



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 2:01 p.m.

By
Dr. Lori M. Ideta
Vice Chancellor for Students
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 967 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

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

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

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa currently has 6.5 faculty positions, 1 temporary faculty position, 3 post-doc therapists, 3 doctoral interns, and 2 doctoral practicum trainees. The total number of students serviced each year continues to increase. In the 2015-16 school year, the University had serviced approximately 1,300 students for close to 8,000 attended appointments. From August 01, 2016-February 02, 2017, we have, so far, serviced 906 students with a total of 3,927 attended appointments. Additionally, the number of times students have sought services range from one intake appointment to over 30 individual therapy appointments.

On average, there are 36 hours each week dedicated to intakes, 40 hours of emergency Blue Line, and over 170 psychotherapy appointments available to undergraduate and graduate students. In the Fall 2015 semester, 559 intake appointments were scheduled, 296 emergency Blue Line appointments were scheduled, and 2,591 therapy appointments were scheduled. Notably, during the Fall 2016 semester, there was one day 10 urgent students did walk-in crisis counseling – 6 of which were in the afternoon alone.

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

of 16.06 days. As of February 02, 2017, 43 students are on the waitlist with 9.76 average number of days on the list. Currently, the upper limit of time spent on the waitlist includes 1 client on for 91 days, 1 client on for 76 days, 1 client on for 74 days, and 1 client on for 72 days. The current wait time for an initial intake appointment is 5 calendar days and majority of our clients are assigned a therapist within 21 calendar days.

The demand for mental health services have increased across the country. According to data from the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment Fall 2014 Reference Group within the last 12 months, 54% felt overwhelming anxiety, 32.6% felt so depressed that it was difficult to function, and 8.1% seriously considered suicide. In the Spring 2015 Reference Group, 56.9% felt overwhelming anxiety, 34.5% felt so depressed it was difficult to function, and 8.9% seriously considered suicide. In the Fall 2015 Reference Group, 57.7% felt overwhelming anxiety, 35.3% felt so depressed it was difficult to function, and 9.6% seriously considered suicide. This data continues to increase being that in the Spring 2016 Reference Group, 58.4% felt overwhelming anxiety, 36.7% felt so depressed it was difficult to function, and 9.8% seriously considered suicide.

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Chair Woodson
House Committee on Higher Education

HB 967

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 2:01 p.m.

By

Allyson M. Tanouye, Ph.D.
Director and Chief Psychologist
Counseling and Student Development Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee,

My name is Allyson M. Tanouye and I am the Director and Chief Psychologist at the Counseling and Student Development Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing to fully support HB 967 that establishes three (3) full-time psychologists and one (1) full-time case manager at the Counseling and Student Development Center.

In Fall 2016, I celebrated 25 years of service at the Center in a variety of roles including licensed psychologist faculty, program coordinator, and Director. Over the past eight to ten years, we have seen a tremendous increase in the number of students requesting psychological support and developmental services while pursuing their undergraduate or graduate studies. The presenting concerns that students bring to the Center and its impact on their daily functioning has also changed dramatically. Anxiety and mood disorders are common among the student population and many are on psychotropic medication to ease their symptoms. A large number of college students experience the first occurrence of mental health and substance use problems. For others, the stress of academic pressures and college life exacerbates their existing symptoms.

Across the nation and here at home, university counseling centers professionals are seeing more severe psychological problems including self-injury, suicidal ideation and attempts, coping with sexual assault, eating disorders, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and autism spectrum disorders. It is clear that there is growing demand for psychological services and a need for specialized expertise in working with both traditional and non-traditional college students. Unfortunately, the increase in demand for mental health services has not corresponded with an increase in professional staff.

Consultation with faculty, staff, and administration on students of concern is also on the rise. Partnering with parents, friends, and university personnel to get a distressed student to the Center has become more common and while successful, it adds to our heavy client load. At times during the fall and spring semester when we have 40+ individuals on our non-urgent waitlist, we find ourselves stretched thin and some may experience symptoms of therapist burnout. The Center staff is passionate about working with the diverse student population at the UHM campus and they provide highly specialized and quality service. The clinical work is intense, 50-minute individual psychotherapy sessions and 90-minute group therapy sessions is the norm. Each full-time psychologist/staff therapist serves as the emergency crisis counselor for four hours each

week, ready to see individuals who walk-in with urgent matters to discuss or field phone calls from faculty/staff, family members, and/or friends/roommates who are concerned about a student. Augmenting our clinical staff will not only increase our team efforts across clinical and services, it will enhance our prevention and post-vention services, outreach and consultation, program development, and training of university personnel and psychologists-in-training,

In summary, the passing of HB 967 will have far-reaching benefits to students. The Center will be able to offer more individual therapy appointments, group therapy options, intake appointments slots, and emergency crisis coverage and intervention. Faculty, staff, and administrators would have additional hours of mental health consultation, training on identifying distressed students and referral resources, and direct outreach/intervention to students of concern. The entire campus community will benefit from a reinforced mental health infrastructure and an enhanced and comprehensive array of clinical and developmental services to support and retain students throughout their academic tenure at UHM.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB 967.

Allyson M. Tanouye, Ph.D.
Counseling and Student Development Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
2600 Campus Road, QLC 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
(808) 956-7927

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2016
Time: 2:01 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

Re: HB 967 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee(s):

My name is Shanda Delos Reyes and I am currently serving as one of the Senators on ASUH's 104th Senate, representing the College of Arts and Sciences and acting as the Legislative Fellow during this session. As an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa I am writing in strong support of HB 967, which appropriates funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

As one of the elected voices of UHM's undergraduate populations I am here today to relay the gravity of the effects this bill would have towards our school's Counseling and Student Development Center. According to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health 2015 Annual Report, the average growth in number of students seeking services at counseling centers (+29.6%) was more than five times the growth rate of institutional enrollment (+5.6%). As it stands today, our center staffs 4 Psychologists, 2 Psychiatrists, 7 Staff Therapists, 3 Interns, and 1 Practicum Student. Unfortunately, according to national standards the ratio of psychologists to the student population, is not met for our center. With UH's backlog on deferred maintenance it would seem that not only our resources, buildings, are not up to date, but our student services are also suffering.

Mental health is highly stigmatized in our society, where a significant amount students will not seek the professional services that would allow them to address with this issues in a healthy and productive manner. The time students spend at university is profoundly hectic and can affect them disproportionately due to the nature of balancing school, work, and their interpersonal relationships. From my personal experience of managing internships, classes, 2 jobs and extracurriculars and dealing with severe anxiety and bipolar disorder throughout my life, I can attest to the work UH's Counseling and Student Development Center in the work they've provided in helping me manage these issues to where my time at Mānoa could be continued in the most productive manner.

With that, I humbly ask that the committee please stand with our students in supporting this bill and increased mental health services. Mental health is just as important as physical health.

Thank you all for your time.

Respectfully submitted,
Shanda Delos Reyes



David B. Enriquez
Chairperson
ASUH Committee On External Affairs

February 7, 2017

Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Chairperson
Committee on Higher Education
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Hashem and Members,

I am submitting testimony in my capacity as the ASUH Committee on External Affairs Chairperson for strong support of HB 967, which appropriates moneys for the University of Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

Currently, the UHM Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC) employs only seven and a half tenured track psychologists' positions. This has caused a backlog of students in need of psychotherapy services estimated from five days to two and a half weeks. A wait this long only shows the negligence of the university to help foster an environment of student success.

It is to my understanding that national guidelines require a ratio of one licensed psychologist per every one thousand to one thousand five hundred college students. While this bill would increase the CSDC's capacity to service, it would be just shy of meeting this standard. However, I feel that it would be appropriate and prudent to take incremental steps towards reaching this goal.

I know that we can all agree that a student's success is essential to a thriving university and HB 967 would help to foster student success by providing ample resources for dealing with mental health issues, such as stress, depression, and anxiety.

Therefore, I strongly recommend that this bill does pass through the Committee on High Education.

Sincerely,

David B. Enriquez
Chairperson, Committee on External Affairs
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

CHAIR JUSTIN WOODSON
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

HOUSE BILL 967: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Tuesday, February 7, 2017
2:01PM
House Conference Room 309

Hannah Im
Personal Testimony

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Hashem, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Hannah Im and I am a Staff Psychologist at the Counseling & Student Development Center (CSDC) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH-Mānoa). However, I am submitting personal testimony to support HB 967, which would appropriate moneys for UH-Mānoa to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

As a counselor at the CSDC, I have seen a marked increase in the mental health concerns of students on campus. We are a very well utilized and essential service on campus, and I have come to see the importance of investing more and more into the work that we do. I fully support the increase in our staff psychologists' positions at the Center. We are simply unable to meet all of the increasing demands with the current staff that we have. We have had to place students in need on our waitlist, which could easily be resolved if we had more staff available to provide quality mental health services.

In closing, I am in support of the bill to hire three psychologists and one case manager.

Thank you for your time and again, and I humbly ask that you support and pass HB 967.

Hannah Im, PsyD
Staff Psychologist
hannahim@hawaii.edu

CHAIR JUSTIN WOODSON
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Tuesday, February 7, 2017
2:01PM
House Conference Room 309

Richard Mizusawa
Personal Testimony

RE: HOUSE BILL 967: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Hashem, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Richard Mizusawa and I am a Junior Faculty Specialist/Coordinator of Communication & Program Development at the Counseling & Student Development Center (CSDC) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH-Mānoa). However, I am submitting personal testimony to support HB 967, which would appropriate moneys for UH-Mānoa to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

We have seen over the years a rise in students requesting and needing mental health services, not only on our campus, but across the country. College counseling centers nationally address and work with students on issues ranging from anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, and more. When I was a student at UH-Mānoa, I personally have dealt with stress, anxiety, and sometimes felt that I needed support that the CSDC could provide. As an advocate and feel a strong passion for students, I understand and can empathize with those who need these services and our office could use any help we can get to lower the wait list we currently have.

Although I may not work as a counselor in my office, I personally have seen the time and efforts that my colleagues put in to serve our students, and sometimes even after ours through our Counselor-in-Residence Program. To have witnessed a friend of mine needing professional help during the evening on a school night was not only difficult to experience, but made me realize even more of the importance of having access and more psychologists that can address the mental health issues that many students face. We may not see it, but for many, no matter how minor or significantly strong, deal with some level of mental health issue that should be addressed in a timely manner.

Thank you for your time and again, and I humbly ask that you support and pass HB 967.



Richard Mizusawa
ramizusawa@gmail.com

Testimony to the House Committee on Higher Education

To: Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Re: HB 967 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Time: 2:01 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 967. My name is Lauren Howerton and I am currently a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work Distance Education program. I am testifying in favor of HB 967 which would improve student access to mental health services by appropriating monies for 3 full-time psychologist positions and 1 full-time case manager position on the Manoa campus.

I received my bachelors in Psychology from the University in 2014 during which time I attended classes at the Manoa campus. As someone who has always placed an importance on the care of my mental health I struggled to access information and schedule appointments at the campus health center in the little free time I had. Oftentimes I was told I would be unable to see a doctor or therapist until at least 4 weeks from the day I had called. This is unacceptable in a field such as mental health when hours and days can make a difference in serious circumstances.

College can be a tough time especially in terms of mental health. Many students are dealing with the stress of school, jobs, and relationships, all while making the transition from adolescence to adulthood. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) states that "college-age adults are especially susceptible to behavioral health conditions as 50% of all lifetime mental health disorders start by the mid-teen years and 75% by the mid-twenties".

SAMSHA suggests that universities work to increase protective factors that promote mental health for students. As someone who has experienced first-hand the struggle of accessing mental health services on the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus, I support this bill which aims to do just that. I believe that the addition of mental health provider positions would be a step in the right direction for the University and the well-being of its students.

Again, I thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Lauren Howerton
PO Box 1433
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 5:31 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: aurasaki@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB967 on Feb 7, 2017 14:01PM

HB967

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of this measure. Mahalo.

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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CHAIR JUSTIN WOODSON
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

HOUSE BILL 967: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Tuesday, February 7, 2017
2:01PM
House Conference Room 309

Joel Gaffney
Personal Testimony

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Hashem, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Joel Gaffney and I am a Staff Therapist at the Counseling & Student Development Center (CSDC) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). Here, I am submitting personal testimony in support of HB 967. I believe that the appropriated moneys in the bill affording CSDC with three psychologists and one case manager would significantly improve mental health support for UHM students.

Here at the CSDC, although we are often faced with a growing list of students awaiting mental health treatment because we do not have the resources to treat them. Especially given that the students themselves have demonstrated courage enough to reach out and get the help they need, our difficulties helping them quickly is unfortunate at the very least, and dangerous at worst. However, I also firmly believe that our staff is very capable and working very hard to meet the needs of all students. We simply do not have the resources to meet the mental health needs of the UHM student population. Speaking for myself, I am often carrying an overly full caseload, work across different modalities of treatment (individual, group, workshop, etc.), moving people through courses of treatment efficiently, and taking on new clients as quickly as possible. I know that this is also the case for my co-workers, but our efforts to meet demand often feel like we are bailing water in a sinking canoe using a teaspoon. We need more people.

Having three more staff would have a tremendously positive impact on our ability as a staff to meet the mental health needs of UHM students. In addition, a case worker would help us manage increasing demand more efficiently, getting people in distress assigned to appropriate clinicians more seamlessly. Appropriating moneys for these positions, in my opinion, is most definitely needed given increasing demand for mental health needs. Having them funded would demonstrate the State's and University's commitments to the mental health needs of UHM students.

Thank you very much for your time. In supporting the needs of UHM students, I respectfully ask that you support and pass HB 967.

Joel Gaffney
jgaffney@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:48 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: tsakamoto1@honolulu.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB967 on Feb 7, 2017 14:01PM*

HB967

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Councilmember Brandon Elefante	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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To: Committee on Higher Education
Chair Woodson
Vice Chair Hashem

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2017
Time: 2:01 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

Re: Support of HB 967 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Jessica Chen and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am writing in strong support of HB 967 and its companion bill, SB 1164, which appropriates funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

As a pre-medical student, I have seen many of my peers stressed and tired due to hours of studying and lack of sleep. As you well know, the track to medical school is no easy task. Many of my friends panic over whether or not to pursue medicine. I have seen students who ultimately give up after failing an exam. Regardless of major, there are lots of unexpected events that can happen in our lives. Whether it is academics related, family related, or etc., I firmly believe that students should have the opportunity to speak to someone in a comfortable environment. It is not easy dealing with these struggles alone.

Currently, the wait time to receive support from a professional at the Counseling and Student Development Center is approximately one week. The addition of three psychologists and one case manager would significantly improve the wait time for an appointment.

I strongly support HB 967 and its companion bill, SB 1164, for the students who need professional psychological help. The bill's funding for positions to provide mental health services can resolve mental health issues on campus. No student should have to resort to dealing with mental health problems on their own.

Respectfully submitted,

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

LATE



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 2:01 pm, Room 309

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 967

The Hawai'i Psychological Association would like to submit testimony in support of HB 967 which seeks to increase access to psychological services at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC).

Increasing the CSDC's workforce capacity by three full-time psychologist positions and one full-time case management position would significantly improve access to care in an environment where high percentages of individuals report feeling hopeless, depressed, anxious, and suicidal. Currently, the CSDC reports a wait time ranging from five days to two and a half weeks for someone to obtain an initial intake appointment. Oftentimes, it has taken a significant effort for an individual to reach out for help and when there is a delay in actually receiving services, deleterious consequences can result (i.e., substance use, violence, and/or other risky behaviors).

Investing in the health of our college students is an investment in our state's future workforce, leaders, and community members.

We humbly ask you to please support HB 967.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Folen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Hawai'i Psychological Association

ASUH

YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT



Nanea C. Lo

Senator

ASUH Senator of Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge

February 6, 2017

Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Chairperson
Committee On Higher Education
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309



Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Hashem and Members,

I am submitting testimony for strong support of HB 967, which appropriates moneys for the University of Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

Currently on campus, the UHM Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC) employs only seven and a half tenured track psychologists' positions. This has caused a backlog of students in need of psychotherapy services estimated from five days to two and a half weeks. A wait this long only shows the failure of the university to help foster an environment of student success.

From what I understand, the national guidelines require a ratio of one licensed psychologist per every one thousand to one thousand five hundred college students. While this bill would increase the CSDC's capacity to service is just shy of meeting this standard, it would be appropriate to take incremental steps towards reaching this goal.

I know that we can all agree that a student's success is essential to a thriving university and HB 967 would help to foster student success by providing ample resources for dealing with mental health issues, such as stress, depression, and anxiety.

Therefore, I strongly recommend that this bill does pass through the Committee on Higher Education.

Sincerely,

Nanea Claire Lo

ASUH Senator of Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Studies
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa

2465 Campus Road, Campus Center Rm 211A, Honolulu HI 96822 | Cell: (808)-389-1531 | Email:
davidbe@hawaii.edu



LATE

DATE: February 7, 2017
TIME: 2:01 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 309

TO: House of Representatives Committee on Higher Education
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

RE: **Support for HB967** Relating to the University of Hawai'i appropriation of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. The University of Hawai'i Student Caucus (UHSC) supports HB 967, which seeks to appropriate money for the University of Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services. The UHSC is a coalition of student governments from across the ten-campus University of Hawai'i System.

The UHSC strongly supports the expansion of student mental health services at the University of Hawai'i System. HB 967, while specific to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, makes progress towards our long-term goal of making the University of Hawai'i a quality institution to live, work, and learn. For these reasons, we urge you to **support passage of HB 967**.



LATE

DATE: February 7, 2017
TIME: 2:01 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 309

TO: House of Representatives Committee on Higher Education
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

RE: **Support for HB967** Relating to the University of Hawai‘i appropriation of Hawai‘i Pamantasan Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. The Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (GSO) stands in support of HB967, which seeks to appropriate moneys for the University of Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

As we have noted in previous testimony, whether as an undergraduate or graduate student, the pursuit of higher education is a demanding and highly stressful endeavour. As in any organization, it is vital that the psychological and emotional needs of the individuals within it are met in order for maximum productivity to be achieved. Students especially are in a vulnerable situation, as they may be far from support networks, away from home for the first time, and subject to strong social, financial, and academic pressures. As such, it is imperative that the University be able to provide adequate mental and psychological support services to all its students. Currently, the Counseling and Student Development Center at UHM is understaffed and in need of support to assist those needing help. For these reasons, we **support HB 967**.

**M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
6119 Kawekiu Place
Honolulu, HI 96821**



COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE
FEBRUARY 7, 2017

Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 967 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee,

I support HB 967 which would appropriate monies for the University of Hawai'i to hire three psychologists and one case manager for students on its Mānoa Campus.

As a Student Specialist at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I am confronted every week with the emotional distress that students suffer due to school related stresses, which are many times compounded by financial and family issues. I have referred students to the Counseling and Student Development Center on Campus because I am not equipped to deal with some situations where there was real danger to the student or myself.

Working on a daily basis with students I understand that they are under a lot of stress especially during finals and near graduation. I have seen a lot during my years on campus and greatly urge the your committee to approve this bill which will provide better access to mental health services on Campus.

Sincerely,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale

hashem2 - Michael

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:16 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: kevin_tomita@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB967 on Feb 7, 2017 14:01PM*

HB967

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Tomita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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