



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
March 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

by  
Kalbert K. Young  
Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer  
University of Hawaii'i

### SB 2833 SD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII REVENUE BONDS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee:

The University of the Hawaii'i is in support of SB 2833 SD1, Relating to University of Hawaii'i Revenue Bonds.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the University of Hawaii'i (University) to issue \$100,000,000 in revenue bonds for the purpose of financing the construction and maintenance of qualifying capital improvement projects. An increase in the University's authority to issue revenue bonds is necessary to enable the University to continue addressing its capital facility needs, including new project construction and the major repair and maintenance backlog.

State financing support through General Obligation (GO) Bond appropriations is the primary method of funding infrastructure for the only public university of Hawaii'i. However, the availability of revenue bond authority would supplement GO bonds and could be valuable as a strategic revenue source. This authority would only be used for financing projects that are revenue-generating or financially appropriate for the University.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAI'I  
STUDENT CAUCUS



To: House Committee on Higher Education (HED)  
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

Re: **SUPPORTING SB 2833 SD 1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I REVENUE BONDS**

Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem and members of the committee:

My name is Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz, and I am the Chairperson of the UH Student Caucus, the UH system wide association of all campus student governments. We represent over 50,000 students in the University of Hawaii System. Our constituents **support Senate Bill 2833 SD 1** - that authorizes the University of Hawaii to issue revenue bonds for the purpose of financing the construction and maintenance of qualifying capital improvement projects.

The UHSC recognizes the need to address the University's deferred maintenance backlog. While the UHSC is not supportive of increasing costs of tuition, we aim to support other financial means that will help our University continue to enhance and improve. To allow for the University to have access to revenue bonds to use on capital improvement projects in the deferred maintenance backlog, will enable our University the opportunity to catch up in its efforts to provide students safe, effective, and sustainable learning and living environments. UH students use many campus facilities and notice and experience the changes that the University is doing for the physical environment. Capital improvement projects in the deferred maintenance backlog need the support to be completed, so that our current and prospective students can use facilities that provide the learning environment that match the University's high academic standards. The safety, sustainability, and standard of a learning environment is important to the quality of the education that we, as students, pay for and care about, and is important to the overall campus life in which we live in.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz  
Chairperson  
[jldc2@hawaii.edu](mailto:jldc2@hawaii.edu)

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House Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 2:00 P.M.

By Bernadette Baraquio

SB 2833 SD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII REVENUE BONDS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

My name is Bernadette Baraquio, a proud alumna of the University of Hawai'i (UH) and Board President of the UH Alumni Association (UHAA), submitting testimony in **strong support** of SB 2833 SD1 to authorize the University of Hawai'i to issue \$100,000,000 in revenue bonds for the purpose of financing the construction and maintenance of qualifying capital improvement projects.

On behalf of UHAA, its leadership, and members, I am writing to thank you for your past commitment and service to our community, our state, and our university. Alumni believe that there is a significant need to modernize our university's facilities to 21st century standards. Modern learning spaces and facilities provide our students with contemporary and relevant environments for higher learning and research development consistent with other universities in the country. The UH Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) request addresses urgently necessary capital renewal, deferred maintenance, and funding for projects that will Renew, Improve, and Modernize (RIM) the UH campuses. Investment in this area will help with recruitment, retention of students, produce better graduates for our workforce, and enhance our commitment to excellence in education.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony, and on behalf of UHAA, mahalo once again for your continuing support of our UH 'Ohana!

Warmest Aloha, Bernadette Baraquio, *UH Alumni Association President*

**SB-2833-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 1:58:48 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments: