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## PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

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# Lawmakers seek consistent revenue stream for UH repairs, maintenance

Pacific Business News (Honolulu) - by [Nanea Kalani](#) Pacific Business News

State lawmakers plan to set up a consistent revenue source to repair and maintain **University of Hawaii** facilities.

In the past five years, UH has received an average of \$30.4 million annually from the state to repair and maintain its 10 campuses. School officials say that is not enough to keep up with the aging facilities.

Rep. Jerry Chang, D-S. Hilo-Keaukaha, who is chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education, said he will introduce legislation to require that 1 percent of the state's general revenues be set aside each year for maintenance and repairs at UH. The measure could increase current funds by up to \$20 million annually, he said.

"The recent uproar about university facilities overall has thrown major attention on this problem," Chang said. "It all boils down to money for repair and maintenance upkeep. This is one way of earmarking about \$45 million to \$50 million a year to maintain those facilities systemwide."

Chang, who took over the higher education committee last legislative session, said recent tours of UH campuses have helped lawmakers see firsthand the poor condition of facilities.

"There was no real solution before because when we're doing the budget, we're not really out there inspecting the problems until there's a major disaster," Chang said, noting extensive damage caused to the UH Manoa campus by floods and a fire. "If UH can count on this every year and give us an idea of what the money will be spent on, I think we'll be in much better shape facilities wise."

On the Manoa campus alone, there are 169 projects on a "deferred maintenance" list totaling \$114 million. About 100 of the 250 buildings on the UH Manoa campus were built in the 1960s.

The proposed legislation would eliminate the need for the university to request facilities maintenance funding in its budget.

Under the bill, the university system president would be required to submit an annual report to the Legislature outlining planned repair and maintenance projects for all campuses for the next five years.

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