



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and
Senate Committee of Economic Development, Tourism and Technology
Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 1:20 p.m.
by
David A. K. Matlin, Athletic Director
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
and
Patrick Guillen, Athletic Director
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 1252 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 1252 on behalf of the University of Hawai'i. This bill appropriates moneys from the transient accommodations tax to help offset certain higher costs associated with the intercollegiate athletic programs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for fiscal years 2017-2018 through 2019-2020.

UH Mānoa and UH Hilo bring in teams to play before Hawai'i residents and competes on the mainland and occasionally internationally. Our students, coaches and staff serve as ambassadors of aloha and represent the great state of Hawai'i with purpose and pride. As we share this responsibility, we also understand that our programs are uniquely different.

Attached for your reference is additional information from the UH Mānoa and UH Hilo Athletics' Programs.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests passage of SB 1252. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.



Office of Intercollegiate Athletics • 1337 Lower Campus Road • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822-2370

Additional Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee of Economic Development, Tourism and Technology
Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 1:20pm
by
David A. K. Matlin, Athletic Director
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1252 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit additional testimony on behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Athletic Department.

In a state with no professional sports and as the only Division I collegiate athletics program in Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa athletics (UHM Athletics) brings in teams to play before Hawai'i residents and competes on the mainland or internationally as an ambassador of aloha and a representative of all of the people of Hawai'i. SB 1252 would help UHM Athletics to offset higher costs that are unique to Hawai'i that the peers it competes against do not have to address.

UHM Athletics completed an in-depth comprehensive assessment of its program that resulted in four main conclusions:

1. UHM Athletics is performing equal to or better than its peers both on-the-field and financially.
2. The financial model of expecting UHM Athletics 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 UHM Athletics' \$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, UHM Athletics 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. UHM Athletics has \$5.4 million of uniquely higher costs that our peers do not. Absent those higher costs, UHM Athletics would have finished 2015 with a budget surplus rather than a deficit.

SB 1252 would help to address the unique higher costs that UHM Athletics faces and level the playing field against its collegiate competitors. Based on standardized data reported to the NCAA, UHM Athletics' costs are uniquely higher than its peers in three main areas: 1) UHM Athletics faces \$1.9 million of higher travel subsidies and guarantees to bring teams to Hawai'i; 2) \$1.2 million of higher travel costs for our athletes to travel to the mainland to compete; and 3) higher academic student aid of \$2.3 million because of higher housing and other costs, greater number of team sports, and greater percentage of non-resident student athletes as compared to our peers.

The funding in SB 1252 would help UHM Athletics to represent the State of Hawai'i as well as to continue to provide opportunities for local athletes to compete at home at the collegiate level; provide residents with fan experiences over hundreds of events annually; 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, UHM Athletics also provides significant economic benefits to the State. A recent economic impact study released by the Shidler College of Business concluded that UHM 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 UHM Athletics events are played or televised outside Hawai'i, but that impact would also be significant.

While the University of Hawai'i at 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 being the transient accommodation taxes proposed in SB 1252. 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.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa respectfully requests passage of SB 1252.



Additional Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee of Economic Development, Tourism and Technology
Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 1:20 pm
by
Patrick Guillen, Athletic Director
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 1252 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit additional testimony on behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Athletic Department. SB 1252 would help UH Hilo Athletics to offset higher costs that are unique to Hawaii that our peers do not have to face.

These unique challenges are:

1. **BUDGET:** The overall median athletics budget for NCAA Division II institutions is \$5.7M. UH Hilo budget currently is \$3.6M, which ranks us in the lowest fourth quartile nationally.
2. **TRAVEL EXPENSES:** 70% of our operational budget is allocated to travel-related costs. In comparison, our peers on the mainland appropriate approximately 20 - 25% of their budget towards travel-related expenses.
3. **EXTERNAL SUPPORT:** UH Hilo is the only school in the PacWest Conference that does not presently have an "athletics student fee."
4. **RECRUITING COSTS:** It costs UH Hilo significantly more than our peers on the mainland to recruit student-athletes that can compete at the NCAA II level.

SB 1252 would assist in addressing these unique costs, which in turn would make us more competitive across the board while at the same time improving the overall student experience. This additional funding will also bring immeasurable benefits to the Big Island community and Hilo in terms of being a collective source of community pride.

Despite these challenges, however, UH Hilo athletics continues to perform academically at higher rates than the general student population in terms of retention and graduation. This is a reflection on our programs commitment and efforts in identifying quality students that are also excellent athletes.

UH Hilo also provides significant economic benefits to the State and the Big Island. While the athletics department does not yet have a detailed Economic Impact Study for the entire year, two studies were done recently by Dr. Tam VU of the UHH COBE on the economic impact of two collegiate events that were recently hosted by UHH. The PacWest Cross Country Championships and the Amer Ari Collegiate Golf Invitational



Office of Intercollegiate Athletics

200 W. Kāwili Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4091 • Phone: (808) 974-7520 • Fax: (808) 974-7711

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showed a \$2.8M dollar short and long-term economic impact to the State of Hawai'i and the Big Island. A more thorough analysis, which will be completed this summer, will show an even greater economic impact that UH Hilo Athletics brings to the state and our local communities over the course of the year with the various teams, families, students and visitors that our program attracts each and every year.

While the University of Hawai'i at Hilo believes it provides significant benefits to the community as well as to the State, including in tourism; it does not take a position on the merits of the source of the funds being from the transient accommodation taxes proposed in SB 1252.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo respectfully requests passage of SB 1252.



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TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS, MISCELLANEOUS, Divert Money to Pay UH Athletics Travel Costs

BILL NUMBER: SB 1252

INTRODUCED BY: WAKAI, KEITH-AGARAN, S. Chang, Gabbard, Galuteria, Inouye, Nishihara, Shimabukuro, Taniguchi

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Requires DLNR to engage in negotiations to acquire makai lands located at Kapua in South Kona on the island of Hawaii, also known as Miloli'i. Requires the acquisition to be funded by TAT revenues. Earmarks decrease transparency and accountability of government operations and should be avoided.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 237D-6.5 to allocate unspecified amounts to the University of Hawaii at Manoa intercollegiate athletics special fund and the University of Hawaii at Hilo intercollegiate athletics special fund (both HRS section 304A-1276).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval, repealed on June 30, 2020.

STAFF COMMENTS: Act 161, SLH 2013, made permanent the TAT rate of 9.5% and changed the allocations of TAT from a percentage basis to a specific dollar amount. Currently, TAT revenues are allocated as follows: (1) \$1.5 million goes to the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund; (2) \$26.5 million is deposited into the convention center enterprise special fund; (3) \$82 million goes to the tourism special fund; (4) \$103 million is transferred to the various counties; and (5) \$3 million is allocated to the special land and development fund. Any remaining revenues then go to the general fund. This measure pulls out \$_____ for intercollegiate athletics the specified lands.

The proposed measure would add another siphon of TAT revenues and would perpetuate the earmarking of TAT revenues. Most of us understand that our intercollegiate athletics program costs are higher than in most places because our teams need to travel across lots of water to get to away games, and furthermore that we are called upon to subsidize the travel costs of visiting teams that come to us. But does that justify grabbing a pot of TAT money without going through the normal budgeting process that also takes into account sweltering primary schools, underfunded state pensions, or the plight of the homeless? And what about the needs of the counties who are also jockeying for a larger piece of the TAT pie?

Rather than the continual earmarking of TAT revenues, a direct appropriation of general funds would be preferable. Earmarking the TAT revenues for a particular purpose that not only benefits the visitors but the community at large, decreases transparency and accountability.

Re: SB 1252

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Next, it should be remembered that revenues diverted for a special purpose, in this case to fund intercollegiate athletics, will not be counted against the state's spending ceiling or debt limit and will obscure the state's true financial condition.

Digested 2/6/2017



February 8, 2017

Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development,
Tourism and Technology
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

RE: SB 1252 Relating to the University of Hawaii
Hearing date: February 8, 2017

Aloha Chair Kahele, Chair Wakai and Members of the Senate Committees on Higher Education and Economic Development, Tourism and Technology,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of SB 1252 Relating to the University of Hawaii. SB 1252 would provide much needed funding for the University of Hawaii at Manoa and University of Hawaii Hilo athletic programs. Intercollegiate athletics provide many benefits to colleges and universities. Intercollegiate athletics foster school spirit and help to build commitment and loyalty to the schools. Studies have shown that alumni contributions, university branding and especially student recruitment benefit tremendously by strong athletic programs.

For the student-athletes, intercollegiate athletics provide a strong education in leadership, time management and other practical skills. It also provides many intangible opportunities and interactions with alumni that are invaluable for their future careers. For the other university students, strong athletics programs provide entertainment, stress relief and a social environment that helps students relieve stress and interact with the community in a positive environment.

More than any other athletic programs in the country, the University of Hawaii programs are in dire need of assistance. It is clear that the local community places a high value on University of Hawaii athletics, especially since we don't have any professional sports teams. However, without the support that most other schools receive, it is becoming much more difficult for University of Hawaii athletic programs to retain the local talent and support the student-athletes needed to remain competitive. Simply put, money allocated to the University of Hawaii athletics department is a needed investment and will benefit students, student-athletes and the community alike. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

IMANAKA ASATO LLLC

Michael L. Josua

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 3:17 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1252 on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM*

SB1252

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for HRE/ETT on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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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Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee of Economic Development, Tourism and Technology

by
Edwin J. Gayagas
98-1807 Ipuala Place
Aiea, HI 96701

February 8, 2017 at 1:20pm

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

My name is Edwin Gayagas and I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, a former student-athlete, and a member of the UH Letter Winners Club. I am very grateful for the time I spent at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and being able to represent the school and the state as an alumni of the program. As a Letterwinner, I continue to support the University of Hawaii and UHM Athletics through donations and fundraisers to assist in defraying miscellaneous expenses.

UHM Athletics provides many benefits to the state of Hawaii. It helps attract students to attend the University of Hawaii, provides opportunities to over 500 student athletes annually, provide youth in Hawaii with role models and the possibility of participating in Division I collegiate sports, and allow the communities and people of Hawaii to have a common team to take pride in.

While UHM Athletics competes as a representative of the state of Hawai'i, it has identified that it has a challenge of \$5.4 million of costs that are uniquely higher for Hawai'i when compared to its peers. Those higher costs are for travel subsidies and guarantees to bring competitors to Hawai'i, higher travel costs for going to the mainland, and higher academic student costs because of higher housing and other factors.

SB 1252 would help to address the unique higher costs that UHM Athletics faces and level the playing field against its collegiate competitors which this testimony is in support of.

I respectfully request your support for increased funding for UHM Athletics as proposed in **SB 1252**. Thank you very much for your consideration of this testimony.

I thank you for being allowed to submit this testimony and respectfully request your passage of SB 1252.

Edwin J. Gayagas
EDWIN J. GAYAGAS

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee of Economic Development, Tourism and Technology

By

Carl Clapp

February 8, 2017 at 1:20pm

My name is Carl Clapp and I would like to submit this testimony in support of the proposed funding in SB 1252 to help offset certain costs of the intercollegiate athletic program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM Athletics).

While I have been the Associate Athletics Director of Administrative Services for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa since 2006, I am submitting this testimony as an individual and not in any official capacity at UHM Athletics.

UHM Athletics has the challenge of \$5.4 million of uniquely higher costs that the peers we compete against do not have. As an Associate Athletics Director at UHM Athletics, I have been able to observe first-hand that UHM Athletics has had to incur the higher costs that SB 1252 proposes to offset. I can also attest that if the higher costs could be partially addressed with SB 1252, it would free up funds to be redirected to benefit our student-athletes in other areas.

I respectfully request your support of the funding for UHM Athletics proposal in SB 1252 and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee of Economic Development, Tourism and Technology

By

Robert L. Coolen

February 8, 2017 at 1:20pm

My name is Robert L. Coolen and I would like to submit this testimony in support of the proposed funding in SB 1252 to help offset certain costs of the intercollegiate athletic program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM Athletics).

While I have been the Head Softball coach for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa since 1991, I am submitting this testimony as an individual and not in any official capacity at UHM Athletics.

UHM Athletics has the challenge of \$5.4 million of uniquely higher costs than the peers we compete against do not have. As a head coach at UHM Athletics, I have been able to observe first-hand that UHM Athletics has had to incur the higher costs that SB 1252 proposes to offset. I can also attest for Softball that if the higher costs could be avoided with SB 1252, the funds that no longer have to go to cover those costs can be redirected to benefit our student-athletes in other areas.

I respectfully request your support of the funding for UHM Athletics proposal in SB 1252 and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Robert L. Coolen
Head Softball Coach
University of Hawaii

Testimony of Charlinda T. Ioane

Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee of Economic Development, Tourism and Technology

February 8, 2017
1:20pm
Conference Room 414

SUPPORT OF SB 1252 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairpersons Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairpersons Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

I am humbled and appreciative of the opportunity to present this testimony. My name is Charlinda Ioane and I am currently a student-athlete at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa as a member of the Rainbow Wahine Track and Field team. I would like to submit this testimony in support of the funding in SB 1252 to help UH Athletics offset costs that are higher for it than the schools it competes against.

Growing up in Waimanalo and Kapolei, I didn't understand the whole concept of college and the opportunities it would bring. All I knew was that it cost A LOT of money, money my family did not have. My mom always stressed for us to work hard in school, "So that one day we could do what we want to do instead of what we have to do." That was our motto growing up, nothing would come easy, but with a little hard work and even more determination we could do anything as long as we fought for it.

In high school I was a three-sport athlete (volleyball, basketball and a thrower on the track and field team). After completing my freshman year I received my first letter of interest from West Point for track and field. Not understanding what a letter of interest was at the time, I quickly learned that this was my opportunity to make it through college without having to be another financial burden to my family. I would receive 27 letters of interest and it was not until I received my letter from UH, that I knew I would be going to college. There was nowhere else I could picture myself representing, but UH. Being local and staying local was very important for me.

If it were not for my scholarship and the ability to play a sport at UH, I can honestly tell you, college would have not been possible. For the past five years, I have been relentless in working hard both on and off the field to bring pride to Hawaii, UH and my family. During my senior year I achieved the goal of making it to a NCAA Track & Field Regional meet, a level of competition that I never imagined I would be able to achieve. I know that boundaries are limitless and I as I look forward to my future, I am prepared for the challenges that I may encounter. All due to the opportunities the athletics department has given me.

I have been the chair of the student-athlete advisory committee (SAAC) for the past three years, and have served as the SAAC representative for UH with the Big West Conference. Through the leadership development opportunities, I got to attend the NCAA Leadership Forum on the mainland and meet student-athletes from across the country. I have organized community service events, spending my limited free time working with children in our community. From Play Days, Reading Days, Career Days, Jump Rope for Heart, I can say that each month I have volunteered to give back to our community. All these experiences and opportunities have helped me figure out what I want to do next, and that is working with public school children who come from less advantage situation, such as myself and motivate them to excel and achieve their dreams.

The total impact athletics has had on my life is difficult to write in this short testimony. I have worked with student-athletes from across the country and know very well of the challenges our athletics department and teams face. We all work hard to bring great pride to our state. There is no other place in the world I would rather be, than home, playing for you, my family and friends. We need your help for our future generation of keiki to have a place to play. As the very popular mele *Eia Makou* by Kamuela Ka'ahanui, states "*Eia Makou, na alaka'i nani*", Here we are the leaders of tomorrow. As one of Hawaii's leaders of tomorrow, I ask for your support.

SB 1252 would help UH Athletics directly with the higher costs of having collegiate athletic teams in Hawaii compared with the mainland schools we compete against. By doing so, UH Athletics will be better positioned to continue to provide opportunities for others as it has for me. I thank you for your time in reading my testimony and I respectfully request your support of the additional funding for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Athletics Department proposed in SB 1252.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee of Economic Development, Tourism and Technology

By

Laura Beeman

February 8, 2017 at 1:20pm

SB 1252 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

My name is Laura Beeman and I would like to submit this testimony in support of the proposed funding in SB 1252 to help offset certain costs of the intercollegiate athletic program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM Athletics).

While I have had the privilege to be the Head Rainbow Wahine Basketball coach for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa since 2012, I am submitting this testimony as an individual and not in any official capacity at UHM Athletics.

Our peers within the Big West Conference do not face the same challenges we face regarding budgetary issues. The \$5.4 million dollars our department faces, even before the season begins, is a competitive disadvantage we face every year and it is getting worse. I can only imagine what our program could do for our student-athletes with the additional money that SB 1252 could offset. We are at a recruiting disadvantage even before prospective student-athletes walk through our doors. From our outdated and run-down locker room to the maintenance of ALL of our existing facilities and grounds, we are losing the battle. Our peers are able to apply their budgets to locker rooms, refinishing floors/courts, cleanliness of facilities, graphics throughout their campuses, expanding study facilities, increasing marketing and promotions, dining facilities, sport related dorms and much more. The overall student-athlete experience and the honor of representing Hawai'i is what we are trying to promote to our student-athletes. We already face the challenge of distance, we can not also face the disadvantage of the appearance and the condition of our facilities and surrounding grounds. Again, the additional money we could use with the passing of SB 1252 could help close the gap we are facing today!

I respectfully request your support of the funding for UHM Athletics proposal in SB 1252 and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Mahalo Nui Loa
Laura Beeman
Head Coach Rainbow Wahine Basketball

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee of Economic Development, Tourism and Technology

By

Marilyn Moniz-Kahoohanohano

February 8, 2017 at 1:20pm

My name is Marilyn Moniz-Kahoohanohano and I would like to submit this testimony in support of the proposed funding in SB 1252 to help offset certain costs of the intercollegiate athletic program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM Athletics).

While I have been the Associate Athletics Director for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa since 1989, I am submitting this testimony as an individual and not in any official capacity at UHM Athletics.

UHM Athletics has the challenge of \$5.4 million of uniquely higher costs than the peers we compete against do not have. As a head coach at UHM Athletics, I have been able to observe first-hand that UHM Athletics has had to incur the higher costs that SB 1252 proposes to offset. I can also attest for Rainbow Wahine Sports that if the higher costs could be avoided with SB 1252, the funds that no longer have to go to cover those costs can be redirected to benefit our student-athletes in other areas.

I respectfully request your support of the funding for UHM Athletics proposal in SB 1252 and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Marilyn Moniz-Kahoohanohano

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee of Economic Development, Tourism and Technology
February 8, 2017; 1:20pm

by
Nick Rolovich

SB 1252 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

My name is Nick Rolovich and I am respectfully submitting this testimony in support of the proposed funding in SB 1252 to help offset certain costs of the intercollegiate athletic program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM Athletics).

While I am the Head Football Coach at the University of Hawai'i, I am submitting this testimony as an individual and not in any official capacity at UHM Athletics.

I have had the privilege and honor of being associated with the University of Hawai'i athletic program for a good part of my life. Initially it was as a student-athlete on the Rainbow Warrior Football team followed by opportunities to participate as a part of the coaching staff. After being away from Hawai'i for a number of years. I was given the opportunity to return to the University of Hawai'i 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.

UHM Athletics has the challenge of \$5.4 million of uniquely higher costs than our peers, the schools we compete against, do not have. As a former student-athlete and as a current coach at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I can attest from first-hand observation that UHM Athletics has to cover costs that other schools do not. For example, when coaching at Nevada, and we had a game in Hawai'i, UHM Athletics had to pay Nevada a travel subsidy to offset its travel costs to the islands. Conversely, when the University of Hawai'i 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 distanced traveled and the costs incurred were a fraction of what the University of Hawai'i is required to incur.

SB 1252 would provide funds to help UHM Athletics offset the unique higher costs that the schools faces as compared to its peers. SB 1252 will allow funds that otherwise would be used to cover the unique higher costs associated with

being in Hawai'i, to be redirected to other areas that can more directly benefit our student-athletes and their success.

I respectfully request your support of the funding for UHM Athletics proposal in SB 1252 and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Nick Rolovich
Head Football Coach