



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 3, 2015 at 1:30 pm Room 308

by
Kalbert Young
Vice President – Budget & Finance & Chief Financial Officer
University of Hawai'i

H.B. 541 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TUITION AND FEES SPECIAL FUND

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the Finance committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. The University of Hawai'i (UH) is supportive of H.B. 541 H.D. 1, Relating to the University of Hawaii Tuition and Fees Special Fund. This bill would require for each UH campus to prepare an operations plan to be reviewed by the President of UH. This bill would also require moneys in the UH Tuition and Fees Special Fund for each UH campus to lapse at the end of each fiscal year to the credit of UH, System Wide Support (UOH900).

The fiscal controls contemplated in this measure would provide the President and CFO significantly greater control over UH operations. The committee should consider that such controls may entail the appropriateness for the Board of Regents to ultimately approve any modifications to a campus spending plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2015
Time: 1:30 PM
Place: Conference Room 308

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Senator Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Re: Support of HB 541 Relating to the University of Hawai'i tuition and fees special fund.

My name is Bret Polopolus-Meredith and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am writing in support of HB 541 requiring each UH campus to prepare an operations plan, to be reviewed by the President and VP for Budget and Finance and CFO of UH, for each fiscal year. And requiring the moneys in the UH Tuition and Fees Special Fund for each UH campus to lapse.

I want to see UH spend tuition on the students who pay it. The tuition paid by a graduating senior should not be held onto for several years before being spent.

Student needs do not always seem to be the order of the day. Restrooms are often broken with bags placed over toilettes. Some of these bags remain in place for weeks or months and in the case of the Art Building, semesters. Some drinking fountains and AC units are rusted to the point that the metal has corroded. Walls have holes or missing chunks. It's hard to maintain morale or feel pride in UH when walking into a broken or decrepit restroom.

According to a Ka Leo article¹ on December 18, 2014, the four colleges that constitute the Arts and Sciences have only 5 academic advisors to service over 8,000 undergraduates. That is almost 60% of undergraduate students. There should be 25 advisors to have a ratio similar to the national average.

I've heard there's a hiring freeze on faculty or not replacing retiring faculty, class sizes may go up, fewer class sections may be offered, and graduate assistant positions may be reduced. There are currently 47 fewer graduate assistant positions than in 2012.

In a recent ranking, UHM was ranked #203 among public universities. There are 50 flagship universities in the U.S. The tuition paid by students is near or among the top quartile for public universities. The administration has not publicly

¹ http://www.kaleo.org/news/cas-lacks-college-wide-advisers-data-suggest/article_89237222-8661-11e4-b080-ffc314843126.html

discussed or unveiled plans to improve UH's reputation. I'm not sure how they expect to grow the student body under these conditions.

I don't understand why UH holds onto tuition each academic year when there are basic needs not being met. I don't understand why tuition is scheduled to increase about 7% a year for the next three years when millions are unspent.

Why doesn't the administration publish the full budget? I have heard faculty publicly asking to see the budget since October 2014. UHM does not have a budget allocation model, and has never had one. Why is the UHM interim chancellor approving a redistribution model that will have no impact rather than the reallocation model that faculty have voted in favor of?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Bret Polopolus-Meredith
bp32@hawaii.edu
808-304-9334

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2015 10:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: adrian@cc.hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB541 on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM*

HB541

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrian Franke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

finance1-Kim

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2015 9:25 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gammatoc@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB541 on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM*

HB541

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Cooney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2015 1:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: chagnon@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB541 on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM

HB541

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas Chagnon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2015 10:19 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: norick_fos@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB541 on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM*

HB541

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Foster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 8:59 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ljmiller@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB541 on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM*

HB541

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa J Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov