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Testimony Presented Before the

House Committee on Higher Education February 2, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

by

Mitchell Ka'aiali'i

President, University of Hawai'i Alumni Association

and

Douglas Inouve

1st Vice President, University of Hawai'i Alumni Association

and

Patrick Oki

2nd Vice President, University of Hawai'i Alumni Association

HB 2670 - Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i Alumni Association supports the passage of HB 2670. Lifting the cap will allow more investment in alumni relations and the critical task of engaging alumni with their alma mater.

Our partnership with the University of Hawai'i Foundation has proven to be a most productive and successful model for the Association with increased membership and most importantly, a direct correlation of increased engagement to alumni giving.

During the University of Hawai'i Foundation's Centennial Campaign completed June 30, 2009, 1 out of every 5 Manoa alumni gave back to their alma mater, this is nearly double the amount of alumni giving from the previous campaign. This level of giving is one of the highest in the nation compared to our peer public research institutions.

Alumni support through increased communication and programming is critical to the success of our alma mater. An investment in alumni relations through the University of Hawai'i Foundation is an investment in the future success of our University.

We extend our mahalo for the introduction of this bill.