

# SB 3106

# LATE

# 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

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE  
SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

By  
Carl H. Furutani

**S.B. 3106**

**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 3106. 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 of the Student Recreation Services unit. I write in support of SB 3106.

During selective demolition of the south exterior wall of Building D (formerly the Ka Leo building) in September 2012, the contractor discovered that the CMU infill was unreinforced and not connected with reinforcing to the foundation wall or to the existing concrete columns. Evaluation of the structure by the University's design consultants identified additional structural deficiencies that made it impractical to retain the existing structure. In October 2012, the University met with SHPD Architecture Branch Chief Angie Westfall and the University's design consultants to review the site conditions and the consultants' structural evaluation. The outcome of the meeting was that SHPD concurred with the University's recommendation to demolish the existing structure, but will require replacement with a new structure of similar appearance.

Building D was a vital venue for providing programs to the patrons (students, faculty and staff) of the Student Recreation Services unit. This multi-purpose building was to be the home of a variety of programs such as fitness classes, table tennis to cultural dances such as Hula, Tahitian, etc. Majority of these programs were to be taught by students.

We are proud of our programs being student run; giving the students an out of classroom experience to enhance their education. The request for funding for replacing Building D is seen as paramount to providing an enriching educational experience for students.

Personal Testimony Presented before the

Senate Committee on Higher Education

Thursday, February 06, 2014 2:45 PM

Conference Room 414, State Capitol

by

Cheryl Sato Ishii

**Senate Committee on Higher Education**

Senate Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair; and Members David Y. Ige, Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Michelle N. Kidani, Jill N. Tokuda, Sam Slom

SB3106 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

**SUBJ: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT SB 3106**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB3106. My name is Cheryl Ishii, and I serve as Assistant Specialist to the Dean of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa College of Engineering. Over the years I have been privileged to support several Deans, and work alongside our internationally recognized faculty, award winning students, prominent alumni and industry stakeholders. Though challenging, there is no more rewarding environment. The academic demands as well as the engineering skill sets driven by exponential advancement in technology are intensive and inspire our students and faculty as change makers for the future. These conditions require a working environment and facilities far different than those needed 40 years ago when Holmes Hall was built.

In 2006, Dean Peter Crouch and the College made a commitment to create seamless onramps into engineering education and at the same time, expand engineering opportunities for Hawaii's diverse student populations. We have successfully increased undergraduate and graduate student enrollment, and launched both a highly successful Pre-engineering program and the nationally recognized Native Hawaiian Science & Engineering Mentorship Program.

We all share the vision for Holmes Hall as a dynamic 21st century facility with expanded, dedicated space for student design projects, and other multi-function modern laboratory space for teaching and research, an enhanced academic support center, and updated graduate student space, as well as a meeting place for the engineering community and interdisciplinary interaction, including STEM outreach and mentorship. We urgently need a modern facility that will secure our place among the nation's leading engineering schools and help us attract and hold the best faculty, researchers and students.

We understand that there are many valid and competing demands for our State's precious resources but I can't think of any more important investment for Hawaii's future than beginning the design phase of Hawaii's engineering education cornerstone.

We hope you will agree that Holmes Hall is more than ready for the next step.

In closing, 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 executive budget.

Thank you for your consideration.