



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 5, 2019 at 2:50 p.m.

by
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SB 314 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) **supports** SB 314, Relating to the University of Hawaii. This bill appropriates funds for the operating expenses of the UH for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (FY20) and Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY21).

It appears that the appropriations in this bill conform to the University's portion of the Governor's biennium budget request submitted to the Legislature. This includes expansion of the Hawai'i Promise Program to the four-year institutions, raising the Graduate Assistant stipend, providing support for student mentors and tutors at the Community Colleges, providing for custodial and maintenance staff at UH-Hilo, and support for the Wayfinding education program at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center.

In addition to these items included in the Governor's budget, the Board of Regents' budget request included support for Learning Assistants and Peer Mentoring at Mānoa (\$956,000 for FY20 and \$1,408,876 for FY21), support for student employment at the Hilo (\$122,000 for FY20 and \$231,000 for FY21) and West O'ahu (\$300,000 each FY) campuses, security staff at Hilo (\$311,240 each FY), continuation of the Hawai'i Nutrition Employment and Training (HINET) program at the Community Colleges (\$520,000 each FY), and support for Distance Education at West O'ahu (\$1,000,000 each FY).

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2019

THE SENATE
Committee on Higher Education
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Tuesday, February 5, 2019; 2:50 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 314
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** S.B. 314, which appropriates funds for operating expenses of the University of Hawai'i.

Graduate student assistants are often overworked – they teach classes, grade assignments, generate curriculum and perform other related duties assigned by the professor and/or University. Many graduate student assistants work over 40 hour per week and attend classes of their own while being paid relatively low wages. While S.B. 314 doesn't fix the many challenges graduate student assistants face, the ILWU strongly supports a wage increase to help with Hawaii's high cost of living.

The ILWU urges the passage of S.B. 314 to help ensure graduate student assistants employed by the University of Hawaii get a raise. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this measure.