



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and
House Committee on Education**

March 17, 2009, 2:15 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Peter Crouch, Dean

College of Engineering

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1096 SD 2 RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE AND DEVELOPMENT

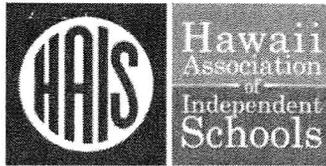
Chair Chang, Chair Takumi, and committee members:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1096, SD 2 to appropriate funds for science-, technology-, engineering- and math-related programs. We recognize and respect the importance of these programs to ensuring the success of Hawai'i's students in the global economy by offering support for innovative educational programs in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and to prepare students for further education and employment.

While we strongly support these programs, the current and projected budget reductions for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa require us to make difficult choices, just as the Hawaii Legislature has to do. While many programs, especially those in SB 1096, are definitely worthy, not all can be funded, and we must base our decisions on the basis of campus priorities – the highest of which continues to be our tremendous need in the area of repairs and maintenance. This is defined in the Board of Regents' approved budget and reflects the critical importance of repairs and maintenance to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawai'i. Therefore, while we both have been very supportive and involved with these efforts, we can currently only support the concept proposed in this bill at this time.

We definitely appreciate and share the interest expressed in this legislation for supporting students' interest in pursuing math/science and technology careers. In addition to existing College of Engineering programs that provide support in these areas, UH Mānoa's Stan Sheriff Center is proud to host the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics teams' regional tournament. We agreed to host the 38-team competition at no charge in 2008 and have recently extended this agreement for another three years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



March 17, 2009
2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND EDUCATION

RE: SB 1096 SD2 – Relating to Technology Workforce and Development

Chairs Chang and Takumi, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Berg, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 97 private and independent schools statewide and is a member of the Hawaii Educational Networking Consortium (HENC).

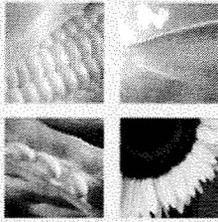
The Association supports Senate Bill 1096, Senate Draft 2 – Relating to Technology Workforce and Development, which appropriates funds for programs related to the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and math) and kindergarten through twelfth grade creative media education programs.

Through HENC's Hawaii Schools Digital Media Grant Program, schools across the state are able to receive much-needed support for their digital media programs and projects; however, although nearly 60 public and private schools were awarded grants by this wonderful program last year, this group of awardees represents only a small fraction of the total number of elementary and secondary schools in Hawaii. HAIS believes that SB 1096 SD2 will not only enable schools to improve their creative media facilities and provide their students with greater 21st-century learning opportunities, but it will also broaden HENC's reach across the public and private school spectrum and allow the consortium to better fulfill its mission of promoting the use of technology in education and research.

We appreciate the Legislature's acknowledgement via this bill of the important role that creative media and STEM programming play in our schools' efforts to prepare students for both college and careers in all fields in the 21st century and urge the Committees to pass this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

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Testimony By: Cindy Goldstein

SB 1096sd2, Relating to Technology Workforce and Development

House HED/EDN Committees

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Room 309, 2:15 pm

Position: Strong Support

Chairs Chang, and Takumi, and Members of the House HED/EDN Committees:

My name is Cindy Goldstein, Government Relations Chair of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

Appreciation is expressed for this bold measure in these economic times. SB 1096sd2 is an investment for the future of Hawaii's young people, as well as for the well being of Hawaii as a science, technology and innovation state.

As Hawaii looks at ways to diversify the economy, and develop our science and technology sector that offers higher paying jobs, investment and support of the named programs that encourages students to develop an interest in science goes hand-in-hand with these goals.

The seed industry, as is the case for many technology companies, are finding it difficult to fill science and technology jobs. We look at and support a range of ways to encourage more of Hawaii's young people to pursue studies and jobs in science and technology to meet our needs for employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Hawaii Educational Networking Consortium

*East-West Center / Hawaii Association of Independent Schools
Hawaii State Department of Education / University of Hawaii*

Testimony Presented to the House of Representatives:
**Committee on Higher Education
Committee on Education**

March 17, 2009 - 2:15 P.M.
Conference Room 309

Marlon Wedemeyer, Program Director for the
Hawaii Educational Networking Consortium

In Support of SB 1096, SD 2
Relating to Technology Workforce and Development

Chairpersons Chang, Takumi; Vice-Chair Nakashima, Berg and all members of the Committees: This testimony is to express the viewpoint of the Hawaii Educational Networking Consortium (HENC).

HENC is a collaborative relationship formed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Hawaii State Department of Education, the University of Hawaii, the East-West Center, and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools. The mission of the consortium is to encourage and promote the use of technologies in education and research in the State of Hawaii.

HENC is in full agreement that creative media and STEM offer important opportunities for diversification and strengthening of Hawaii's economy in the 21st century. We appreciate the Legislature's recognition and support of on-going work in creative media, especially in these difficult financial times.

Because HENC is an informal consortium facilitated by the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) rather than a registered 501(c)3, we request that Paragraph 2 of Section 6 of the Bill be amended to state that: The sums appropriated by this section shall be expended by the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii as directed by the Hawaii Educational Networking Consortium for the purposes of this Act.

HENC supports SB 1096, SD 2 and we are convinced that such an investment will enhance the economic vitality of the State. We ask that you permit this measure to move forward. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify.
