

**SB 504**

## **kim4 - Elizabeth**

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**From:** leyla cabugos [cabugos@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2009 7:39 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of Bill SB504

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Testimony of Leyla Cabugos  
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In support of Bill SB504 SD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
Before the COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Friday, February 27, 2009 9 AM  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Aloha Senator Kim, Senator Tsutsui and committee members,

My name is Leyla Cabugos. I am a recent graduate of the University of Hawai'i.

As a recent graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, where my work with native plant species for green roofs lead me to interface with Sustainable Saunders, I observed first hand how the program has strengthened the sense of community on our largely commuter campus, inspired students to get involved in community service, and empowered students to build job skills from their commitment to environmental stewardship. This last point is of critical importance as we enter the job market in a changing economy, where most employers expect new hires to have on the job experience and show leadership qualities. For students like myself, who go directly to graduate school, work to earn tuition, and participate in community service activities in our free time, an internship experience that provides all of these elements is an incredible boon. I only wish there had been an opportunity to participate in the Sustainable Saunders initiative as a paid intern while I was a student, as it would have helped me tremendously in my current search for meaningful employment.

The Sustainable Saunders Internship Program promises to be an effective means of decreasing the University of Hawaii's energy bill, providing necessary job skills training and experience and cultivating a sense of community and student engagement for a more sustainable Hawai'i.

I can think of no more positive and productive way in which the Legislature could support the empowerment and employment potential of Hawaii's students, increase our prospects for a sustainable future. Please join me in supporting the SSIP Bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Leyla Cabugos