



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 26, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

by

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HB 1072 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TUITION AND FEES SPECIAL FUND

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports House Bill No. 1072 House Draft 1, Relating to the University of Hawaii Tuition and Fees Special Fund. This bill repeals the requirement that each UH campus prepare an annual operations plan and also repeals the requirement that the moneys in the Tuition and Fees Special Fund (TFSF) for each UH campus lapse to the credit of UOH900 at the end of each fiscal year.

These requirements were put into place with the passage of Act 236, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2015. During the 2015 Legislative Session, UH was supportive of these requirements, as it was felt that this would provide the President and Chief Financial Officer with greater control over UH operations. However, once the statute was in place and implemented, issues regarding the exact timing of transfers either immediately before or after the fiscal year changeover has created some confusion in our reports to the Board of Regents (Board) or other associations of higher education officials. We therefore respectfully request passage of this measure to eliminate this confusion.

Additionally, statutes governing the administration of the budget and administration of special funds already permit the Governor and the University President to allocate tuition and fees fund balances to UH programs. Act 236, SLH 2015, did not provide any additional authority or capability to the UH. It has created additional bureaucratic processes for compliance, but has not added much value.

We also note that since the passage of this bill, it has become standard practice for the Board to approve an annual spending plan for the entire UH. This annual plan is available for review on the Board's website as well as the University Budget Office's website. It is our belief that this makes a more transparent budget process than what is currently in statute and will continue to adhere to this Regent Policy whether this bill becomes law or not.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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24 February 2021

To: House of Representatives, Thirty-First Legislature, 2021 State
of Hawai'i

From: Hana-Elise Lambur, MSW Student

Date: February 26, 2021 11:00 AM
Video Conferencing, Conference Room 308

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 1072 Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Tuition and Fees Special Fund

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would allow all myself, a fellow graduate student of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, to attend community meetings or presentations. As a social worker graduate student of this university, I hereby approve this bill. I have been attending this school since Fall of 2019 to pursue a Master level degree in the field of social work. My time here as a student, I have grown to understand and acknowledge the importance of funding being provided to the university and the university members (i.e. school administrators, students, etc.).

The statement provided by H.B. No. 1072, acknowledges the importance of the funds within the university to be utilized appropriately, efficiently and effectively, by the people of the university. The bill continues by stating the "moneys deposited into the fund shall be expended to maintain or improve the university's programs and operations." Following this statement, as a student within the system of this university, personally, I have found the greater value of the funds being appropriated for the betterment of the education and environment of the institute. For example, during this pandemic, the use of technology has become extremely prevalent over the past year. Many students, like myself, are fighting for the best education by any means necessary, however, do not always have the financial means to

accommodate certain school necessities (i.e. computers). With the help of this bill, the special funds could alleviate financial struggles of students to continue their further education productively through the virtual delivery of education.

Thus, with these special funds, as a social worker graduate student of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I hereby recommend that this Committee pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hana-Elise Lambur