



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
February 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Kalbert K. Young

Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer  
University of Hawai'i System

### HB 548 HD1 – RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION OF THE SAINT FRANCIS SCHOOL CAMPUS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports House Bill (HB) No. 548 HD1, Relating to the Acquisition of the St. Francis School Campus for the UH Mānoa. The St. Francis School campus is located at 2707 Pamoia Road and identified as Tax Map Key No.: (1) 2-9-004: 001 ("Property"). The Property is approximately 11.120 acres in size and is owned by the Avalon Group, a local real estate development company. The Property is adjacent to the UH Mānoa campus, and the St. Francis School used the Property until it ceased school operations in May 2019.

The Property was sold to the Avalon Group in 2024. In 2020, UH submitted an offer to acquire the Property – and, was even provided with a Legislative authorization/appropriation in the FY2020 and FY2021 biennium budget to acquire the property. This bill does not grant any special powers or authorities to the UH to acquire the property, other than to provide an appropriation to which the UH could pursue negotiations with the landowner.

The UH is interested in this Property because of its close proximity to the UH Mānoa campus and the potential integration into its long-range development plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**HB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:30:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth Kamemoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This would provide the opportunity for alternative uses for this site, more inline with existing PUCDP planning guidelines (Campus use).

**HB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:22:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Legrande	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this acquisition as it is the sensible path forward: both for the University and for the community on Pamoia Road. I fear this opportunity will not come up again; let's not miss out this time.

Mahalo, Linda Legrande

**HB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:51:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
veneeta acson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support to authorize the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai‘i to issue revenue bonds for the acquisition of the Saint Francis School campus located at 2707 Pāmoa Road in Honolulu. Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai‘i for the acquisition of the Saint Francis School campus located at 2707 Pāmoa Road in Honolulu.

**HB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:17:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Chairs and Committee members,

Please support HB548. It completely makes sense for the University of Hawaii to acquire the St. Francis property, since it is immediately adjacent to the UH campus, and this is an opportunity for UH Manoa expansion that will likely never come again. And having UH take ownership of this property will prevent the considerable traffic problems that will be inflicted on nearby Manoa residents if it is developed as a housing project.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

**HB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:34:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisa W Johnston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I am testifying in favor of funding for UH to acquire the former St Francis campus. The campus would be a natural and convenient extension of the existing UH campus, which has grown continually since I attended school there in the late 1970s. It would be foolish to allow an opportunity to acquire this extra square footage to slip by. Where else will the UH expand that will provide this ease of integration with the existing campus?

If we miss this opportunity, it will be gone forever.

Mahalo nui loa,

Elisa W. Johnston

1429B Nehoa St.. HON, HI 96822

**HB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:28:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janyce Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Lefislators,

I enthusiastically support this bill, The highest, best use of the St. Francis Schoil property is as a part of the University of Hawaii. For example, UH might use it for workforce housing, to safeguard any cultural artifacts on site, or for safe pedestrian and bicycle access. Further, this bill may mitigate issues to Manoa brought on by the possibility of a housing development on the property. I wholeheartedly urge you to move this bill forward.  
Thank you for your time and attention.

aloha,

Janyce Mitchell

**HB-548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:11:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Piikea Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly support UH's acquisition of the St. Francis property, it's a natural extension of the campus and a great opportunity for the University. Additionally, the proposed private development poses significant traffic and accident risks to the surrounding community. A development of this size with only one way in and out also creates a bottle neck in the event of a fire - the hillside to the East of the development has burned several times.

Thank you,

Pi'ikea Miller