



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

By  
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University of Hawai'i System

### SB 2328 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2328 SD1 that establishes the University of Hawai'i open educational resources task force to conduct a comprehensive analysis and evaluation on all general education courses and high attendance courses taught at UH and appropriates funds for an open educational resources pilot project grant program to incentivize faculty to adopt, develop, and implement open educational resources.

The University recognizes the financial burden of the high cost of textbooks on students. Beginning in 2015, our ten campuses have been intentionally investing in Open Educational Resources (OER) by providing workshops, grants, trainings, technology support and opportunities for faculty and staff to promote the adoption, adaptation and creation of OER.

The UH community college system already has a very active 7 campus committee managed by Leeward and Kapi'olani that is doing this work, and provides support for faculty and librarians.

The University respectfully submits these suggested amendments to SB 2328 SD1:

- Page 2, lines 10 – 21: Replace with:
  - “The legislature further finds that the University of Hawai'i has recognized the financial burden of the high cost of textbooks on students, and since 2015 the ten campuses have been working on reducing the cost of instructional materials by investing in low or zero textbook cost initiatives, including Open Educational Resources (OER), by providing workshops, grants, trainings, technology support and opportunities for faculty and staff to promote the adoption, adaptation and creation of such materials. In addition to OER, several means are available, such as low or zero textbook cost initiatives and alternatives such as placing copies of publisher produced textbooks on reserve at our libraries, using materials available through library subscriptions, and supporting faculty as they create their own instructional materials. Faculty need to be able to choose

the instructional content that is most appropriate for their courses and their students, and be encouraged to adopt the use of low or no-cost instructional material for students, which include OER when possible, although some types of materials, including OER, do not fit all teaching and learning situations, such as in the University's Career and Technical Education courses, professional degrees, and other program areas."

- Pages 4-5:
  - UH recommends that the appointment of the 16-member task force include language that makes possible an alternate "... or a designee ..." for each position named in the task force, should that individual be unable to attend.
  - UH recommends adding the UH Vice President of Information Technology/CIO or designee to the task force.
- Page 5, line 21 to read:
  - "... identify open educational resources and other alternatives that may be suitable for..."

The University is appreciative of the intent of SB2328 SD1 to provide funds for an OER pilot grant program as long as it does not supplant the UH BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2328 SD1.

**SB-2328-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 2:41:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joel fischer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**PLEASE MAKE SB 2328 MAKE DIE DEAD!!**

I am writing you to urge you to vote against SB2328, the harshest attack on the UH I have seen since the Senate president, in the early 70's, wanted to end tenure at UH. He was soon gone!

I taught at UH Manoa for 40 years. I am happily retired, but when I saw that this bill is a blatant attack on academic freedom that could potentially destroy the university, I just had to get involved. I am not at all clear why any legislator would want to control how UH professors select and teach their courses. Does it make any more sense for UH professors to determine how you do YOUR job? Of course not. If this bill passed, it would make our UH the laughing stock of the nation.

I am the President of 19-1 in the Democratic Party, and also the Secretary/Treasurer for District 19. I am not unaware, after decades of involvement in Democratic politics, that sometimes politics makes for strange decisions. But no Democrat should vote for a bill like this that is so anti-intellectual and anti-education. It fits right in with the national, right-wing Republican agenda that attacks our universities.

Accordingly, I am asking you to reconsider your support of this bill, and to vote against it. You will probably never have to make a more important decision than your decision on SB2328.

Thanks for your consideration.

joel

**Dr. Joel Fischer**

**Professor (Ret.)**

**SB-2328-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 8:07:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

**From:** [Shannon Cantan](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support SB 3023  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:37:49 AM

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## In support of Bill SB 3023

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My name is Shannon Cantan, and I was born in a small town on the big island called Ka'u. Another thing about me, I am blind. Growing up in such a small town, there existed no other blind people besides myself and my two brothers, we suffered the same troubles as many other blind youth, we were both overrated, and underrated at the very same time. Overrated in the sense that simply existing was an accomplishment, I was a second string lineman on a football team that won zero games, but I was great simply for trying. I was also under rated because I had so much more to offer to the world than the so-called professionals would give me credit for. I understood my full potential when I moved to Boston Massachusetts, where I learned about myself. I was able to push myself to heights never seen, no longer was I held down by low expectations, the only person I had to blame was myself. I tell you this because if I were to have left high school at age 17, I would simply have accepted a job for three dollars an hour because I would not have understood what else I could have done. That is where the problem begins, with so many amazing disabled adults who have not seen what they are fully capable of. Due to society's low expectations, continuing to say that paying persons with disabilities less because they are less, will not help the problem. This is why I support this bill as written,  
Thank you so much.

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