



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
April 6, 2015 at 1:30pm

by

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And

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HB 547 HD2 Proposed SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the committee:

House Bill 547 HD2 Proposed SD2, in Part I requires the University of Hawai'i to explore administrative measures and develop a Graduation Pathway System; and in Part II appropriates funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine for renovations, repairs, and improvements.

Part I: The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the intent of HB547 HD2 Proposed SD2 to support UH students toward timely graduation and to enhance the University's capacity to track and advise students about their progress toward graduation. The University, however, is concerned about the proposed statutory language:

First, the University concurs with the issues raised by the Department of the Attorney General in written testimony on HB547 HD1 submitted to the House Committee on Finance on March 3, 2015. It states that it is troublesome to identify in statute academic structures and actions leading to timely graduation. As cited in the Attorney General's testimony, these are areas under the jurisdiction of the UH Board of Regents.

Second, may we also respectfully point out that as a practical matter, inclusion of specific academic structures and actions in statute, as proposed by HB 547 HD2 Proposed SD2 is burdensome and may **quickly or frequently become outdated**. The key to the online tools described in the Graduation Pathways System (GPS) is the ability to provide dynamic data for students and UH to guide paths to graduation. These tools make possible on-time data analysis and adjustments as successful/not so successful actions or structures are identified, thus making inclusion in statute cumbersome.

GPS and other innovations collectively contribute to student success in completing college, and move Hawai'i toward the goal of more educated citizens. To build on GPS and other innovations and to accelerate their development, UH needs support to further develop the technological backbone of the GPS system that boosts the ability of students and advisors to identify and track course and program activities toward graduation. We look forward to working with the legislature to frame language that will support GPS, with the understanding that sums appropriated would not adversely impact the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents approved budget.

Part II: The University of Hawai'i respectfully requests the authority to utilize \$5.6 million dollars, which represents the remaining investment income balance earned from revenue bonds as authorized by Act 14 (Hawai'i Legislative 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session 2001) during the original construction period of the John A. Burns School of Medicine's (JABSOM's) Kaka'ako Health and Wellness buildings. These remaining revenue bond investment funds can only be used for capital projects for the JABSOM Kaka'ako Health and Wellness buildings. The authority to spend these funds (without legislative action) has expired.

Critical Kaka'ako building capital projects including renovations and facility upgrades are required to facilitate research, to retain accreditation (by the U.S. Liaison Committee on Medical Education) and save energy costs while promoting sustainability. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's JABSOM complex is nearly a decade old, and requires maintenance and equipment upgrades mandated by our accrediting body.

Specifically, JABSOM plans to expend the remaining \$5.6 million on the following capital projects:

- Improve JABSOM's chiller plant efficiency through an upgrade that would return its investment in 1.5 years. The future dollar savings would allow JABSOM to reinvest and install a photovoltaic system that would continue to further offset energy costs, while providing a sustainable energy addition to our 24/7 facilities operations.
- Repair a 1,600-gallon hot water storage tank located in the Basic Research Building. This repair is needed to ensure the health and safety of all Animal Veterinarians Services (AVS) personnel and the research animals housed in the research building's vivarium (animal quarters) to comply with regulations of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply and Center for Disease Control (CDC) special agent lab operations.
- Replace security cameras throughout the campus grounds, to enhance the safety of our students, faculty and visitors and comply with the federal campus safety CLERY Act, improve the CDC level laboratory security, and to permit

security staff reduction as JABSOM shifts from an outside security vendor to UH Mānoa staffed security personnel.

- Renovate Ancillary Building areas for research to house the State's only medical education and research based translational research clinic. Repair concrete that has settled on the makai side of JABSOM's Waiola Café. This uneven surface is located in a high foot traffic area in the courtyard between the Cancer Center and Medication Education Building. The repair is needed for health and safety reasons as one person has already been injured.
- Replacement of nonfunctioning obsolete educational equipment located in the Medical Education Building including the clinical skills labs, problem-based learning center and audiovisual equipment rewiring and construction costs. These are mandatory to adhere to the LCME accreditation educational resources requirements. JABSOM's next LCME accreditation visit is in early 2017.

The University supports Part II Section 6 of HB547 HD2 Proposed SD2 as long as it does not interfere with the other capital projects in the Board of Regents approved budget.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony.