



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Friday, February 26, 2016 at 9:30am
by
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
and
David A. K. Matlin, Athletic Director
University of Hawai'i Mānoa

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 83 SD1. This bill appropriates moneys from the tourism special fund for fiscal year 2016-2017 for travel expenses and subsidies incurred for the intercollegiate athletics program of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH Mānoa).

The UH Mānoa athletic department recently completed an in-depth comprehensive assessment of its program. The exercise resulted in four main conclusions:

1. The UH Mānoa athletic department is performing equal to or better than its peers both on-the-field and financially.
2. The financial model of expecting the UH Mānoa athletic department to break-even is inconsistent with collegiate athletics nationwide where only 24 of 230 public universities operate in the black. Those 24 schools are members of the "Power Five" conferences such as the Pacific 12 or Southeastern (SEC) conferences which typically have media revenues of \$30.0 - \$40.0 million per school - - compared to the UH Mānoa's \$2.5 million of media revenues.
3. Collegiate athletic programs typically receive "external support" made up of three components: student fees, direct government support and institutional support. Compared to its peers, the UH Mānoa athletic department receives one of the lowest levels of support in the nation at 33% of revenues. In comparison, the average for peers in the Big West Conference is 67% and in the Mountain West Conference 41%.
4. The UH Mānoa has \$5.2 million of uniquely higher costs that our peers do not. Absent those higher costs, the UH Mānoa athletic department would have finished 2015 with a budget surplus rather than a deficit.

The University of Hawai'i incurs high expenses (as much as \$5.2 million) that are specific to Hawai'i and are not incurred by other athletic programs. SB 83 SD1 would help address the portion that is due to higher travel expenses and to subsidies. Based on 2014 numbers reported to the NCAA Institutional Performance Program standardized data base, the UH Mānoa athletic department faces \$3.0 million of higher travel related costs, which includes travel subsidies and guarantees to bring teams to Hawai'i; as well as higher travel costs for our athletes to travel to the mainland as compared to our peer institutions.

This funding in SB 83 SD1 would help the school to continue offering competitive collegiate athletics events in the community as well as representing Hawai'i nationwide and internationally. As the only Division I athletic program in the State, the UH Mānoa plays a significant role by providing opportunities for local athletes to compete at home at the collegiate level; providing residents with fan experiences over hundreds of events yearly; and serve as a source of collective community pride as Hawai'i's Team.

In addition to the intangible benefits to the community and State, the UH Mānoa athletic program also provides significant economic benefits to the State. An economic impact study released by the UH Mānoa Shidler College of Business on January 7, 2015 concluded that UH Mānoa athletics results in:

- \$66 million of direct spending on labor, goods and services, that generated \$128 million of Hawai'i business sales
- \$36.9 million of income for Hawai'i workers
- \$7.0 million of increased State tax collections, and
- 860 jobs created

Furthermore, the study estimated that the athletic program resulted in over 20,000 visitors to Hawai'i who came for athletic events that spent over \$31 million locally. The study did not quantify the benefit to tourism from the valuable exposure Hawai'i receives when UH Mānoa athletic events are played or televised outside Hawai'i, it is believed that impact would be even more significant.

While the UH Mānoa believes it provides significant benefits to the community as well as economic benefits to the State, including in tourism; it does not take a position on the merits of the source of the funds proposed in SB 83 SD1. We will defer on the merits of the source of the funding, recognizing that the legislative process will allow for open dialogue on it and reasoned decision making after consideration of all positions offered. However, we do believe that UH athletics is a worthy endeavor that contributes significantly to the larger state economy and in that respects, warrants additional public investment.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests passage of SB 83 SD1. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Friday, February 26, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

by
Donald Straney, Chancellor
and
Patrick Guillen, Athletic Director
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 83 SD1, which will appropriate funds from the tourism special fund for travel expenses and subsidies incurred for the intercollegiate athletics program at the University of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo Intercollegiate Athletics competes at the NCAA Division II level and is a member of the Pacific West Conference which consists of 14 member institutions. Of those members, four are from Hawai'i while the other 11 are located on the mainland (10 in California/1 in Utah). University of Hawai'i Mānoa competes in the NCAA Division I in the Big West Conference and Mountain West Conference depending on the sport.

UH Hilo faces the exact same financial challenges as UH Mānoa albeit on a smaller scale. In 2014-15, 70% of our entire operations budget was consumed by team related travel (airfare, hotel, ground transportation, food, etc.) with costs continuing to rise.

In comparison, the average team travel costs for the mainland schools in the Pacific West Conference is 42%. Other NCAA II schools in the West Region who we compete against such as in the California Collegiate Athletic Association allocate less than 30% of their operations budget for travel related expenses.

UH Hilo is the only school in the entire country that must travel by air for every contest away from home and contend with limited, direct mainland service. We also make 40-plus team trips to O'ahu to compete against UH Mānoa, and fellow Pac West rivals, Chaminade University, Hawai'i-Pacific, and BYU-Hawai'i, who will be replaced in 2017 by Biola University, which will add another mainland trip. Despite these costs, intercollegiate athletics is a proven economic engine for the community. This is evident

by our recent hosting of the 25th anniversary of the Amer-Ari Golf Invitational which attracted 19 of the top NCAA Division I men's golf programs in the country, who occupied 700 hotel room nights as well as revenues from car rentals, restaurants and visitor attractions. This is an annual event that UH Hilo has hosted for the past 25 years.

Both UH Mānoa and UH Hilo athletic programs provide significant economic benefits to the State in terms of additional visitors who travel with their teams to Hawai'i and significant benefits to the communities they represent in home team pride.

We appreciate the intent of this bill to help with UH athletics travel expenses but must defer the merits of the source of funding to the legislative process.

University of Hawai'i at Hilo requests the passage of SB 83 SD1. Mahalo for your consideration.



Statement of
George D. Szigeti
Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Tourism Authority
on
SB 83
Relating to Appropriations
Senate Committees on Ways and Means,
Higher Education and the Arts, and Tourism and International Affairs
Friday, February 26, 2016
9:30am
Conference Room 211

The Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) offers the following **testimony opposing** SB 83 to the extent the bill would appropriate money from the Tourism Special Fund to pay for travel expenses and subsidies incurred by the University of Hawai'i's (UH) intercollegiate athletics program.

We have tremendous aloha for the UH athletics program. Our opposition to SB 83 is limited to paying for travel expenses and subsidies from the Tourism Special Fund. Under HRS § 201B-11, the Tourism Special Fund is to be used to carry out HTA's mandate. Under that mandate, HTA is directed to promote Hawai'i as a premier visitor destination and integrate the interests of visitors, the community and the visitor industry. The proposal to fund expenses and subsidies incurred by the UH athletics program is far removed from HTA's mandate and the purpose of the Tourism Special Fund. There is simply no nexus between the proposed expenditure and the purpose of the fund.

Equally important, any diversion from the Tourism Special Fund will negatively affect HTA's efforts to market Hawai'i and attract visitors to the state. The visitor industry is the largest part of our economy. We have experienced positive growth for four years. In 2015, total visitor arrivals increased by more than 4 percent. Visitor spending is projected to have generated \$28.2 billion in sales for the state's economy, provided \$1.75 billion in state tax revenue and supported more than 181,500 jobs in the visitor industry and related sectors.

Now is not the time to invest *less* in developing and maintaining the industry that contributes so much to our state. Hawai'i faces stiff competition from other global destinations, many of which have substantially more marketing funds at their disposal. If we take money from the Tourism Special Fund for other purposes, we undermine our commitment to invest in the visitor industry.

HTA is proud to sponsor sporting events in Hawai'i, including the Diamond Head Classic, the Maui Invitational, the Hawai'i Bowl, PGA Tour events and Ironman events. Hosting

major sporting events in Hawai‘i draws visitors to the state and generates substantial media exposure, which in turn produces a manifold return on investment.

The same cannot be said of funding travel expenses for UH college athletes. UH is a great institutional asset of the state. At HTA, we are proud to cheer for our UH teams. UH must look to its operating budget to pay for its athletes’ travel expenses. The Tourism Special Fund has a different purpose—a purpose that is too important to the state to be diverted.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.



February 26, 2016

Honorable Members of the State Senate
Ways and Means Committee
Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Tourism and International Affairs Committee

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 83

Aloha Committee Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), I want to register our opposition to Senate Bill 83.

As well intended as SB83 is for supporting University of Hawai'i sports and its student-athletes, its enactment would come at the expense of Hawai'i's tourism industry and, specifically, the numerous community, cultural and environmental programs that HTA supports annually.

This year alone, HTA is providing \$3.3 million in funding to support 162 nonprofit groups statewide that are dedicated to presenting events, festivals and programs perpetuating the special qualities of Hawai'i's culture and way of life.

Consider that if SB83 becomes law and a minimum of \$3 million is taken away from HTA and given to the University of Hawai'i, HTA will be forced to cut its funding to many, if not all of the community programs that we support.

While we agree the State of Hawai'i needs to support University of Hawai'i athletics to the best of its ability, accomplishing this by effectively weakening HTA's capability to support Hawai'i tourism and community programs statewide is the wrong decision.

We respectfully oppose SB83 and ask that the members of the state senate join us in spirit and in practice by ensuring that HTA's budget remains whole, so that we can continue to support community programs that mean so much to our residents and visitors.

Mahalo nui loa,

L. Richard Fried, Jr.
Board Chair
Hawai'i Tourism Authority



Albert D. K. Chee, Jr.
Manager, State and Local
Relations

Policy, Government, and Public
Affairs
Chevron USA, Inc.
91-480 Malakole Street
Kapolei, HI 96707
Tel 808-682-2313
Fax 808-682-3116
AlChee@chevron.com

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Friday, February 26, 2016 at 9:30am
by
Al Chee
Chevron Hawaii

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRS TOKUDA, TANIGUCHI AND ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR DELA CRUZ AND MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEES:

Chevron Hawaii has maintained a 25+ year relationship with the University of Hawaii Athletic program via its Corporate Partner program and direct funding of individual sport teams. As an entity doing business for more than 112 years, Chevron has a good appreciation for things that matter to everyday people who call Hawaii their home. Our market research as a statewide retailer continues to indicate that local residents are very supportive of UH Athletics. They cherish their favorite Rainbow Warrior and/or Rainbow Wahine team(s) here, as many of our customers across the mainland embrace their favorite teams, albeit at the professional level. Armed with that data, it makes good business sense for Chevron to invest its marketing and charitable dollars in support of "Hawaii's Team." Recently, Athletics Director David Matlin has identified a category of costs unique to their budget as compared to their peers. It should not surprise anyone that these unique and additional costs are a function of our geographic location. Like all local businesses, we not only understand these additional costs, but more importantly, the need to address them appropriately in order to maintain a competitive position in the marketplace by continuing to offer sufficient value to the customer. Therefore, Chevron submits this testimony in support of the funding for the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletics program provided in SB 83, SD1. The bill appropriates funds for travel expenses and subsidies incurred for the intercollegiate athletics program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Chevron strongly believes that the net benefit to the State is clearly in the interest of residents statewide and therefore not only is public funding necessary, but appropriate.

I respectfully request passage of SB 83, SD1, and thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

**February 26, 2016 at 9:30am
Conference Room 211**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education and the Arts

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs

To: Senator J. Kalani English, Chair

From: Art Gladstone
Chief Nurse Executive, Hawaii Pacific Health
Chief Executive Officer, Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Clinic & Hospital

Re: Testimony in Support – SB 83, SD1

My name is Art Gladstone and I am the Chief Nurse Executive at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH), and the Chief Executive Officer of Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Clinic and Hospital. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

HPH is writing in **support** of SB 83, SD1 which makes an appropriation from the tourism special fund for fiscal year 2016-2017 for travel expenses and subsidies incurred by the intercollegiate athletics program of the University of Hawaii. Straub Clinic and Hospital has been a community partner of UH Athletics. We believe the appropriation would assist in supporting the program and in allowing our athletes to compete on a national level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

by
Warren H. Haruki
Grove Farm Company
Maui Land & Pineapple Company

February 26, 2016; 9:30am

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

My name is Warren Haruki and I am the President & CEO of Grove Farm Company and Chairman & CEO of Maui Land & Pineapple Company. We strongly support the funding provided in SB 83 SD1 to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletics program.

Grove Farm and Maui Land & Pine are long-time kama`aina companies committed to leading community and economic development, while being a responsible steward of its aina.

With its roots deep on Kauai and Maui, both companies have been a supporter of many different causes and initiatives, including University of Hawaii athletics. We believe that, as the only Division I program in the State, University of Hawaii athletics is an important part of the fabric of our community and a key element of Hawaii's identity. UH is Hawaii's team, UH is our pro sports franchise, and UH athletics is something that we all take great pride in.

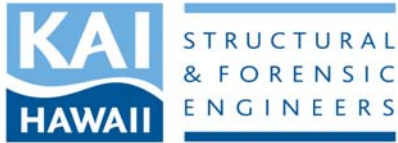
Through the years, we have been strong supporters of University of Hawaii athletics. We have supported the program as fans, boosters, and sponsors in fundraisers for athletics -- including hosting golf tournaments at our golf courses on Kauai and Maui. We have also hosted events at our venues, and participate actively in many other UH colleges such as the Shidler College of Business, CTAHR, the College of Engineering, or the culinary programs at the community colleges.

In order for Hawaii residents to enjoy and participate in University of Hawaii athletics locally, UH must often pay travel subsidies and higher guarantees to visiting teams. When the school plays games away as ambassadors of the State, they have to pay much higher travel costs than typical universities have to bear. No other athletic program in the nation is saddled with this amount of travel costs and travel subsidies! SB 83 SD1 would help to offset those higher costs that the University of Hawaii incurs, thereby allowing it to compete in collegiate athletics on a more level playing field.

It is also important to realize the UH athletics is a huge revenue generator for the State. Direct spending amounts to \$66M a year according to an economic study and direct tax revenues amount to \$7M a year. If those direct tax revenues were used in a funding model similar to the transient accommodations tax, perhaps that amount should go directly to UH athletics.

A robust University of Hawaii athletic program will also allow the State to continue to realize the economic benefits of direct spending on goods and services, creation of jobs, direct tax revenues, and national TV exposure when our UH teams are featured on ESPN and other national programming channels.

I respectfully request passage of SB 83, SD1, and thank you for your consideration of this testimony.



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

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Ways and Means
and
Higher Education and the Arts
and
Tourism and International Affairs
February 26, 2016 at Conference Room 211
By
Ken Hayashida
KAI Hawaii, Inc.

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in strong support of SB 83 SD1**. This bill appropriates \$3 million for travel expenses and subsidies for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Athletic Department.

As a UH Alumnus and business person, I am a very strong supporter of UH Mānoa Athletics. I know that UH Mānoa has unique circumstances because it is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and has the highest travel costs in the nation. It is also the only NCAA Division I collegiate athletic program that pays travel subsidies to its conference opponents to fly to Hawai'i.

According to the latest UH study, the economic impact of the UH Mānoa Athletics Department in fiscal year 2013 – 2014 was \$66M in total direct spending on labor, goods and services that generated \$128M in local business sales, helped create 864 jobs and generated \$7M in state tax collections. The Department also added \$3.1M in tuition revenue from 200-plus non-scholarship athletes.

I strongly support helping the Mānoa Athletics Program because it is such an important component in our local pride and state economy and deserves to be supported by state revenues. SB 83 SD1 is a good step in this direction.

Thank you for your attention and time on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Hayashida
President
KAI Hawaii, Inc.



February 26, 2016

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Chair Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Members

SENATE COMMITTEE HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi and Members

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURSIM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Chair Senator Kalani English and Members

Public Hearing, February 26, 2016 at 9:30am, Conference Room 211

**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
MANAGING PARTNER OF THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC
IN SUPPORT OF SB 83 SD 1, RELATED TO TOURISM SPECIAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS**

My name is William Anonsen and I am the Managing Partner/Principal of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC. We strongly support SB 83 which proposes to provide an appropriation from the tourism special fund for travel expenses and travel subsidies incurred by the intercollegiate athletics program of the University of Hawaii, with established controls prohibiting their diversion and an appropriate funding cap that covers the necessary direct travel expenses, during the fiscal year 2016-2017.

As Hawaii doesn't have a professional sports franchise, the University Hawaii's intercollegiate athletics program serves to fill that void with community support and pride. Sporting events enhance Hawaii's economy, image and quality of life. The HTA recognizes these benefits by establishing a sports marketing program that is designed to increase Hawaii's sports presence outside the state to a national and global audience.

Hawaii's geographic location in the Pacific, makes the UH's athletics program unique and at a disadvantage due to team/players travel expense to participate in sport contests on the mainland, in addition to travel subsidizes for travel expenses for some of the visiting teams who must travel to Hawaii for UH's home games. Despite the additional expenses that are incurred to participate in these intercollegiate athletics competitions, the advantages more than offset the direct cost, in increased publicity and media coverage, televised games that showcase Hawaii and promote the islands to potential visitors, coupled with visitors traveling to Hawaii to accompany their teams, in addition to UH's athletics serving as "Ambassadors of Aloha" when traveling.

The UH's intercollegiate athletics program, provides academic opportunities to student athletics, helps to further enhance Hawaii's destination image, and help to foster a sustainable sports tourism market to diversify a visitors and residents experiences, while highlighting Hawaii's unique attributes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 83

Sincerely,

William F. Anonsen

Managing Partner/Principal

**1221 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1032, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96814
Tel: (808) 589-1223 www.The-Maritime-Group.com**

KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION



February 25, 2016

To: Ways & Means Committee

RE: SB 83

Dear Sen. Brian Taniguchi,

It is with great opposition that we ask that your committee not reduce any funds for HTA's budget. Our parade as long as the Prince Kuhio Day rely heavily on their support along with our major sponsors. The effect and impact this has on tourism is huge as the parades go down right through the heart of Waikiki on Kalakaua Avenue.

Having ridden down as a Pa'u rider on my horse I've seen the many visitor's faces and delight as we ride pass each one. The aloha given and received is and has a massive effect for all of us participate and observe. Mahalo for your committee's consideration.

Na'u,

Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito
Commissioner, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

Persons with disabilities who may need special accommodation should call 586-0400, at least five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting.

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

Dear Committee members,

In Regards to Bill #: SB83
and the hearing on Friday, February 26, 2016 at 9:30 AM

As a lifelong University of Hawaii Athletics supporter and fan it pains me to write this testimony in opposition of SB 83. The University of Hawaii has been and always will be our State Team but I feel its necessary to identify a face, a program, and an eventual cost of this well intentioned appropriation and how it affects our community. I am the chief server at the volleyball based non-profit, Spike and Serve. We are indebted to the HTA for the support we've received over the last 2 years as we've established HTA events including the Hawaii Prep Championships, the PAC RIM Championships, and the George "Dad" Center Founder's cup honoring the Father of beach volleyball.

We take great pride in building awareness of beach volleyball's unique place in Hawaii's culture, offering events that spotlight our unique environment that also serve the local community. Through our Mauka to Makai program partnership with the HTA, we've offered training and events with gold medalists Karch Kiraly, Misty May Treanor, and Kerri Walsh Jennings. Participants in our Prep championships have secured collegiate scholarships at the University of Hawaii and other top schools. Without your help we would have to curtail many of our most meaningful programs and events, just as we've begun to build statewide, nationwide, and worldwide awareness of Hawaii as the birthplace of beach volleyball 100 years ago.

Humbly,

Kevin Wong
Spike and Serve
Spikeandserve@gmail.com
808-266-0132

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: island.girl.rose@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 5:47:16 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Rose	Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii Island	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose SB83. The potential to take money away from non-profits, cultural events, and festivals that benefit the economic well-being of the State of Hawaii to give to sports teams is beyond comprehension. Tourism will suffer and jobs will be lost. Please do not vote in favor of this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rachelle@mediabuyershawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:23:05 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachelle Hennings	VASH Hawaii Island	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly oppose SB83. Taking funds away from non-profits, cultural events, and festivals that benefit our economic well-being of the State of Hawaii; it is unbelievable to give these non-profit funds to sports teams. Hawaii's number one economic industry TOURISM will suffer and jobs will be lost. Please do not vote in favor of this bill. Sincerely Rachelle Hennings

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY OF ALYSSA SIMBAHON

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS,
AND TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

February 26, 2016
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211

SUPPORT FOR SB 83, SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairpersons Tokuda, Taniguchi, English, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Alyssa Simbahon and I am currently the UH Mānoa Graduate Legislative Fellow and also serve on the UH Letterwinners' Club Board of Directors, but I submit this testimony in my personal capacity. I write in strong support of SB 83, SD1, which appropriates \$3 million to the UH athletics department to offset higher travel expenses and subsidies.

I was a student-athlete on the UH soccer team from 2009 to 2011. From 2008 to 2009 I played soccer at the University of San Francisco, another Division I program. There we had the luxury of taking buses to many of our matches. Travel was significantly shorter and significantly cheaper.

But UH athletic teams do not have this luxury. Travel costs to the mainland are high. It costs approximately \$27,000 for a soccer team to make a west coast road trip. This includes airfare, lodging, bag fees, vans, student athlete per diem and incidentals (laundry, gatorade, water, etc.). A soccer travel roster typically consists of eighteen (18) players, three (3) coaches and one (1) athletic trainer.

In addition to providing funds to help offset these higher travel expenses and subsidies costs, SB 83, SD1 will help UH with establishing a competitive edge. Offsetting travel expenses will allow UH to dedicate more moneys to maintaining facilities and providing programs that help attract athletes, both local and out of state, to come to UH.

Many UH athletes serve as guiding lights for Hawaii youth. The youth watch and follow UH athletes, and strive to run like them, throw like them, or kick like them. The youth meet and see UH athletes at community events, and stand in line to get their autographs after games. UH athletes ultimately inspire youth to pursue a higher education and play collegiate sports.

Collegiate sports, as with all levels of sports, teach our youth invaluable lessons, both on and off the “field.” Although my collegiate career ended in 2011, I always carry the lessons of teamwork, endurance, passion, and hard work wherever I go.

I respectfully ask that you pass this measure for our athletes, and most important, for our youth. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Simbahon
alyssa.simbahon@gmail.com
808-282-9490

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on ways and Means
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Friday, February 26, 2016 at 9:30am
by
Andrew P. Johnson

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi, and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

I am respectfully submitting this testimony in support of the funding provided to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program in SB 83 SD1 for travel expenses and subsidies.

I am the head sailing coach for the University of Hawaii, but am submitting this testimony as an individual, rather than in any official capacity.

I have been a part of the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program as a coach since 1989 and as a UH athlete in sailing since 1980. During my time at the University, it has been my privilege to work with students, the community, fans and administrators to build a top level program and instill a sense of pride for the State of Hawaii. The sailing program has had great success over the years producing two National Championships, numerous Pacific Coast titles and five Olympians. Off the water, we are most proud of the top notch people/citizens we have produced which include doctors, business men/women, engineers, teachers, firefighters, etc.

As coaches, we are responsible for doing our best to meet the mission of University of Hawaii at Manoa athletics for our student-athletes, the school, our community and the State of Hawaii. We appreciate the resources that are made available for each of our individual sports and do our best to supplement the funds provided by the Athletic Department with externally raised funds whether from boosters, golf tournaments, fundraising dinners or other events.

SB 83 SD1 will help to level the playing field between the University of Hawaii and its peers and make a significant contribution in allowing the program to remain competitive and an important part of the community.

While I support the funding to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program provided in SB 83 SD1, I am not taking a position on the appropriateness of the bill's source of the funds - - the tourism special fund.

I respectfully request that SB 83 SD1 be passed. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully,



Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Ways and Means
and
Higher Education and the Arts
and
Tourism and International Affairs
February 26 2016 at Conference Room 211
By
Bernadette Baraquio
UH Alumni Association

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in strong support of SB 83 SD1**. This bill appropriates \$3 million for travel expenses and subsidies for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Athletic Department.

As a UH Alum, I am a very strong supporter of UH Mānoa Athletics. Our student athletes work hard to represent our state university both on and off the court. It is tough enough to balance athletics and academics. The stress of fundraising should not be part of their equation.

Providing the necessary funds for travel expenses is a small price to pay when considering the economic benefits. According to the latest UH study, the economic impact of the UH Mānoa Athletics Department in fiscal year 2013 – 2014 was \$66M in total direct spending on labor, goods and services that generated \$128M in local business sales, helped create 864 jobs and generated \$7M in state tax collections. The Department also added \$3.1M in tuition revenue from 200-plus non-scholarship athletes.

I strongly support helping the Mānoa Athletics Program because it is such an important component in our local pride and state economy and deserves to be supported by state revenues. SB 83 SD1 is a good step in this direction.

Mahalo for your attention and time on this issue.

Warmest Aloha, Bernadette Baraquio

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

February 26, 2016 at 9:30a
Conference Room 211

by Bob Coolen

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

I am Bob Coolen and am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 83 SD1. I am not submitting this testimony in my official capacity of University of Hawaii Head Softball Coach, but instead am filing this as an individual.

I have had the honor to be a part of University of Hawaii athletics and represent the State of Hawaii for many years. Currently, I am entering my 27th overall season with the Rainbow Wahine program. I am the third longest tenured coach at Hawaii; only beaten out by Dave Shoji and Andy Johnson. We have all been with the program for a long time and have seen it change dramatically.

Since my time at the University of Hawaii, I have seen the athletic program transition from sports being played for the school, to a program that is part of the community and represents the entire State of Hawaii, locally, nationally and internationally. The program brings some of the best collegiate athletic competitions to Hawaii for its people to enjoy, as well as takes the Aloha of Hawaii to venues far and wide.

As someone with the athletics program for a long time, I have seen the cost of travel rise dramatically for the UH. The fact that UH has to travel much farther for any away game than results in the athletic department's travel expense being much higher than other schools. Combined that with the travel subsidies and higher guarantees that must be paid to bring other schools to Hawaii, and it is no surprise that the University of Hawaii has a significant disadvantage relative to other schools due to the higher travel related costs.

SB 83 SD1 can help to address the higher costs that the University of Hawaii currently is incurring in order to provide the State with its only Division I collegiate athletic program.

I strongly and respectfully request your approval of SB 83 SD1. Thank you for allowing me to present this testimony.

ROBERT L. COOLEN



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Coolen', is written over a horizontal line.

Testimony Presented To
Senate Ways and Means Committee
February 26, 2016
by
[Brittany Hitchcock]

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

My name is Brittany Hitchcock and I am a student-athlete at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH) on the softball team. I am submitting this testimony as an individual, not as part of UH, in support of the funding provided to the athletics department at UH in SB 83 SD1 to offset travel expenses and subsidies costs.

I have been attending UH since 2013. As a student-athlete I directly benefit from the athletics department and programs. I am very grateful for the opportunity to go to school and play sports at the highest collegiate level while representing UH and the people of the State of Hawaii.

My teammates and I appreciate the ability to travel and compete against the best schools in the country. We understand the extra costs the department has in covering these opportunities for us to travel. We appreciate these opportunities and know that support is needed to continue to cover the travel costs associated with our ability to compete at the highest levels.

No other school in the nation travels as much as us for any competition. Most of our opponents must be paid travel subsidies or guarantees for them to come to UH and play us. We know that life is not fair and having the extra expenses to cover travel costs to compete at home and away are part of being a Rainbow Warrior and Rainbow Wahine.

Coming to Hawaii to live out my dreams of playing division 1 college softball was a dream come true, knowing that I would be able to represent the University and the state of Hawaii. I strongly believe that we have amazing support here in Hawaii and want to see that support continue in all aspects to improve our programs and allow for continued success for years to come.

SB 83 SD1 provides funds to UH in recognition of the higher travel expenses and subsidies costs faced by the school compared to our peers. SB 83 SD1 will help us to compete more equally and effectively with our peers who do not have the travel costs that we have.

I support the funding in SB 83 SD1 for the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Respectfully, I request that you approve SB 83 SD1. Thank you for your time and for the consideration of this testimony.

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

By Carmyn James

February 26, 2016; 9:30am

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I am very much in support of bill SB 83 SD1 to appropriate money from the state of Hawaii's Tourism Special Fund to the University of Hawaii's Athletics Department for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. In fact, I believe that this should be done on an annual basis and not just for the next fiscal year.

The 21 intercollegiate teams at the University of Hawaii serve as excellent "Ambassadors of Hawaii". Every time they participate in out of state competition they elevate Hawaii's level of exposure and whenever they host a home competition they increase the number of tourists to the islands. In other words, whether the UH intercollegiate teams compete at home or away, they indirectly bolsters the tourism dollars for the state of Hawaii.

Despite this fact, of the 9 teams in the Big West Conference, UH Athletics ranks 9th in direct external support and 8th out of 12 schools in the Mountain West Conference. That is, they incur the greatest amount of expense but they receive the least amount of institutional and legislative support. If the government could appropriate \$3M to UH Athletics, this money could at least help off-set the over \$6M that the department spends annually on team travel, travel subsidies and guarantees.

The Department of Athletics at the University of Hawaii has some very unique challenges when it comes to the "pay to play" rules within the Big West and Mountain West Conferences and the Mountain Pacific Sport Federation. Besides paying for their own team travel, they often have to pay for the travel expenses of the other teams to come to Hawaii. However, with the significant amount of tourism dollars that UH Athletics helps generate for the state of Hawaii, supporting SB 83 SD1 seems like the right thing to do. Much mahalo for your consideration!

Respectively,
Carmyn James

Testimony Presented Before Senate Ways and Means Committee Senate Higher Education and the Arts
Committee Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

By Charlinda TTLK Ioane

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

My name is Charlinda Taylor Tausillia Leimomi Kamakea Ioane and I am a student-athlete at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa (UH) on the Track and Field team. I am submitting this testimony as an individual, not as part of UH, in support of the funding provided to the athletics department at UH in SB 83 SD1 to offset travel expenses and subsidies costs.

I have been attending UH since Fall 2012. As a student-athlete, I directly benefit from the athletics department and programs. My family and I are very honored to be a part of the athletics department. When deciding where to attend school, there was one thing that UH could offer me that no other university in the country could, and that was taking the pride of representing where I am from. There is a saying that athletes go by, *“I compete for the name on the front of my jersey, not just the name on the back”* and I believe that local student-athletes like myself take that meaning to heart. We also share that same passion and instill it into our teammates that our athletic department is unique because of our culture. Our culture is something that cannot be duplicated in any other athletic department across the nation.

My teammates and I appreciate the opportunities to travel and compete on the mainland. We understand that those opportunities come with a hefty price tag. We also understand that these costs are also something that other universities do not need to face. No other school in the NCAA travels as much as we do for any competition.

Being apart of the Track and Field team, you easily see that this is affected during competition times. Many schools arrive on busses loaded with 40+ student-athletes, while our travel squad consists of around 16 athletes. It is easy to pay for a bus rental that would cost you around \$1,000 a day and fill the bus to its capacity with athletes, while we have to pay per seat for airline tickets. During my four years on the team we never traveled our entire team to a competition; which is understandable due to our high travel costs. I would never want any prospect athlete to feel that they should not choose UH because of the high travel cost and feel that they would not be able to compete at the highest level.

SB 83 SD1 provides funds to UH in recognition of the higher travel expenses and subsidies costs faced by the school compared to our peers. SB 83 SD1 will help us to compete more equally and effectively with our peers who do not have the travel costs that we have.

I support the funding in SB 83 SD1 for the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Respectfully, I request that you approve SB 83 SD1.

Me ka ha'aheo,

Charlinda TTLK Ioane

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

by
Dave Shoji

February 26, 2016; 9:30am

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

My name is Dave Shoji and I am filing this testimony in support of SB 83 SD1 which would provide funding to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program to offset higher travel expenses and subsidies.

While I am the Head Women's Volleyball Coach for the University of Hawaii, I am filing this testimony as an individual.

I began coaching at the University of Hawaii in 1975 and am now in my 41st season with the Rainbow Wahine. I was just 28 years old when I began and took over a program that was just one year old when I joined the University of Hawaii. Through the years, I have been blessed to work with so many student athletes, assistant coaches, Wahine boosters and fans, and others who have help to make the program successful. Through the hard work and dedication of so many, the University of Hawaii's Wahine Volleyball has been able to not only be successful competitively, but also in building character in our student athletes and community with the State of Hawaii.

The Rainbow Wahine have traveled locally, nationally and internationally as a representative of not only the University of Hawaii, but also of the State of Hawaii. We recognize that there are higher costs involved in bringing some of our opponents to Hawaii to allow our fans to enjoy Wahine Volleyball and the higher costs every time we leave the State to compete elsewhere.

SB 83 SD1 would help to offset the higher costs that are incurred by the University of Hawaii and allow us to be on a more equitable playing field with our peers. SB 83 SD1 would allow us to continue to work hard fulfilling the privilege it is to represent the State of Hawaii and Wahine Volleyball.

I respectfully request your passage of SB 83 SD1 and thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Ways and Means
and
Higher Education and the Arts
and
Tourism and International Affairs
February 26 2016 at Conference Room 211

By
Derek K. Mukai, P.E., CCM
Principal Engineer
Community Planning and Engineering, Inc.

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in strong support of SB 83 SD1**. This bill appropriates \$3 million for travel expenses and subsidies for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Athletic Department.

As a PROUD UH Alumnus, UH Alumni Association Board Member and Engineering Alumni Association Board Member, I am a very strong supporter of UH Mānoa Athletics. I know that UH Mānoa has unique circumstances because it is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and has the highest travel costs in the nation but it is the only game in town and we need to fully support it.

In addition to the economic impacts UH Mānoa Athletics Department creates in local business sales, jobs, tuition revenue, taxes, etc., it's the HAPPINESS it brings to so many people in Hawaii that is paramount. My father-in-law has been retired for many years and is an avid UH sports fan. There is nothing more exciting for him than to watch UH sports on TV, or listen to a live broadcast on the radio. Win or lose, he'll cheer them on with all his heart because they are Hawaii's team.

I strongly support helping the Mānoa Athletics Program because it is such an important component in our local pride and state economy and deserves to be supported by state revenues. SB 83 SD1 is a good step in this direction.

Thank you for your attention and time on this issue.

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

By Healani K. Chang, DrPH (email: hchang@hawaii.edu)

February 26, 2016; 9:30am

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of the funding provided to the University of Hawaii at Manoa Athletic Department (UHAD) in SB 83 SD1 for travel expenses and subsidies.

I am an alumna of the UH Wahine Basketball team (1975-78). I consider those 3 incredible years representing the university and the state among accomplishments I am most proud of. Following the years I played for the university I continued to work for the women's athletic program until I was accepted into graduate school. Currently I am a UH research faculty, and I remain a true supporter of the university's athletics department.

It was an honor and privilege to travel to the continental U.S. as a UH basketball player and compete at the highest collegiate level while representing the "Aloha" state. Passage of SB 83 SD1 will send a clear message to our scholar athletes that Hawai'i supports their dedication, training and participation in national sports and athletic activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

By Eran Ganot

February 26, 2016 at 9:30a
Conference Room 211

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

Aloha, my name is Eran Ganot and I am providing this testimony in strong support of SB 83 SD1. I am the Head Mens Basketball Coach at the University of Hawaii, but am submitting this testimony as an individual.

SB 83 SD1 would provide the University of Hawaii at Manoa with funding to offset higher travel expenses and subsidies that it incurs in order to represent the State of Hawaii at the Division I collegiate athletics level.

I have been involved in basketball for a number of years. I started out at Saint Mary's College (SMC) from 2003-2006 followed by time with the University of Hawaii from 2006-2010. I returned to SMC in 2010 but was overjoyed to comeback to Hawaii in 2016 as it has been a special place for me and my family. I enjoyed my time and grew professionally during my years at the University of Hawaii and I had the pleasure and benefit of working under two terrific coaches in Riley Wallace and Bob Nash. I have always said that to get to lead this program would be the honor of my life.

I appreciate that I have been entrusted to build a program that can represent the University and the State of Hawaii well; both here before the people of Hawaii and away, where we serve as ambassadors for the State. It's a responsibility I accept and I will do my best to fulfill that for the State of Hawaii.

As person who has coached both at the University of Hawaii and at other institutions, I can appreciate the challenge that we have here providing a Division I athletics program for the State of Hawaii. At St. Mary's, it had a very successful basketball program which I had the privilege to be a part of. While travel costs were always a factor in the St. Mary's program, they did not compare to what the travel costs are for Hawaii.

The University of Hawaii's travel related costs are much higher than others schools. The basketball program is part of the Big West Conference and travel subsidies are required to be paid in order for our conference opponents to play in Hawaii. There are no travel subsidies for Hawaii when it has to travel to play opponents on the mainland.

SB 83 SD1 can help address this imbalance between the University of Hawaii and other collegiate athletic programs. Our student athletes, the coaching and operations staff and myself, are committed to doing our best for the people of Hawaii. We also understand the responsibility placed upon us to be ambassadors of Aloha whether on the court here in Hawaii, or representing the State elsewhere. We also appreciate that if we are successful, it will not be through our own efforts, but because of the support of many others throughout the community. SB 83 SD1 could provide needed support to the University of Hawaii athletic program.

I respectfully request your passage of SB 83 SD1. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide this testimony.

February 24, 2016

Evan Silberstein
1937 Kakela Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee

Re: **SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to be heard on this matter. This testimony is in support of SB 83 SD 1; which funds the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa ("U.H.") athletic programs for travel expenses and subsidies. I am submitting this testimony as an individual, rather than in any official capacity as the Beach Volleyball Assistant Coach at U.H.

This is my second year coaching at U.H., and I truly love my job. It is not easy, but it is so worth it to guide our student athletes and see the pride they develop in being associated with our proud athletic traditions at U.H. First and foremost in my mind is the student athlete experience. In many cases, they become community figures and heroes and heroines to the general public who find hope and inspiration in their stories of triumph and perseverance. They deserve to have the resources needed to succeed; passing this bill helps them in their mission to be the very best that U.H. and our State represent.

As a U.H. alumni and proud graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law (2009), I have always appreciated the benefit that our athletic programs have provided. Whether it was watching in awe as our Football team went undefeated or settling in for Friday night Volleyball at the Stan Sheriff Center, identification with the program has always been a source of enjoyment and recreation to me.

As a licensed attorney (#9241) steeped in a public service bend, I am compelled to speak on behalf of the outstanding work, value and benefit that U.H. athletics provides to our students, University, community and State. Our existence and achievements are a worthy public good in education, public health, professional development, recreation, entertainment, and most fitting in this case; the overall health and well being of our sometimes fragile economic reality in Hawai'i.

As a Coach, I have directly experienced the challenge of balancing higher travel and subsidies costs that are unique at U.H. due to our geographic isolation from the Continent. The resources made available to our U.H. athletic department from the State are greatly valued, appreciated and well spent. However, those resources are often not enough to thrive. We are constantly fundraising and

creating public private partnerships to provide the world-class athletic programs our fans expect and the optimal experience that our student athletes deserve.

SB 83 SD1 will help level the playing field between athletic programs at U.H. and our Conference rivals and National peers. This bill will make significant contributions to our U.H. athletic programs. It will help us to remain competitive, fulfill our important role in the community, and be a powerful representative of Hawai'i across the country and the world over.

Thanks for your time and consideration of all testimony regarding this matter. I respectfully request your passage of SB 83 SD1 into a law that will benefit our tremendous student athletes at U.H. and in turn, all the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Evan Silberstein

From: [Kacy Johnson](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB83 Testimony
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 2:40:33 PM

Testimony Presented To

Senate Ways and Means Committee [ADJUST FOR WHATEVER COMMITTEE(S)
HEARING IS FOR]

February 26, 2016

by

Kacy Johnson

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

My name is Kacy Johnson and I am a student-athlete at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH) on the Men's Swimming and Diving team. I am submitting this testimony as an individual, not as part of UH, in support of the funding provided to the athletics department at UH in SB 83 SD1 to offset travel expenses and subsidies costs.

I have been attending UH since Fall of 2012. As a student-athlete I directly benefit from the athletics department and programs. I am very grateful for the opportunity to go to school and play sports at the highest collegiate level while representing UH and the people of the State of Hawaii.

My teammates and I appreciate the ability to travel and compete against the best schools in the country. We understand the extra costs the department has in covering these opportunities for us to travel. We appreciate these opportunities and know that support is needed to continue to cover the travel costs associated with our ability to compete at the highest levels.

No other school in the nation travels as much as us for any competition. Most of our opponents must be paid travel subsidies or guarantees for them to come to UH and play us.

We know that life is not fair and having the extra expenses to cover travel costs to compete at home and away are part of being a Rainbow Warrior and Rainbow Wahine.

Attending UH Manoa was a decision I made for myself. I was given the opportunity to attend larger and more prestigious institutions, but chose to stay home in order to help develop our local community. Student-athletes have such a large impact on people and their surroundings; we try our best to become ambassadors of Aloha. When we travel we are a reflection of the state and our university, it is critical that we are financially capable to compete both away and at home. Many of us are not on scholarship, yet choose to compete and train to represent both the university and state. I wanted to impact the environment around me and grow the vision of Hawaii in the eyes of others.

SB 83 SD1 provides funds to UH in recognition of the higher travel expenses and subsidies costs faced by the school compared to our peers. SB 83 SD1 will help us to compete more equally and effectively with our peers who do not have the travel costs that we have.

I support the funding in SB 83 SD1 for the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Respectfully, I request that you approve SB 83 SD1. Thank you for your time and for the consideration of this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: a.d@bigislandtv.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 8:08:24 AM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arnold D Ackerman	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly oppose SB83. The potential to take money away from non-profits, cultural events, and festivals that benefit the economic well-being of the State of Hawaii to give to sports teams is beyond comprehension. Tourism will suffer and jobs will be lost. Please do not vote in favor of this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: [Jon Kobayashi](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 83 - Written Testimony
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:49:21 AM

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Ways and Means
and
Higher Education and the Arts
and
Tourism and International Affairs
February 26 2016 at Conference Room 211
By
Jonathan Kobayashi, President & CEO
'Ahahui Koa Anuenue

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in strong support of SB 83 SD1**. This bill appropriates \$3 million for travel expenses and subsidies for the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Athletic Department.

As President and CEO of 'Ahahui Koa Anuenue ("AKA") and a life-long UH fan, I am a very strong supporter of UH Manoa Athletics. I know that UH Manoa has unique circumstances because it is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and has among the highest travel costs in the nation. It is also the only NCAA Division I collegiate athletic program that pays travel subsidies to its conference opponents to fly to Hawai'i.

According to the latest UH study, the economic impact of the UH Manoa Athletics Department in fiscal year 2013 – 2014 was \$66M in total direct spending on labor, goods and services that generated \$128M in local business sales, helped create 864 jobs and generated \$7M in state tax collections. The Department also added \$3.1M in tuition revenue from 200-plus non-scholarship athletes.

AKA, in partnership with the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the UH Athletics Department and the University of Hawaii Foundation, is working hard to drive revenues to UH Athletics by maximizing existing relationships with supporters of the programs (season ticket holders and boosters) as well as by seeking new revenue streams. AKA focuses its effort on broadening and deepening community engagement with UH athletics and seeks to do this by increasing and enriching the athletic programs' touch with their supporters through improved membership benefits for various programs, greater opportunities for fans to interface with coaches, student athletes or UH athletic facilities and finding new and better ways for fans to donate.

I strongly support helping the Manoa Athletics Program because it is such an important

component in our local pride and state economy and deserves to be supported by state revenues. SB 83 SD1 is a good step in this direction.

Thank you for your attention and time on this issue.

Go Bows!
Jon

JONATHAN A. KOBAYASHI
President & CEO
'Ahahui Koa Anuenue
H Club Athletic Fund
T (808) 956-4319
F (808) 956-4598
www.koaanuenue.org

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rachellem@mediabuyershawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:25:54 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachelle Hennings	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly oppose SB83. Taking funds away from non-profits, cultural events, and festivals that benefit our economic well-being of the State of Hawaii; it is unbelievable to give these non-profit funds to sports teams. Hawaii's number one economic industry TOURISM will suffer and jobs will be lost. Please do not vote in favor of this bill. Sincerely Rachelle Hennings-Newman

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: catherinetarleton@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:21:09 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CTarleton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: drfahy@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:18:10 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Fahy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This is wrong for Hawaii and all Hawaiian citizens. This guts the appeal of our beautiful islands for tourists when the money set aside for tourism is simply swept aside for an athletic program that cannot support itself. The athletic program at UH needs a complete overhaul and an attention to the detail of budget. Passing this bill will simply enable more bad decision making and continue the ridiculous pattern of immature and irresponsible management. Please do not pass this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dancerks@mail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:03:47 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Sullivan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: island.girl.rose@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 5:44:39 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Rose	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose SB83. The potential to take money away from non-profits, cultural events, and festivals that benefit the economic well-being of the State of Hawaii to give to sports teams is beyond comprehension. Tourism will suffer and jobs will be lost. Please do not vote in favor of this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: fweber@unfi.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 5:34:55 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franz Weber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this law, since it will affect the visitors industry negatively, and will cost the Hawaii taxpayer and businesses in all areas on all islands a multifold amount

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hchang@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:18:11 AM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Healani Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: [Samuel Schwartz](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS Testimony by Samuel Schwartz
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 10:27:03 PM

Testimony Presented To

Senate Ways and Means Committee [ADJUST FOR WHATEVER COMMITTEE(S)
HEARING IS FOR]

February 26, 2016

by

Samuel Schwartz

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

My name is Samuel Schwartz and I am a student-athlete at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH) on the Men's Golf team. I am submitting this testimony as an individual, not as part of UH, in support of the funding provided to the athletics department at UH in SB 83 SD1 to offset travel expenses and subsidies costs.

This is my freshman year here at UH Manoa. As a student-athlete I directly benefit from the athletics department and programs. I am very grateful for the opportunity to go to school and play sports at the highest collegiate level while representing UH and the people of the State of Hawaii.

My teammates and I appreciate the ability to travel and compete against the best schools in the country. We understand the extra costs the department has in covering these opportunities for us to travel. We appreciate these opportunities and know that support is needed to continue to cover the travel costs associated with our ability to compete at the highest levels.

No other school in the nation travels as much as us for any competition. Most of our opponents must be paid travel subsidies or guarantees for them to come to UH and play us. We know that life is not fair and having the extra expenses to cover travel costs to compete at home and away are part of being a Rainbow Warrior and Rainbow Wahine.

Our golf program has had recent success, my teammate Sky Inakoshi finished tied for 1st place at the John. A Burns Intercollegiate on Kauai this past week. Every year some of the top teams and individuals in college golf fly to our state to compete in competitive and prestigious events like this one. This is the first time that a UH golfer has won this event in its 40 year history. I have friends and family on the island and I hope to achieve similar success in front of them and share that success with them in the coming years.

SB 83 SD1 provides funds to UH in recognition of the higher travel expenses and subsidies costs faced by the school compared to our peers. SB 83 SD1 will help us to compete more equally and effectively with our peers who do not have the travel costs that we have.

I support the funding in SB 83 SD1 for the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Respectfully, I request that you approve SB 83 SD1. Thank you for the opportunities you have already provided, and thank you for any future ones which may come out of this bill.

Regards,

Samuel Kekoa Schwartz
Men's Golf

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:58:30 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Strongly Oppose

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Jack P. Suyderhoud, Ph.D.

Economist

7149 Kukii Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

Phone 808-342-6226; Fax 808-395-1876

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Friday, February 26, 2016 at 9:30am

By

Jack P. Suyderhoud, Ph.D., Economist

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committees:

I am submitting this personal testimony in support of the funding for the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) athletics program provided in SB 83, SD1. I am a professor of business economics at the Shidler College of Business at UHM. However, I am submitting this testimony as an individual. In doing so I am not speaking on behalf of the Shidler College or UHM. Rather, I am speaking as a professional economist who is also a fan of UHM sports. (My wife and I are season-ticket holders for Warrior football and members of the Na Koa booster club, and we also attend other UHM sports events.)

In my capacity as a professor of business economics, I supervised the 2014 economic impact study prepared for the UHM Athletics Department. The results of that study have been noted in various media outlets and are well summarized in UHM's official testimony on this bill, and hence I will not repeat these here. However, I do want to state that I stand by these economic impact estimates.

Instead, I will focus my remarks on how UHM Athletics supports an important economic objective for our state: *diversified tourism*. Much as diversified agriculture is increasingly important to Hawaii, *diversified tourism* is likewise crucial.

We are all aware that tourism is the largest driver of Hawaii's economy. Estimates published by the State Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism conclude that tourism is Hawaii's largest economic driver directly accounting for 16% of Hawaii's GDP, not counting indirect effects. That's one reason why our government supports tourism via infrastructure such as the Convention Center and events such as the Honolulu Marathon and the Pro-Bowl.

But tourism is also vulnerable to economic swings. The effects of the Great Recession still reverberate in our economic memories. Consider as an example December 2009. Statewide visitor arrivals were down by 14% relative to the same month in 2007. On December 5 of 2009, UH football hosted the Wisconsin Badgers. (We lost. Ugh!) But, it is estimated that the game brought at least 3,000 Wisconsin fans who most likely would not have come to Hawaii but for the game. At a time when tourists were desperately needed for our economy, UHM Athletics provided a compelling reason for more people to visit Hawaii.

Now. Let's look into the future. Suppose it is 2019 and the US economy is again in recession. The Jones family in Portland, Oregon and the Smith family in Tucson, Arizona are contemplating their vacation plans. Due to the recession, both families are thinking about staying close to home. However, the Jones's are Oregon State alums and football fans, and the Smith's are parents of the University of Arizona quarterback. They realize that their football teams play Hawaii in Honolulu. These games cause each family to make Hawaii their vacation choice for 2019.

In so doing, UHM Athletics is contributing to *diversifying* Hawaii's tourism sector and filling in low points. And, hotel maids, tour bus drivers, visitor attraction workers, waiters, bartenders and stadium workers all see higher incomes, and the State enjoys greater revenues.

I understand that the Legislature has to weigh many competing requests for funding and in the process has to evaluate the "returns on investment" of public funds. Given the competing needs, I do not pretend to know what choice is best. However, I do know that UHM Athletics has a positive economic impact on the state as evidenced in our economic impact study. I also know that UHM Athletics demonstrably contributes to *diversifying* Hawaii's economy.

For the reasons above, I respectfully request passage of SB 83, SD1, and thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

From: [Fink, John](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [Dave Matlin \(athdir@hawaii.edu\)](mailto:Dave.Matlin@hawaii.edu); [Joel Matsunaga](#)
Subject: Testimony on Senate Bill 83 Relating to Appropriations
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:13:50 AM

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

I, John Fink, would like to submit this testimony in support of the funding for the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletics program provided in SB 83, SD1. The bill appropriates funds for travel expenses and subsidies incurred for intercollegiate athletics teams at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The funds would help the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic department offset higher costs that are unique to Hawaii. The funds will provide needed support for the State's only Division I competitive collegiate athletics program which brings benefits to student-athletes, the institution, fans, the community, as well as the State through higher taxes collected, jobs, and spending.

I do not take a position on whether the source of the funding for the University of Hawaii athletics program should be from the tourism special fund or come from elsewhere, but the money must be spent for UH to remain competitive and be closer to parity financially with the acknowledged appropriations made to most of the other schools in the conferences in which UH competes in most sports- the Big West and the Mountain West- all of whom are subsidized by their respective states to a much higher degree than UH is currently funded.

Every year we see the mid-year headlines that UH athletics is once again in the red, and this bill specifically addresses onerous travel issues as one of the unique reasons that the University of Hawai'i, in this day and age of competitive collegiate sports, simply cannot make ends meet under the current set-up, nor should it be realistically expected to.

I respectfully request passage of SB 83, SD1, and thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

John L. Fink

General Manager

420 Waiakamilo Road, Suite #205 | Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Direct: 808.847.9328 | Fax: 808.847.9315 | Email: jfink@kfve.com

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Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

Jori-Anne Jasper



February 26, 2016; 9:30am

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi, and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

My name is Jori-Anne Jasper and I am a former Rainbow Wahine Softball student-athlete at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH). I am submitting this testimony in support of the funding provided to the athletics department at UH in SB 83 SD1 to offset travel expenses and subsidies costs

I was a student-athlete from 2009-2014 and currently attend UH Manoa as I pursue my JD/MBA degrees. I have and continue to directly benefit from the athletics department and programs. I was very grateful for the opportunity to go to school and play softball at the highest collegiate level while representing UH and the people of the State of Hawaii.

My former teammates and I appreciated the ability to travel and compete against the best schools in the country. We understood the extra costs the department had in covering these opportunities for us to travel. We appreciated those opportunities and knew that support was needed to continue to cover the travel costs associated with our ability to compete at the highest levels.

No other school in the nation travels as much as we did for any competition. Most of our opponents had to be paid travel subsidies or guarantees for them to come to UH and play us. We understood that life is not fair and having the extra expenses to cover travel costs to compete at home and away are part of being a Rainbow Warrior and Rainbow Wahine.

Being born and raised on Kauai, it was my dream to play at the University of Hawaii. I watched all UH sports on television and tried to emulate these student-athletes in hopes of one day being in their shoes. I worked hard to achieve good grades at Kauai High School to get into UH Manoa. I practiced everyday on the softball field in order to be given a shot to make the Rainbow Wahine Softball team. I wasn't awarded an athletics scholarship and instead was a "walk-on" for my five years on the softball team. Being a "walk-on" shows how much passion and dedication I have for the sport of softball and for the University of Hawaii. Without my participation on the softball team, my college experience would not have been the same and I truly believe I would not be where I am today.

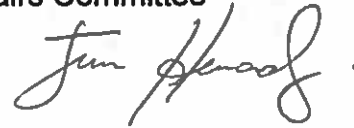
SB 83 SD1 provides funds to UH in recognition of the higher travel expenses and subsidies costs faced by the school compared to our peers. SB 83 SD1 will help us to compete more equally and effectively with our peers who do not have the travel costs that we have.

I support the funding in SB 83 SD1 for the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Respectfully, I request that you approve SB 83 SD1. Thank you for your time and for the consideration of this testimony.

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

By Jun Hernandez



February 26, 2016; 9:30am

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony which is in support of the funding provided to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program in SB 83 SD1 for travel expenses and subsidies.

I have been the head coach of the women's tennis program for the University of Hawaii, since 2006, I am however submitting the testimony as an individual and not in any official capacity at the UH Manoa athletics department.

The University of Hawaii is a unique and special place for all students and student-athletes to call their home. As a coach and employee of the University of Hawaii, I am hired to represent our university to the best of my ability. My duties are not limited to winning games and graduating my student-athletes. My student athletes, staff and I strive for excellence on and off the court. We do our best to represent the state of Hawaii in the best possible manner on the court. Our coaching staff is dedicated to do our best to make sure that we develop these student athletes to great role models and leaders in our community. I am aware of the financial hardships facing our state and our university and I take this challenge seriously. I do my best to cut costs, raise private funds and steward my resources within my program.

SB 83 SD1 will help the University of Hawaii at Manoa to be competitive in our conference and against elite teams around the nation. Passing this bill will help to continue to give opportunities to young deserving student athletes. Giving our student-athletes the opportunity to achieve their goals and dreams on and off the court helps develop these young adults to leaders in the state of Hawaii. These student-athletes will leave UH Manoa more confident and equipped to represent our beautiful university and state nationwide and internationally. Our athletics program brings pride and unity to our state. A winning program enriched with great tradition can help bring our citizens together and it inspires our kids to dream big and to achieve these dreams though hard work and dedication. SB 83 SD1 can continue to help our athletics department in this amazing role.

I respectfully request your passage of SB 83 SD1.

Testimony Presented To
Senate Ways and Means Committee
February 26, 2016
by
Katie Spieler

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

My name is Katie Spieler and I am a student-athlete at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH) on the beach volleyball team. I am submitting this testimony as an individual, not as part of UH, in support of the funding provided to the athletics department at UH in SB 83 SD1 to offset travel expenses and subsidies costs.

I have been attending UH since 2012. As a student-athlete I directly benefit from the athletics department and programs. I am very grateful for the opportunity to go to school and play sports at the highest collegiate level while representing UH and the people of the State of Hawaii.

My teammates and I appreciate the ability to travel and compete against the best schools in the country. We understand the extra costs the department has in covering these opportunities for us to travel. We appreciate these opportunities and know that support is needed to continue to cover the travel costs associated with our ability to compete at the highest levels.

No other school in the nation travels as much as us for any competition. Most of our opponents must be paid travel subsidies or guarantees for them to come to UH and play us. We know that life is not fair and having the extra expenses to cover travel costs to compete at home and away are part of being a Rainbow Warrior and Rainbow Wahine.

Playing for the University of Hawaii has been the most unique and valuable experience of my life. Both my aunt and my uncle played volleyball for the University of Hawaii and now being able to represent the state of Hawaii playing the sport I love is a blessing. No other collegiate athletes play for a whole state, let alone the beautiful state of Hawaii. This uniqueness comes with challenges, such as extensive travel. We prepare for this travel through intensive training throughout our preseason, however, we need more funds to help our program continue to compete for a National Championship in beach volleyball. Currently, we do a fundraiser every year that our volunteer assistant coach thought up about three years ago. This fundraiser is a Portuguese horseshoe tournament that my coaches work countless hours preparing for. The funds for this have helped us bring competitive schools, such as USC and Pepperdine, here to Hawaii so we can play them at home. If it was not for this fundraiser, we would not have funds to play at home or travel. Although this fundraiser is great, it is not a sustainable and stable means of funds.

SB 83 SD1 provides funds to UH in recognition of the higher travel expenses and subsidies costs faced by the school compared to our peers. SB 83 SD1 will help us to compete more equally and effectively with our peers who do not have the travel costs that we have.

I support the funding in SB 83 SD1 for the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Respectfully, I request that you approve SB 83 SD1. Thank you for your time and for the consideration of this testimony.

Katie Spieler
Beach Volleyball Captain
Class of 2016

To: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill. N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

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

Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Senator J.Kalani English, Chair

Date: Friday, February 26, 2016

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 211

Support SB83 SD1- Relating to Appropriations

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kalani and members of the committees,

My name is Kellie Iwasaki and I am from Hilo but currently a student studying Public Health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am in support of SB83 to allocate funds in the fiscal year 2016-2017 to the UHM athletics program. As a student I currently pay established \$50 athletic fee that was imposed in 2011. I attend the athletic games and am a proud Mānoa Maniac that sits in the student section. Personally feel that I, and the university benefits from being a NCAA Division I school as being the closest to a professional sports team here in Hawai'i.

UHM athletics has also proposed a fee increase of \$12.50 over the next four years so in 2020 students will be paying \$100 for an athletic fee. With roughly 20,000 enrolled students equals around 2 million dollars each year. Most of the funding for athletics comes from outside donors and supporters. There is already opposition of this fee increase from surveys that have been done with 70-80% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing to a fee increase.

One item that has been noted is the fee increase proposal is done in conjunction with this bill. Some students including myself are eagerly waiting for the decision if Hawai'i's government will support athletics. With this bill, the committee has the power to show students if the State is supporting our team, so should we as students.

UHM's athletic department operates on a much lower budget than many of our Benchmark Institutions according to Athletic Director Matlin. Our athletes perform exceptionally despite a financial disparity. Our men's basketball team was able to beat UC Irvine the number 1 ranked team this year, our volleyball teams also have a record of winning their conferences and our swimmers won the championship in their conference last year.

Supporting this bill SB83 SD1 not only impacts the athletes but the entire student population and Hawai'i in its entirety. I believe this bill would help the athletes travel but also have rippling effects to increase school and state pride in our athletic teams. Being from Hilo, I would watch

the games going on at Stan Sheriff from our TV cheering on the Rainbow Warriors. Athletics holds a special place in Hawai'i's culture and I am proud to be attending the university now to further my academics and help me gain the skills I need to enter the professional world.

Please support our athletics team and university! Again I support SB83 SD1 and ask that you will too. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Mahalo,
Kellie Iwasaki
iwasaki8@hawaii.edu
(808)987-4931

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committees on
Ways and Means
and
Higher Education and the Arts
and
Tourism and International Affairs
February 26, 2016 at Conference Room 211 at 9:30 a.m.
By
Kent R. Youel

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 83 SD1.

I am a 25 year UH fan, H Club season package holder, athletic scholarship donor and active fundraiser having served on both the AKA board and the UH Foundation Board of Trustees. I am also a long time volunteer with the Hawaii Bowl and I'm a member of the Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic Steering Committee. I am very familiar with the capabilities and needs of the UH Athletic Department.

Governor Burns had it right when he felt the State of Hawaii deserved a "first rate" university and that included a quality athletic program that carries the flag of Hawaii in competition with our fellow 50 states. ***Governor Burns knew being 2,500 miles from our nearest competition meant additional support from the state would always be a burden Hawaii would have to shoulder, but he felt the people of Hawaii deserved such support.***

Burn's fought to get Hawaii into the WAC because he understood the necessity of being in a conference. **Mainland conferences have made it mandatory that UH provide travel subsidies for their teams or they simply won't allow our membership. "A requirement no other team in America has to meet". There is no turning back on this requirement ever!!!**

I don't think the people of Hawaii would ever accept the idea that the State of Hawaii can't afford to provide ample support for one Division I team to represent us. Just look at what our neighbor states are doing: Nevada (2 - teams), Utah (3- teams despite competition from BYU), Idaho (2 –teams), New Mexico (2 teams), Oregon (2-teams), Washington (2 – teams), etc.

Our teams have shown, when properly supported, they can compete with the finest teams in the country. We currently have less state funding, as a percentage of the athletic budget, than the majority of teams in both the Mountain West and the Big West. This, despite these teams not having the additional travel burden requirement we have.

I wish to make just two final thoughts for your consideration. The national attention and TV coverage our teams get is invaluable to our tourist economy. Also, the morale boost to all of Hawaii's people when one of our teams does well is "Priceless". **This is not a university issue; it's a State of Hawaii issue.**

Thank you for allowing my testimony and considering my thoughts.

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

By Laura Beeman

February 26, 2016; 9:30am

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony which is in support of the funding provided to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program in SB 83 SD1 for travel expenses and subsidies.

I have been the Head Women's Basketball coach for the University of Hawaii, since 2012 and have a vested interest in SB 83 SD1. I am however submitting the testimony as an individual and not in any official capacity at the UH Manoa athletics department.

The University of Hawaii is a unique and special place for all students and student-athletes to call their home. As a coach and employee of the University of Hawaii, I am hired to win games, graduate my student-athletes and develop them into young adults the state of Hawaii will be proud of. I am very aware of the financial hardships facing our state and our university and I take this challenge seriously. I do my best to cut costs, raise private funds and steward my resources within my program.

Not only will SB 83 SD1 help to level the playing field between the University of Hawaii at Manoa and its peers, more importantly it will help to continue to give "opportunity" to our student-athletes. I cannot quantify "opportunity", I only know it exists and its power is immeasurable. Giving student-athletes the opportunity to achieve their goals and dreams on and off the court/field creates young adults our state can be proud of. These student-athletes will leave UH Manoa more confident and equipped to represent our beautiful university and state nationwide and internationally. An athletics program brings pride and unity to a state and it's people more than most things. A winning program enriched with great tradition can bring a community to its knees or to its feet!! SB 83 SD1 can continue to help our athletics department in this amazing role.

While I support the funding to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program provided in SB 83 SD1, I am not taking a position on the appropriateness of the bill's source of the funds - - the tourism special fund. I believe that the appropriateness of the source of funding will be better discussed by those with more knowledge in that area than myself.

I respectfully request your passage of SB 83 SD1.

Testimony for the Senate Ways and Means Committee
and Higher Education and the Arts and Tourism and International Affairs
February 26 2016
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211
By Laretta Sewake (aka UH Volleyball Aunty)

IN SUPPORT OF SB 83, SD1 – Relating to Appropriations

Aloha to Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committees:

I am hereby submitting testimony in strong support of SB 83 SD1 that appropriates \$3 million for travel expenses and subsidies for the UH Manoa Athletics Department.

I am a strong supporter of the UH Manoa Athletics program. I am from Wahiawa. People in the broad community know me as one of the UH Volleyball Aunties, the group that makes and provides leis for all of the UH Men's and Women's volleyball players, UH coaches, media commentators, as well as the opposing team players and coaches. The Aunties have been doing this for the past 17 years now as we truly believe in the benefits of the UH Athletics program and our players. This is one way that we share our Hawaii Aloha with all who participate in UH Athletics, including our visitors. The UH Athletics program develops character, discipline, and leadership in these young adults who are Hawaii's future. It is also a symbol of pride and it brings our community together in a positive and motivating way. Economically speaking, it has brought in millions of dollars in spending, has created hundreds of jobs, and even state tax revenues of \$7 million.

The UH Athletics program needs this assistance because of Hawaii's location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and therefore, it has the highest costs for travel in the country. It is imperative that the program gets the assistance necessary to support such a wonderful program. What the program brings to the people of Hawaii, and to our many visitors alike, is well worth the \$3 million assistance because it is Hawaii's pride and joy, but also brings significant economic benefits in return.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your attention to this matter!

To: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill. N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

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

Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Senator J. Kalani English, Chair

Date: Friday, February 26, 2016

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211

Re: Support of SB 83 SD1 Relating to Appropriations

My name is Madisyn Uekawa and I am a local student-athlete at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM) on the swim team. I submit this testimony as an individual – not as part of UHM – in support of the funding provided to the UHM Athletics Department in SB 83 SD1 to offset travel expenses and subsidies costs.

I have been attending UHM since Fall 2013, and as a student-athlete, I directly benefit from the athletics department and its programs. There are no words to truly express how grateful I am for the opportunity to go to school here and compete at the highest collegiate level while representing UHM and the people of the State of Hawaii. Simply, I am beyond proud to be a Rainbow Wahine.

My teammates and I appreciate the ability to travel and compete against the best schools in the nation, but we also understand there are extra costs placed upon the athletics department in order for us to be given these travel opportunities. We appreciate these opportunities and view them as privileges. Nevertheless, we are aware that support is needed to continue to cover costs associated with travel expenses and our ability to compete at the highest levels.

No other school in the country travels as much as us for competitions. Most of our opponents must be paid travel-subsidies or guarantees for them to come to UH and play us. Ultimately, we know that life is not fair, but having the extra expenses to cover travel costs to compete at home and away are part of being a Rainbow Warrior and Rainbow Wahine.

Growing up in Hawai'i, I know that UHM sports are embedded within the culture. There are no professional sports in Hawai'i, and I have witnessed our programs bring local people together. I want to see UHM sports continue to thrive, and I can only hope you do too. UHM Athletics is home to many student-athletes, and together we are a family – an ohana. Please allow us to continue to be one and continue to represent the State of Hawai'i.

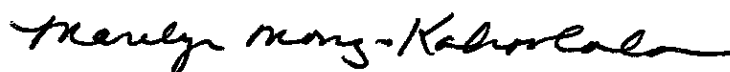
SB 83 SD1 provides funds to UHM in recognition of the higher travel expenses and subsidies costs faced by the school compared to our peers. SB 83 SD1 will help us to compete more equally and effectively with other collegiate teams who do not have the same travel costs that we have.

Again, I support the funding in SB 83 SD1 for the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and sincerely request its approval. Thank you for your time and for the consideration of this testimony.

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

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

Marilyn Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano



February 26, 2016; 9:30am

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony which is in support of the funding provided to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletics program in SB 83 SD1 for travel expenses and subsidies.

While I am the Associate Athletics Director/Senior Woman Administrator for the University of Hawaii, I am submitting this testimony as an individual.

I have been a part of the athletics program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa since 1989 and was privileged to play for UH from 1972-1976, graduating in American Studies, and earning a law degree in 1979. I am a Title IX beneficiary and UH's first female four-year letter winner. Our Student-Athletes are the pride and joy of the state of Hawaii and the community of Hawaii and our head coaches are mentors and role models for the Student-Athletes, who are leaders in their own right. It is very important to have a strong, viable intercollegiate athletics program to empower our young girls and boys as they aspire to be the best they can be. During my time at the school, it has been my privilege to work with students, the community, fans, administrators and others to build a program that the University of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii could be proud of.

As administrator, we are responsible for doing our best to meet the mission of University of Hawaii at Manoa athletics for our student-athletes, the school, our community and the State of Hawaii. We appreciate the resources that are made available for each of our individual sports and do our best to supplement the funds provided by the Athletic Department with externally raised funds whether from boosters, golf tournaments, fundraising dinners or other events.

As an administrator in the athletics department, I experience the challenge the school has dealing with the higher travel and subsidies costs that are unique to Hawaii. SB 83 SD1 will help to level the playing field between the University of

Hawaii at Manoa and its peers and contribute to a strong healthy athletic program.

I believe that the appropriateness of the source of funding will be better discussed by those with more knowledge in that area than myself. As a result, I am not taking a position on the source of the funding proposed in SB 83 SD1.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. I respectfully request your passage of SB 83 SD1.

Testimony Presented to
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

By Michele A. Nagamine
February 26, 2016 at 9:30am

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the funding provided to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program in SB 83 SD1 for travel expenses and subsidies. I am the head soccer coach for the University of Hawaii, but am submitting this testimony as an individual, rather than in any official capacity.

I have been a part of the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program since January 2011. I left a rewarding, lucrative job in the tourism industry to coach the Rainbow Wahine soccer team because I understand the importance of our University to our State. I wanted to make a positive impact in the lives of young women because I believe that athletics is a vehicle to help them become better people and members of our community.

I fundraise throughout the year to supplement our budget so that we can send our athletes to summer school, upgrade our equipment and provide a student athlete experience at UH that our kids deserve. My team has a travel roster of 24. I need to make 4 trips at year at almost \$27,000 for each trip. These higher travel and subsidies costs are unique to only the University of Hawaii. SB 83 SD1 will help to level the playing field between the University of Hawaii at Manoa and its peers. The bill will make a significant contribution in allowing the University of Hawaii at Manoa's athletic program to remain competitive and an important part of the community, and a strong representative of Hawaii nationwide and internationally.

While I support the funding to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program provided in SB 83 SD1, I am not taking a position on the appropriateness of the bill's source of the funds - - the tourism special fund.

I respectfully request your passage of SB 83 SD1. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Michele A. Nagamine

Written Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee

By Mike Trapasso

February 26, 2016; 9:30am

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

I am respectfully submitting this written testimony in support of the funding provided to the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletic program in SB 83 SD1 for travel expenses and subsidies.

I am currently in my fifteenth year as the Head Baseball Coach at the University of Hawaii. It is an honor and privilege to coach such fine young men, and to do so at such a fine institution. But at this time, I am submitting this testimony as an individual, not in any official capacity.

As coaches, administrators, supporters, etc., I strongly feel it is our responsibility to create an atmosphere where greatness can be pursued, by our student athletes. We supply them, as best we can, with the resources that allow them to succeed on the athletic field, in the classroom, in our community. There is no greater task in my mind, than doing all we can to help our young men and women see their hard work pay off with positive results. All while representing the State of Hawaii well.

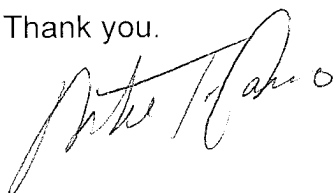
In trying to make their dreams a reality, we use several avenues for fundraising. In fact, our baseball team raises significant amounts that go directly toward the operating expenses of our program...in excess of \$150,000 per year. Yet it still remains a challenge to stay on a "level playing field" with our competition.

SB 83 SD1 is a great opportunity for the University of Hawaii to remain competitive with the schools and programs we are recruiting against. And it will allow the athletic department to continue to put a product on the field that our community can be proud of. It is no secret that the inherent issues with travel bring unique obstacles to our success. SB 83 SD1 can help with those obstacles.

I am not in a position to state whether the tourism special fund is the appropriate source for the funds. I will leave the discussion of the source of funds to others with more knowledge in that area.

I respectfully request your passage of SB 83 SD1.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Trapasso", is written over the typed name "Mike Trapasso". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a trailing flourish.

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
Senate Tourism and International Affairs Committee
February 26, 2016; 9:30am

by
Nick Rolovich

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chairs Tokuda, Taniguchi and English, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

My name is Nick Rolovich and I am respectfully submitting this testimony in support of SB 83 SD1 which would provide the University of Hawaii at Manoa athletics department with funding for travel expenses and subsidies.

While I am the Head Football Coach at the University of Hawaii, I am presenting this testimony as an individual and not in any official capacity with the school.

I have had the privilege and honor of being associated with the University of Hawaii athletic program for a good part of my life. Initially it was as a student athlete on the Warrior Football team followed by opportunities to participate as part of the coaching staff. After being away from Hawaii for a number of years, I was given the opportunity to return the University of Hawaii as its Head Football Coach. Not only is it an opportunity for me to return to my alma mater that provided so much to me when I was a student athlete, but it is an opportunity for my family and I to return to the place that we consider home.

I recently returned to Hawaii from coaching at the University of Nevada in Reno for a few years. After playing and coaching in Hawaii and then coaching in Nevada, I have seen the inequities that SB 83 SD1 is proposing to address. For example, when Nevada came to Hawaii, the University of Hawaii had to pay Nevada a travel subsidy to offset its travel costs to the islands. Conversely, when the University of Hawaii traveled to Nevada to play at Reno, it did not receive any travel subsidy and was required to bear the full cost of its travel. In addition, when the University of Nevada football team traveled for its away games, the distances traveled and the costs incurred were a fraction of what the University of Hawaii was required to incur.

SB 83 SD1 will help to offset the higher costs that the University of Hawaii currently incurs for travel expenses and subsidies. SB 83 SD1 will allow the school to use those funds that would have gone for those costs, to be used for other purposes which will help the athletic program be more competitive with its peer programs on the mainland.

Importantly, SB 83 SD1 will also demonstrate a strong commitment by the State to the health of its only Division I athletic program. I can state from first-hand experience that much has been written and reported about the possible closing of athletic programs at the University of Hawaii due to continue budget deficits. As my staff has gone out to recruit student athletes to come to Hawaii, they have had recruits tell them that competing schools were telling the

athletes that the school is not supported and was in danger of closing its athletic programs. Unfortunately, we do know that we have lost a few recruits that could have significantly helped our football program because of what is being said about the University of Hawaii's fiscal situation. SB 83 SD1 could be a vital signal to recruits and competing schools that Hawaii does support and is committed to the athletic programs at the University of Hawaii. SB 83 SD1 can make a significant difference for the University of Hawaii.

I respectfully request passage of SB 83 SD1. Thank you for your time and this opportunity to present this testimony.

Go Warriors!

From: [Randall Kawano](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 83 SD1
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 3:35:03 PM

As a graduate of the University of Hawaii and an avid supporter of UH athletics, I support passage of this bill.

In the interest of time, as it may already be too late for this to be given due consideration, I will state that:

UH sports may not be the only game in town, but it's the biggest game in town and I believe having a good athletics program directly helps the University as a whole.

Our location in the Pacific Ocean results in higher expense versus mainland schools and travel is required and trying to recoup the necessary funds through tuition increases, only makes things tougher for local residents.

UH needs our help and I believe that money to help UH athletics to the fullest extent possible has a direct and positive impact to tourism as well. People from across the country come to Hawaii, both to support their teams as well as to enjoy Hawaii as a premier vacation destination. It's not about taking money away from tourism, it's making sure the money spent will help tourism and I firmly believe this will.

Thank you.

Randall Kawano
1981 BBA - accounting

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lho@hawaiiublicpolicy.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB83 on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 3:26:35 PM

SB83

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for WAM/HEA/TSI on Feb 26, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Teves	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Stephen Teves and I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii-Manoa as an undergraduate and of the William S. Richardson School of Law. During my time at UH, athletics played a major role in the life of the students. It brought the student body AND the state together, whether it was at Aloha Stadium, Klum Gym, Les Murakami stadium, Stan Sheriff Arena. I studied along side our wonderful student-athletes and shared the pride of their successes with them and rest of the State of Hawaii. Along with being an economic plus to the state, athletics is OUR team and needs OUR support. Along with private donors and ticket buyers, I would like to thank the Legislature for hearing SB 83, SD 1 as a mechanism to help fund UH Athletics and to make UH Athletics the best it can be as we cheer on OUR student-athletes as they represent OUR State and make us proud of OUR team. Mahalo for your consideration and respectfully request that you move this measure forward.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: [Kacy Johnson](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB83 Testimony
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 2:40:33 PM

Testimony Presented To

Senate Ways and Means Committee [ADJUST FOR WHATEVER COMMITTEE(S)
HEARING IS FOR]

February 26, 2016

by

Kacy Johnson

SB 83 SD1 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

My name is Kacy Johnson and I am a student-athlete at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH) on the Men's Swimming and Diving team. I am submitting this testimony as an individual, not as part of UH, in support of the funding provided to the athletics department at UH in SB 83 SD1 to offset travel expenses and subsidies costs.

I have been attending UH since Fall of 2012. As a student-athlete I directly benefit from the athletics department and programs. I am very grateful for the opportunity to go to school and play sports at the highest collegiate level while representing UH and the people of the State of Hawaii.

My teammates and I appreciate the ability to travel and compete against the best schools in the country. We understand the extra costs the department has in covering these opportunities for us to travel. We appreciate these opportunities and know that support is needed to continue to cover the travel costs associated with our ability to compete at the highest levels.

No other school in the nation travels as much as us for any competition. Most of our opponents must be paid travel subsidies or guarantees for them to come to UH and play us.

We know that life is not fair and having the extra expenses to cover travel costs to compete at home and away are part of being a Rainbow Warrior and Rainbow Wahine.

Attending UH Manoa was a decision I made for myself. I was given the opportunity to attend larger and more prestigious institutions, but chose to stay home in order to help develop our local community. Student-athletes have such a large impact on people and their surroundings; we try our best to become ambassadors of Aloha. When we travel we are a reflection of the state and our university, it is critical that we are financially capable to compete both away and at home. Many of us are not on scholarship, yet choose to compete and train to represent both the university and state. I wanted to impact the environment around me and grow the vision of Hawaii in the eyes of others.

SB 83 SD1 provides funds to UH in recognition of the higher travel expenses and subsidies costs faced by the school compared to our peers. SB 83 SD1 will help us to compete more equally and effectively with our peers who do not have the travel costs that we have.

I support the funding in SB 83 SD1 for the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Respectfully, I request that you approve SB 83 SD1. Thank you for your time and for the consideration of this testimony.