repurposed space that was a satellite training room and the space is no longer available for athletic training services.

The renovation of the Saake Athletic Training Room is a project that has been partially funded by a previous legislative allocation. The allocation that is currently available, while significant, does not cover any furnishings, equipment or other non-budgeted items.

I ask the committee to support SB3106 authorizing the issuance of GO Bonds and appropriate funds for improvements to UH controlled facilities to support the appropriate completion of the planned expansion of the Saake Athletic Training Room at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa .

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

KAI HAWAII STRUCTURAL & FORENSIC ENGINEERS

Ken Hayashida, P.E. | *President*
Michael Hunnemann, P.E. | *Vice President*

February 3, 2014

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair; and Members David Y. Ige, Glibert S.C. Keith-Agarian, Michelle N. Kidani, Jill N. Tokuda, Sam Slom.

Subject: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of SB3106, Making an Appropriation to the University of Hawaii Hearing: Thursday February 6th, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 414**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

I am a practicing engineer in the State of Hawaii/and an alumnus of the College of Engineering, and KAI Hawaii, Inc. depends for many of its engineering employees upon the College of Engineering at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM) in the form of recent graduates, student interns, and returning College alumni from the US mainland. These graduates are essential for KAI Hawaii's continued success and more generally, the continued health of the engineering and construction industry in Hawaii. It is absolutely essential that engineering graduates from UHM receive the education and training they will need to implement and keep abreast of continually and rapidly evolving engineering and technology practice.

As you are probably aware, the UHM College of Engineering is the flagship program for engineering education in the State, supporting the engineering and construction industry with an economic value estimated at over $3 billion per year. Holmes Hall is the home of engineering on the Manoa campus, and the engineering faculty has done an admirable job in the past decade given the limited resources while their enrollment has doubled. Holmes Hall was built 42 years ago, and without any substantial renovation, it has been even more difficult to keep up with this rapidly evolving pace of engineering, as it is taught, as it is practiced, and as associated research is conducted. The planned renovation of Holmes Hall will ensure that the College is able to provide its graduates a contemporary environment in which they are able to learn the fundamentals of the engineering profession while ensuring that they are on a par with or superior to any of the talent that we may be able to recruit from the mainland.

Appropriation of funds for the Holmes Hall Renovation is also critical for continued accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the nation's only engineering accreditation organization. It is therefore absolutely imperative that the facilities provided by the College of Engineering are able to pass the accreditation standards as assessed at least every 6 years, with the next evaluation cycle starting in 2015. The current condition of Holmes Hall, without substantial renovation for 42 years, exposes the College's programs to heightened scrutiny, especially since many of ABET's evaluators are clearly accustomed to evaluating programs housed in contemporary facilities. The loss of accreditation of the basic civil, electrical and mechanical engineering programs would undoubtedly be a major hardship on Hawaii families/students and the Hawaii engineering industry. Furthermore, graduates of the College's programs would not be as desirable to the engineering industry. It should also be noted that to become a licensed professional engineer in Hawaii (or anywhere on the mainland), students must graduate with an ABET-accredited degree. More than likely, many students would be forced to study engineering on the mainland.

Finally, engineering is at the core of dynamic economic sectors in Hawaii such as renewable energy, civil infrastructure, transportation, communications, cyber security, military support, and manufacturing. Nationally, 7 out of the 10 top paying jobs for graduates are in engineering fields and the average starting salary of UH Manoa College of Engineering graduates is approximately $56,000 which is 2x greater than the median Hawai'i

50 S. Beretania Street, #C-119C | Honolulu, Hawaii 96813| Tel: (808) 533-2210 | Fax: (808) 533-2686 | Email: mail@kaihawaii.com

salary of $24,600. It is imperative that Hawaii supports its only Engineering Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa given its unique capacity to support the growth of these important sectors of Hawaii's economy.

Sincerely,

KAI Hawaii, Inc.

Ken Hayashida
President

THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

February 4, 2014

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair; and Members David Y. Ige, Glibert S.C. Keith-Agarian, Michelle N. Kidani, Jill N. Tokuda, Sam Slom.

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of SB3116, Making an Appropriation to the University of Hawaii College of Engineering

Hearing: Thursday February 6th, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 414

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee Members:

The Limtiaco Consulting Group (TLCG) is a local civil and environmental engineering firm and is proud to be voted one of Hawaii's Best Places to Work. Many of our key employees are active members of the University of Hawaii - College of Engineering, its alumni association, and many other professional engineering organizations in Hawaii. TLCG principals believe it is important to give back to the communities we serve through meaningful volunteerism.

Our company has been a staunch supporter of the UHM College of Engineering. The college is responsible for producing many of our best engineers. The Holmes Hall facility is critical to the development of much-needed engineering graduates. There is a shortage of engineers. This bill will fund critical facility improvements to Holmes Hall. These improvements will not only improve the educational experience, but it will increase the College's capacity to attract and produce more engineers.

We deeply appreciate your unwavering effort to improve Hawaii's business climate and I personally applaud your commitment to making our beautiful State a better one. Thank you for an opportunity to express my concerns and mahalo for your favorable consideration of this bill.

With aloha,
The Limtiaco Consulting Group, Inc.

John H. Katahira, P.E.
President

1622 Kanakanui Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
TEL (808) 596-7790 • tlcghawaii.com

ASUH
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i
YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Testimony Submitted Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2014 at 2:45 p.m.
by
Richard Mizusawa, President
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
101st Senate

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Richard Mizusawa and I serve as President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (ASUH), the undergraduate student government representing over 14,000+ full-time, classified undergraduates at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I have served my fellow constituency for the past two years as Senate President, but have served now for four years ever since the start of my undergraduate years within the ASUH. It has been a true honor and privilege to serve in this capacity to learn, grow, and represent the undergraduates to enhance student life on campus until this day. Today, I submit testimony in support of SB 3106, which authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for improvements to UH controlled facilities.

Capital improvement projects (CIPs) enhance the learning facilities, buildings, and physical resources that students use daily as students of the university. All of the projects listed in this bill are important to a diverse demographic of students, but I would like to give my full support for the warrior recreation center for the plans, design, construction, and equipment to build the warrior recreation center. Many students have been waiting for the day that the warrior recreation center opens, and funding this student-led initiative would take us a step closer to seeing it come to life. Everyday that I come to school, I see the center progress and am excited to see it open for students to use, which will be beneficial in keeping students on campus, enhancing student life, and being a gathering place for any and all students.

Thank you so much for your consideration of my testimony and for your support and leadership in ensuring you each play a role in enhancing higher education right here in the state of Hawai'i.