

# SB2767

## Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Report Title: University of Hawaii at Manoa; Students; Mental Health Services; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Appropriates moneys for the University of Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

Companion: HB1703

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA/CPH, WAM

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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
and  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 1:45pm  
By  
Dr. Lori Ideta  
Vice Chancellor for Students  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2767 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Taniguchi and Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committees, thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is in complete support of this measure that establishes three (3) full-time psychologists and one (1) full-time case manager at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

As you are well aware, college students are facing greater and more complex challenges in their personal and academic lives. Presenting issues amongst our students include anxiety, stress management, and suicidal ideations. We work hard to attend to all of our students. Our current team of psychologists, psychiatrists, and interns do an amazing job with limited resources.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa currently has 6.5 faculty positions, 1 temporary faculty position, 3 post-doc therapists, 3 doctoral Interns, and 2 doctoral practicum trainees. As the total number of students serviced each year increases, in the 2014-15 school year, the University has serviced approximately 1,300 students for close to 8,000 hours of therapy. The number of times students have sought services range from one intake appointment to over 30 individual therapy appointments. In the Fall 2015 semester, 559 intake appointments were scheduled, 296 emergency Blue Line appointments were scheduled, and 2591 therapy appointments were scheduled. On average, there are 32 hours each week dedicated to intakes, 40 hours of emergency Blue Line, and over 160 psychotherapy appointments available to undergraduate and graduate students.

However, the waitlist, which is for non-urgent clients, had 67 students on the list as of November 12, 2015, with an average number of days on the list being 7.17 days. As of February 01, 2016, 33 students are on the waitlist with an average numbers of days on the list is 16.06 days.

The demand for mental health services have increased across the country. According to data from the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment Fall 2014 Reference Group with in the last 12 months, 54% felt overwhelming anxiety, 32.6% felt so depressed that it was difficult to function, and 8.1% seriously considered suicide. This data increased in the Spring 2015 Reference Group, with 56.9% felt overwhelming anxiety, 34.5% felt so depressed it was difficult to function, and 8.9% seriously considered suicide.

Any efforts to increase services to our students would be very much appreciated. These new positions will help to alleviate the current heavy workload on our therapists and increase our abilities to reach out to the campus through proactive educational efforts. Your investment in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa will have a long lasting impact and will create a legacy of those who supported the students of higher education in our state.

We support the intent of this legislation provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Budget.

Thank you for your consideration.



Date: February 11th, 2016  
Time: 1:45PM  
Place: Conference Room 224

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Re: Support for SB 2767 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education & the Arts and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Jonathan Dial, and I am writing on behalf and as the President of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Graduate Student Organization (GSO), which represents the approximately 5,000 graduate students at the UHM campus. I am writing in strong support of SB 2767, which seeks to appropriate moneys for the University of Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

Whether as an undergraduate or graduate student, the pursuit of higher education is a demanding and highly stressful endeavour. As in any organization, it is vital that the psychological and emotional needs of the individuals within it are met in order for maximum productivity to be achieved. Students especially are in a vulnerable situation, as they may be far from support networks, away from home for the first time, and subject to strong social, financial, and academic pressures. As such, it is imperative that the University be able to provide adequate mental and psychological support services to all its students. Currently, the Counseling and Student Development Center at UHM is understaffed and unable to meet the needs of those who need help. For these reasons, we strongly support SB 2767.

If you have any questions, I am willing and able to provide further clarification on our stance on this matter.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Dial  
UH Mānoa Graduate Student Organization, President

Graduate Student Organization • University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Hemenway Hall 212 • 2445 Campus Road • Honolulu, HI 96822

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2767 on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM\*  
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**SB2767**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bret Polopolus-Meredith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Ciara Kahahane  
P.O. Box 11862  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 1:45pm  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.

Testimony in Support of SB 2767

Aloha,

I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I began my education in Fall 2012, and I am now a senior. In my second semester of college, I became extremely depressed, even dangerously so. It was through the Counseling and Student Development Center on campus that I was first diagnosed with depressive disorder and received counseling. After my father passed away in the summer of my freshman year, I attended grief counseling at the same facility. In my junior year, I helped to found a student organization on campus called NAMI On Campus, which is dedicated to providing education and support for mental health issues in the campus community.

I would like to submit testimony in full support of HB 1703. Though the counseling center was instrumental to my recovery, it was clear to me that their services could have been improved by a larger staff and better funding. At times, it took me weeks to see a therapist or psychiatrist, even though I had serious problems. In fact, it was so difficult to get help through the CSDC that I eventually sought therapy from private practitioners.

The CSDC is an incredibly important resource on campus. It currently operates with far less than the number of counselors recommended by the national standard. College is a difficult time for many students, and the stress involved with pursuing a higher education can lead to extreme emotional distress. These students need to be able to get help when they need it – that means *when they need it*, not one to two weeks after they need it, once they filter through the enormous waiting list at the counseling center.

Thank you, and I appreciate your consideration. I am sure that you will make a decision on this bill that considers the future health, safety, and wellbeing of Hawai'i's students.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,  
Ciara Kahahane  
Executive Director, NAMI On Campus at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016  
Time: 1:45 PM  
Place: Conference Room 224

Re: Support of SB 2767 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is David B. Enriquez and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing in strong support of SB 2767, which appropriates funding for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

As a recent high school graduate, the transition to attending university is filled with stories. These stories from either your siblings or from several friends, contain the extreme emotional highs and lows one can feel throughout college. As my colleagues and I have listened, we realized that it was inevitable for all of us to experience these extreme low emotional states. Our most recent trial dealing with our first round of exams hit us all hard. These experiences ranged from, comforting one another through phones, or some of my friends just staring off into space.

Yet, this problem permeates to various demographics to the point that there is a subtle gloom amongst campus during these trying times. There are several peers who do push through, however, others are tormented by self-seclusion. To have at the very least an avenue to voice these concerns would be a great help. However, with the lack of adequate services and awareness at UH Manoa, these services cannot be utilized to the best of their abilities.

In order to serve such a huge student population, the funding for the positions, I support the funding for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services through SB 2767.

Respectfully submitted,



David B. Enriquez  
davidbe@hawaii.edu  
808.389.1531

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS**  
**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

**Hearing on SB 2767**

**Thursday, February 11, 2016**

My name is Dax Garcia, and I am writing in support of the funding of SB 2767. I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii, and have struggled with mental illness throughout my adult life. I have spent years of my life mis-medicated and overmedicated. Therapy has been the only treatment my condition has responded to.

I have spent decades in therapy with different counselors, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists. Some of the best treatment I have received has been at the UH Manoa Counseling and Student Development Center. Their operation and their personnel offer an extremely high level of mental health care.

The CSDC is deserving, and in great need of additional funding. I recently spent a year out of school and was unable to continue regular appointments with my counselor. Upon returning, I was told all the counselors are currently short-handed, addressing a great influx of new students who are going to the CSDC not only for treatment of temporary crises, but for the extremely important long-term care similar to that which has bolstered me. Fortunately, the CSDC was able to scramble to match me with a different therapist, but I can't help but think that I have taken the place of someone else also worthy and in need of the excellent services they offer.

I cannot think of a better cause, more deserving and in need of funding, than the University of Hawaii mental health services.

Thank you for your time.



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**SB2767**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eugene Lao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2767 on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 5:24:12 PM

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**SB2767**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Grant Takara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Jade Sunouchi  
1212 Punahou Street, Apt. 1808  
Honolulu, HI 96826

February 9, 2016

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
c/o HEAtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND  
HEALTH  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
c/o CPHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Testimony for S.B. No. 2767 (Appropriates moneys for the University of  
Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide  
student mental health services.)

Dear Senators Taniguchi, Baker, Kidani, and Committee Members:

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill No. 2767 for hearing on February 11, 2016,  
at 1:45 p.m. After reviewing Senate Bill No. 2767, I support all parts of this bill and  
sincerely hope it passes.

As a current UH West O'ahu faculty member and graduate of UH Mānoa, I  
advocate, as part of The Compassion Hui, for expanded professional, confidential, and  
affordable mental health and counseling services at UH Mānoa to better serve our  
students.

My interest in this advocacy stems from having earned my B.A. and M.A. in  
English at UH Mānoa while receiving regular counseling and psychiatry services at UH  
Mānoa's Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC). If I had not received  
regular, at times weekly, counseling and psychiatry services, I would not have been well  
enough to successfully complete college and graduate school. Without the CSDC's  
services, I would not have had the professional support I needed to manage my chronic  
depression and anxiety.

Senators Taniguchi, Baker, and Kidani

February 9, 2016

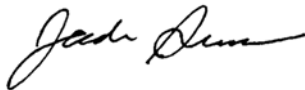
Page 2

Given UH Mānoa's 18,500+ student population, it is urgent and necessary that UH Mānoa receive additional funding and professional resources to address this growing need for mental health services and counseling on campus. In times of crisis, students should not have to wait more than five business days for an appointment.

With the added resources this bill would appropriate, I hope the CSDC will be able to reach more students and ultimately reduce the number of student deaths, particularly by suicide.

I applaud your efforts and thank you again for introducing and hearing this necessary bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jade Sunouchi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jade Sunouchi  
Lecturer, UH West O'ahu  
sunouchi@hawaii.edu

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**SB2767**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jannah Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016  
Time: 1:45 PM  
Place: Conference Room 224

Re: Support of SB 2767 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Jessica Chen and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am writing in strong support of SB 2767, which appropriates funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

As a pre-medical student, I have seen many of my peers overstressed and tired due to hours of studying and panicking. As you well know, getting into medical school is no easy task. Many of my friends panic over whether or not to pursue medicine. I have seen students who ultimately give up after failing an exam. I have seen friends who resort to poor life choices to relieve the stress.

I have been in those shoes. I have panicked after getting a C on my math exam. I have cried because I felt like I wasn't good enough. I have stressed because I know that grades are important when applying to medical school. Regardless of the major, I firmly believe that students should have the opportunity to speak to someone in a comfortable environment. It is not easy dealing with these struggles alone.

I strongly support SB 2767 for the students who need professional psychological help. The bill's funding for positions to provide mental health services can resolve mental health issues on campus. No student should have to resort to dealing with mental health problems on their own.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Chen  
jwchen@hawaii.edu  
808-541-7234

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD  
571 Kaimalino St.  
Kailua, HI 96734

Written Testimony in Support of SB2676

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **SB2767**. Having taught at UH for almost 20 years, I see the stress that students are under and I hear of the long wait times they experience to get counseling. Behavioral health services are a must for any college and we have fallen behind the rest of the country in resources available to students.

Having college age children of my own, I can say that if we can help save even one young life by expanding our behavioral health services, that will be the most valuable thing we do this year.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016  
Time: 1:45 PM  
Place: Conference Room 224

Re: Support of SB 2767 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Kelly Zakimi and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am also currently serving as the President of the ASUH, the Mānoa undergraduate student government. Today, I am writing personal testimony in strong support of SB 2767, which appropriates funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

Mental health is becoming a national concern as the number of students seeking services at counseling centers is growing at a rapid rate. According to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health 2015 Annual Report, the average growth in number of students seeking services at counseling centers (+29.6%) was more than five times the growth rate of institutional enrollment (+5.6%). The Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC) at Mānoa has also felt the effects of the growing levels of students requesting mental health services. Although the CSDC does the best with what it has, many students are placed on the waitlist because the Center does not have the capacity to meet the influx of requests. With more staff, the CSDC can do more outreach and better serve undergraduates and graduates students alike.

When assessing the college experience, most look at academics or extra-curricular activities. These areas are wonderful and much needed, but the mental and emotional well-being of students often gets overlooked. By appropriating funds for our severely understaffed Counseling and Student Development Center, this bill takes tangible steps forward in prioritizing the mental health of students. Please support SB 2767 and stand with students at UH Mānoa in supporting increased student mental health services. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Zakimi  
Email Address: [zakimik@hawaii.edu](mailto:zakimik@hawaii.edu)



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2767 on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM\*  
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**SB2767**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauren Tagaban	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

From: Assistant Professor Linda C. Middleton, English Department, UH Mānoa

Re: Testimony on SB 2767

Date: February 9, 2016

I strongly support the appropriation of moneys for the hire of three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services at the University of Hawai'i.

The need for trained and certified professionals to supplement the existing mental health support services at the UH is an issue that has long concerned me, since it would signify that the UH considers its students as multi-dimensional individuals, with needs that include support with academic and personal stress.

The impact of new independence, separation from family and the desire to establish themselves as individuals who can cope with the demands of university life make many students anxious about seeking help, which they should be able to access readily. The limited availability of these services can increase student anxiety in a way that would be, at least, partially alleviated by the extra staffing of our mental health support services at the UH.

As a long-time teacher of students who earnestly cope with everything from the understandable exhaustion of holding down part-time jobs to meet tuition needs as well as students who struggle with anxiety and depressive conditions that are the source of stigma as well as psychological pressure, I urge that this bill be passed. Meeting more adequately the mental health needs of our students will demonstrate our mission to conveying knowledge in classrooms without ignoring the fact that those we teach are individuals with needs we may not always comprehend. When we've reached the extent of how we as teachers can assist students, we need to know they can seek help at the UH and be more assured of finding it than our current mental health services, understaffed and underfunded, can promise.

Thank you for your attention to this testimony.

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brain T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016  
Time: 1:45 PM  
Place: Conference Room 224

Re: Support of SB 2767 Relating to the University of Hawai‘i

My name is Madisyn Uekawa and I am a Public Health and English undergraduate student at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. I am writing in strong support of SB2767, which appropriates funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

A college campus, above all else, should thrive as an environment which supports and accommodates student needs. Mental health services plays a particularly large role in the well-being of students, and it highly impacts the course of their academic career and dictates their overall quality of life. It is essential that there be a resourceful center – adequate in quantity and excellent in quality – available to students on campus. I myself have tried to access the Counseling and Student Development Center when a distressful mental health related issue arose in our on-campus apartment last year. Two of my roommates and I were shaken by this incident, but unfortunately, the wait to get help was longer than we had anticipated it to be. Although, we’re not the only ones who have experienced such delays. I have friends and peers who have faced similar difficulties with receiving timely mental health services at UHM. I have even had a few friends who were unable to see a counselor for days when they were dealing with the death of their friend (who was also a fellow UHM student). Simply, no student on campus should have to endure such a wait. For a student’s sake, help should available as needed.

Again, I wholly support SB2767 and all that it can do for student needs. Sufficient and effective mental health services are one of the greatest gifts any university can offer to its students.

Respectfully submitted,  
Madisyn Uekawa  
[muekawa@hawaii.edu](mailto:muekawa@hawaii.edu)  
(808) 990-0456

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**SB2767**

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Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maggie Hinshaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2767**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Preston Matsuo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB2767**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roxie Kamoshida	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of Senate Bill 2767, which appropriates funding for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

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February 3, 2016

To: Chair Isaac W. Choy

Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama

Members of the Higher Education Committee

From: Sarah Benzing

Subject: Support of HB1703, SB2767, Relating to the University of Hawaii

Aloha! My name is Sarah Benzing and I am currently a junior at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I strongly believe in House bill 1703 and its companion Senate bill 2767. This bill will allow the University of Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide college students with mental health services.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness on mental health on college campuses, 80% of college students feel overwhelmed by their responsibilities and 50% have been so anxious they struggled in school. And keep in mind that students are expected to receive near perfect grades while participating in multiple extracurricular activities. How can we expect students to achieve these standards if they are overwhelmed and anxious with no one to support them within reach? It is impossible. Mental health is just as important as physical health, the only difference is that one is visible and the other is not. If colleges want their students to exceed standards and continue to succeed in the workforce, it would be logical to provide students with all types of health services, including mental health services.

Personally, as a high school student who enjoys participating in activities and learning as much as I can to better my future, I get overwhelmed easily and often. And I would hope that my college of choice would provide adequate help for any mental health issues so that I can continue to succeed in all aspects of life. I urge the committee to pass HB1703/SB2767. Thank you for your consideration.

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016

Time: 1:45 PM

Place: Conference Room 224

Re: Support of SB 2767 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Sierra Callihan and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing in strong support of SB 2767, which appropriates funding for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

Upon entering my sophomore year at UH Manoa, I found myself struggling to come to terms with various circumstances in my personal life. Not only was my mental well-being affected, but my academic performance suffered even more. I considered making an appointment at the on-campus Counseling and Student Development Center, only to discover that the wait time was excessive – and as a college student trying to find her way, I didn't feel like I *could* wait. Therefore, I began meeting with a psychologist in Downtown Honolulu, an inconvenient location for an overpriced professional - seemingly the only option.

My story is not unusual amongst college students, regardless of age, gender, or ethnicity. I have seen many of my peers treading heavily through their days, sometimes weighed down to the point of taking a permanent leave from the University. The counseling services at UH Manoa, although successful, are in dire need of more staffing and assistance; such changes will not only result in more students being serviced, but also the ability for the CSDC to publicize themselves more, knowing that they can accommodate those interested.

Students should not be asked to wait days, or even weeks, to speak with a professional about adversities that they cannot go an hour not thinking about. The funding for the positions sought by SB 2767 can help improve an already respectable, well-run community of counselors, and thus, that is why I strongly support SB 2767.

Respectfully submitted,

Sierra Callihan  
[scrc@hawaii.edu](mailto:scrc@hawaii.edu)  
808-282-7365



I am a Professor at UHM, as well as head of the Compassion Hui, which includes over 50 faculty, staff, and students from English, JABSOM, Public Health, CTAHR, Math, History, and many other departments. We advocate for better mental health awareness on our campus.

There is a mental health crisis nation-wide among college students. There is also one at UHM. Increasingly, I find that my students are suffering from depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, as well as severe family problems, including grief over dying parents and grandparents. I refer them to the counseling center, even though I know the center is over-worked. Many students have to wait to see a counselor—days, or even weeks. The CDSC absolutely needs more counselors, as well as a case manager.

The UHM is trying hard to get students to graduate in four years. Providing good mental health care helps in that effort.

As head of the Compassion Hui, I hear stories from all over campus to the same effect. I have also done a lot of research on other institutions facing similar issues. We are not alone.

I strongly favor passages of SB 2767. I would be there in person to say so, but I teach at that hour.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Schultz

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016

Time: 1:45 PM

Place: Conference Room 224

Re: Support of SB 2767 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Todd Simeroth and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing in strong support of SB 2767, which appropriates funding for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

Over the last three years that I have studied here, I have encountered among many of my peers a common state of struggle with the various difficulties brought on by our often-confining environment. I have unfortunately seen this culminate into experiences of seclusion, overwhelming, and desperation. It is not an element unique to those residing in student housing, nor to those without family nearby, nor to those of any particular study or demographic.

I have had friends leave the university because they could not overcome these feelings. I have seen several peers in student leadership positions resign because they could not manage the growing stresses of the expectations put upon us. I have personally met individuals adversely affected by the incidents of our peers resorting to gruesome self-harm, as recently as within the past two weeks.

It is clear that there is an ongoing and pressing need for additional mental health services at our campus. Students who need professional psychological help should not have to wait days or weeks to receive counseling, or simply be left to manage their own conflicts to detrimental ends. The funding for the positions sought by SB 2767 can help resolve these hardships and protect the integrity of our community, and that is why I strongly support SB 2767.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Simeroth  
simeroth@hawaii.edu  
808.366.5469

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [unheelim@gmail.com](mailto:unheelim@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2767 on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:40:06 PM

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**SB2767**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Unhee Lim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [vanderso@hawaii.edu](mailto:vanderso@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2767 on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:31:00 PM

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**SB2767**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Legislators, Please support SB 2767. I have taught undergraduate and graduate students at UH Manoa for over 15 years. I have observed again and again that NEARLY ALL students are under a large amount of stress. In fact, it's almost unheard of for a student to sail through a BA, MA, or PhD program without a very substantial amount of stress. Let's cast our minds back to our own college days for a moment--surely one (or more, or all) of these situations sounds familiar: first time away from home, overwhelming class workload, worrying about grades, nervousness about exams, not knowing how to write a paper, questions of our own identity juxtaposed with family expectations ("I'd like to take a geography class, but my parents want me to be premed ASAP"), money worries.... At the same time, we have very overstretched resources in the Counseling Center, leading to very long wait times for students to get support, and leading to much stress for Center employees, too. Stress in life, school, and work is inevitable. But this modest addition of 4 positions would truly be a valuable investment in teaching students how to deal with stress, and helping students become productive, thoughtful, resilient citizens of Hawaii. Mahalo. Victoria B. Anderson Associate Professor Department of Linguistics UH Manoa [vanderso@hawaii.edu](mailto:vanderso@hawaii.edu)

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