

SB 1147

Testimony –

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Report Title: University of Hawaii, Appropriation (\$)

Description: To appropriate moneys out of the University of Hawaii Revenue Bond Fund for renovations, repairs, and improvements to the John A. Burns School of Medicine

Companion: [HB978](#)

Package: Governor

Current Referral: HEA, WAM

Introducer(s): KIM (Introduced by request of another party)



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 2:00pm

By

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And

Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1147 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the committee:

SB 1147 proposes to authorize the appropriation of funds from the University of Hawai'i Revenue Bond Fund. The University of Hawai'i supports this measure and does hereby provide a number of factors that the Legislature should consider. The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests the authority to utilize \$5.6 million dollars that is the current balance of funds available in the UH Revenue Bond Fund attributable to remaining bond proceeds from when bonds were originally sold for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) complex. More specifically, the \$5.6 million represents the remaining investment income (interest) balance earned from Act 14 (Hawai'i Legislative 3rd Special Session) approved for critical Kaka'ako building repairs, renovations and facility upgrades required to facilitate research, retain accreditation (by the U.S. Liaison Committee on Medical Education) and save energy costs while promoting sustainability. The JABSOM complex is nearly a decade old, and requires maintenance and equipment upgrades mandated by our accrediting body.

Specifically, the School of Medicine (SoM) plans to:

- Improve JABSOM's chiller plant efficiency through an upgrade that would return its investment in 1.5 years. The future dollar savings would allow JABSOM to reinvest and install a photovoltaic system that would continue to further offset energy costs, while providing a sustainable energy addition to our 24/7 facilities operations.
- Repair a 1,600-gallon hot water storage tank located in the Basic Research Building. This repair is needed to ensure the health and safety of all Animal Veterinarians Services (AVS) personnel and the research animals housed in the research building's vivarium (animal quarters) to comply with regulations of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply and Center for Disease Control (CDC) special agent lab operations.

- Replace security cameras throughout the campus grounds, to enhance the safety of our students, faculty and visitors and comply with the federal campus safety CLERY Act, improve the CDC level laboratory security, and to permit security staff reduction as the SoM shifts from an outside security vendor to UH Mānoa staffed security personnel.
- Renovate Ancillary Building areas for research to house the State's only medical education and research based translational research clinic. Repair concrete that has settled on the makai side of JABSOM's Waiola Café. This uneven surface is located in a high foot traffic area in the courtyard between the Cancer Center and Medication Education buildings. The repair is needed for health and safety reasons as one person has already been injured.
- Replacement of nonfunctioning obsolete educational equipment located in the Medical Education building including the clinical skills labs, problem-based learning center and audiovisual equipment rewiring and construction costs. These are mandatory to adhere to the LCME accreditation educational resources requirements. JABSOM's next LCME accreditation visit is in 2016.

We thank the legislature for the assignment of Master Settlement Agreement monies, which fund the "mortgage" on the JABSOM buildings. We believe it is important to honor the State's investment by keeping the facilities in good condition.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

I wish to express my opposition to SB 1147. There is over \$400,000,000 in deferred maintenance on the UH Manoa campus. To single out JABSOM for preferential treatment to repair a new facility is inherently unfair. Until such time as JABSOM no longer drains a disproportionate share of State funds and no longer utilizes undergraduate tuition money for its operations, any additional funding for repairs should be directed to the main Manoa campus. The need for such extensive repairs for a relatively new facility suggests that construction was shoddy and instead of seeking State support, perhaps the developer should be targeted. In any event there needs to be a better prioritization process for requesting money for the repair and replacement of truly run down facilities on the main campus of UH Manoa which serves the vast majority of students.

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