

HB 541 HD1

Testimony –

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TUITION AND FEES SPECIAL FUND.

Report Title: University of Hawaii; Special Fund

Description: Requires 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. Requires the moneys in the UH Tuition and Fees Special Fund for each UH campus to lapse to the credit of Program ID No. UH900 (University of Hawaii, system wide support). (HB541 HD1)

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA, WAM

Introducer(s): CHOY, ICHIYAMA, KONG, TUPOLA, LoPresti, Say



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
March 17, 2015 at 1:15 pm Room 224

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

HB 541 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TUITION AND FEES SPECIAL FUND

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Higher Education and the Arts committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. The University of Hawai'i (UH) is supportive of HB 541 HD1, 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 17, 2015
Time: 1:15 PM
Place: Conference Room 224

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair

Re: Support of HB 541 HD1 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. Restroom 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.

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 couple years when millions are unspent.

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

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
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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: sfcris@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB541 on Mar 17, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 1:41:50 PM

HB541

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HEA on Mar 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandrick Cristobal	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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB541 on Mar 17, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2015 11:28:52 PM

HB541

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HEA on Mar 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	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.

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