



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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

By
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Vice President for Administration
and
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University of Hawai'i System

SB 2832 SD1 – RELATING TO ENERGY AT 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 2832 SD1. The University of Hawai'i ("University") supports this measure which allows funds appropriated by the Legislature to be deposited into the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund ("GSF") and clarifies the authority to expend funds and the scope of the projects that can be funded. This bill will facilitate a sustainable means of financing energy efficient and other sustainability projects at the University that will ultimately improve energy performance, reduce operating costs, and modernize our facilities.

Green Revolving Funds (GRFs) are a best practice used by many leading colleges and universities dedicated to addressing sustainable facilities, operations, and behaviors. These funds are typically managed by the university to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability, and energy conservation projects which reduce energy use, and repay the GRFs within a specified time period through operational cost savings realized by the energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability, and energy conservation projects.

In 2017, the Legislature passed Act 186, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, which added to chapter 304A, HRS, a new section later codified as section 304A-2181, that created the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund to collect and expend moneys generated by energy savings from energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability projects on additional energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability projects. This mechanism helps move the University closer to achieving its net-zero energy mandate (Act 99, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2015).

This measure enables the University to more efficiently administer and manage the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund by:

- (1) Expressly permitting the deposit of legislatively appropriated funds into the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund.

- (2) Expressly authorizing the University's chief financial officer to collect moneys for and expend and transfer moneys from the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund.
- (3) Clarifying that the scope of the projects eligible for funding from the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund includes energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy, and sustainability projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2832 SD1.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 — 11:00 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 2832 SD 1, Relating to Energy at the University of Hawaii

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono supports SB 2832 SD 1, which allows for legislative funding for the University of Hawai'i Green Special Fund to fund energy conservation measures, because it aligns with our goal of increasing the production of clean, renewable energy in Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i is one of the largest consumers of electricity for the utility and therefore could be one of the most impactful and effective organizations in utilizing energy efficiency projects. Increased energy efficiency funding will help to reduce the long-term costs of operating and maintaining University infrastructure. If the University of Hawai'i is able to implement increased energy efficiency measures, this will further help meet our state's goal of 100 percent renewable energy, of which 30 percent is energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency is one of the most cost effective methods to reduce imported fossil fuels. Furthermore, energy efficiency investments typically pay for themselves in a relative short time period.

The majority of the operating cost of the University is paid for through taxpayer and student tuition costs. A reduction in these building costs will help save taxpayer funds and make college more affordable, which helps to develop the next set of energy leaders in Hawai'i.

This bill would allow legislative funding support for the fund, thereby increasing the

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amount of energy saving impact it could accomplish at the University of Hawai'i.

As Hawai'i's energy issues become more complex and challenging, we appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support renewable energy production.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

SB-2832-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 1:42:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2832-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:15:55 AM

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

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

Comments: