

# SCR 38/SR 13

## Testimony - LATE

Measure Title:

URGING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII NOT TO RAISE STUDENT FEES TO BALANCE THE BUDGET OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT OR BUDGET DEFICIT OF ANY OTHER DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Athletics Department; Student Fees

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HRE, WAM

Introducer(s): KIM

# Raven Julia Sevilleja



Phone: (818) 371-6169  
E-Mail: rjsevilleja@gmail.com

Date: March 18, 2014

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

To Whom It May Concern:

As a graduate of UH Manoa and a current law student at the esteemed William S. Richardson School of Law, I am grateful for the opportunities this university has provided me. The athletics department has a special place in my heart, having attended the Wahine Warrior Summer Volleyball Camps several years in a row as a child. But I strongly believe our student athletes are students first, above any role they play at the university. As such, I do not believe it is reasonable to ask every student, who have no direct involvement in the deficit of any particular department, to pay more in student fees to balance a budget.

I came to Hawai'i because it was my second home; my mother was a Farrington High School graduate, both of my grandparents started churches in Waipahu, and many of my extended family have sought a better life on this island after leaving the Philippines. When it came time to decide on a four-year university, a choice not available to my parents, I admired how the state prioritized education, and kept tuition costs low while my home state of California raised tuition at public universities for residents to unfeasible amounts. While the university has experienced recent set backs with the administration financially, I believe there is much more to do to preserve the integrity of the institution—and raising student fees is not one of them.

Please urge the Board of Regents to find another way to balance the budget of the athletic department. The students do not share the administration's responsibility to maintain a balanced budget. Nor should they pay the consequences. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

A concerned student,

Raven Julia Sevilleja

Aloha Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Ryan Mandado and I am a junior at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I would like to ask for your support for SCR 38, which urges the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i not to raise student fees to balance the budget for the athletics department.

With the continued growth in student tuition, students can no longer afford to have an increase in student fees. The raise in tuition is preventing many students from low-income families from attending the university. I was born and raised in Kalihi and I find it disheartening that many students from my neighborhood cannot receive a higher education due to financial situations. Currently, every university student is required to pay a mandatory \$50 athletic fee that contributes to \$1,400,00 a year to the athletics department. I am a member of the student government on campus and the last survey we completed indicted that students are against paying the athletic fee. Students do not like current fees and would strongly oppose future fee increases for athletics.

With the growing cost of tuition, I think it is crucial that an increase in fees to balance the budget for the athletics department should not be implemented.

Thank you very much for letting me submit my thoughts on this issue.

Much Mahalo,

Ryan Mandado  
1720 Kalani Street Apt 202  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

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**Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:53:29 AM

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**SCR38**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for HRE on Mar 18, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Derek Brow	William S. Richardson School of Law	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SCR38**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for HRE on Mar 18, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erika Cabell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SCR38**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for HRE on Mar 18, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brooke Hunter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**SCR38**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for HRE on Mar 18, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tyler Bills	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Tuition is already high enough, stop raising tuition for students who are already historically facing more debt than any generation before us! Quit robbing us blind.

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