

LATE
TESTIMONY
SB 707



**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth
In Support of SB707 Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Senate Committee on Higher Education & the Arts
10 February 2015, 2:00pm, Room 224**

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 70 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports SB707 to establish a Sustainability Office in the University of Hawai'i System with funding for key staff to coordinate implementation of the Board of Regents Sustainability Policy across all 10 campuses and encourage statewide leadership to meet *Aloha+ Challenge* targets.

The *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'ōia*, a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69) and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.

As the largest higher education institution in the state, the University of Hawai'i is key to achieving the *Aloha+ Challenge* green jobs and education target that underpins all the other targets over time. UH Board of Regents recently adopted a sustainability policy and Interim UH System Sustainability Coordinator Matt Lynch is the focal point for planning and implementation.

The Interim UH System Sustainability Coordinator Matt Lynch also currently Co-Chairs the HGG Measures Project with the Sustainability Coordinator for the State of Hawai'i, and is working with a team of government agencies (federal, state, county), academia, philanthropies, businesses and non-profit organizations to develop shared statewide indicators for the *Aloha+ Challenge* Sustainability dashboard. This dashboard will provide a tool for decision makers and the public to track progress on the *Aloha+ Challenge* targets.

As a partnership representing Hawai'i's leaders in environment, food and energy, HGG strongly supports **SB707** as a critical step to help build critical capacity for sustainability leadership within the University of Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy

<http://www.hawaiiagreengrowth.org>



COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 10, 2015 at 2:00pm

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB707

Aloha e Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

The Student Sustainability Coalition of Hawai'i, representing over 100 student leaders on all 10 campuses of the UH System as well as SustainableUH, which represents hundreds of students at UH Manoa gives strong support for SB707.

As UH's first Student Sustainability Coordinator, I have seen the sustainability movement at UH grow rapidly in the past three years. With the Annual HI Sustainability in Higher Education Summit gathering hundreds of diverse stakeholders from campuses across our islands, this event is now in its third year and features inspiring speakers, sharing of research and best practices as well as a Student Summit. Additionally, this grassroots movement at the University successfully advocated for commitments to environmental sustainability to the Board of Regents, which unanimously adopted the UH Systemwide Sustainability Policy into its mission statement this time last year.

This movement has been quite impressive in galvanizing momentum in our higher education institutions. With the support and hard work of students, staff, faculty and administrators, our collaborative systemwide sustainability initiatives now leave the UH committed to goals of "carbon neutrality, zero waste & local food self-sufficiency." The Executive Sustainability Policy coming from the Office of the President of UH will be released this month to outline the implementation of reaching those goals.

With all of these victories, however, this movement remains vulnerable due to a lack of funds to hire dedicated staff. In my own experience, I spent a year and a half volunteering my time to coordinate the Student Sustainability Coalition of Hawai'i. With an inability to financially sustain myself in that role, I was unable to continue volunteering to coordinate student efforts or to plan the Annual Student Sustainability Summit. Because of this, Aurora Winslade, the previous UH Manoa Sustainability Coordinator, was able to secure temporary money to fund my position until this May. Since my time being hired on in the fall, we have advocated for fossil fuel divestment, sent students to campus sustainability conferences, held statewide

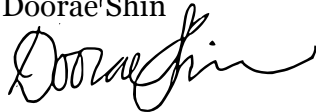
student convergences and built leadership and capacity within the Student Sustainability Coalition of Hawai'i.

With my position and the position of the UH System Sustainability Coordinator ending at the end of this semester, SB707 will bring UH up to par with the most prestigious and the least prestigious universities and colleges across the nation and the globe, which have committed resources to establish Offices of Sustainability and dedicated staff.

With our movement in higher education in Hawai'i so aligned with efforts at the State (Aloha+ Challenge) to achieve environmental sustainability, it is imperative that our 10-campus system serves as a place of inspiration and best practices in environmental stewardship. With Hawai'i's abundant potential to become energy independent and to realize a holistic culture of sustainability, the UH System already serves as the model for the islands and the globe in action around the climate change we are so vulnerable to as an island ecosystem in the tropics. The catalyzing effects of the establishment of this office and hiring of staff are wide, impactful, and long-term, and support from the legislature in this way will create ever-increasing opportunities to secure and justify support from our administration directly.

Mahalo nui loa for your openness to hear testimony regarding the Office of Sustainability, and thank you for your continued leadership for the sustainability of our campuses and these islands we call home.

Mahalo nui loa,
Doorae'Shin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doorae'Shin', written in a cursive style.

Student Sustainability Coordinator
University of Hawai'i System

Hawaii State Senate 28th legislature 2015
February 9, 2015, 9:00 A.M. (Testimony is 1 page long)
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB707

Aloha Senators Gabbard, Chun-Oakland, Inouye, Ruderman, Dela Cruz, Espero and Taniguchi,

The Energy Excelerator, a program of the non-profit organization PICHTR (Pacific International Center for High Technology Research) finds and funds transformative energy and transportation technologies that can help Hawaii move from an oil-dependent economy to one powered by clean energy. So far the Energy Excelerator has helped 32 energy companies raise follow-on funding of over \$55M. We hereby submit testimony in strong support of SB 707, which establishes the University of Hawaii System Sustainability Office.

Currently about 1% of the electricity used in the state is purchased by University of Hawaii at Manoa alone. Given the State's ambitious energy and sustainability goals, it is imperative that the ten campuses comprising the University of Hawaii system establish an equally ambitious sustainability policy to reduce its energy consumption, develop grid modernization, and implement renewable energy solutions. The Strategic Energy Plan of University of Hawaii at Manoa identified energy savings of over 37.5 million kWh/yr with a projected annual utility cost saving of \$7.7 million. The University of Hawaii System Sustainability Office can take a lead in recovering these annual savings.

We think a sustainability office at University of Hawaii via SB 707 is very important for four main reasons:

- 1) It continues to develop more opportunities for students to work on their sustainability passions with financial support through paid positions, internships and fellowships, thereby reinforcing the clean energy workforce.
- 2) It develops mechanisms to track and re-invest savings realized from sustainability initiatives multiplying clean energy savings.
- 3) It supports the establishment a Strategic Energy Partnership in collaboration with key stakeholders that may include the Public Utilities Commission, Hawaii Energy, the utility company and the UH Foundation providing the necessary network to realize our clean energy goals.
- 4) It supports implementation of the Board of Regents' sustainability policy to achieve carbon neutrality, zero waste, and local food self-sufficiency in turn helping the State in achieving its sustainability goals as defined by the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

We strongly support SB 707 and urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

February 10, 2015

Regarding [SB707](#) - **RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII (VPA-S*, CFO, UHM)**

I have been involved w/ Sustainability in Higher Education in Hawaii for the past 3-years in the capacity of obtaining my masters program in Global Leadership and Sustainable Leadership, as well as community and education outreach for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, DEBDT, as well as the Department of Agriculture.

I testify that funding for a UH System Office of Sustainability will:

- support implementation of the Board of Regents' sustainability policy to achieve carbon neutrality, zero waste, and local food self sufficiency
- develop mechanisms to track and re-invest savings realized from sustainability initiatives
- provide coordination across all ten campuses to help students develop sustainability curriculum and articulate courses in sustainability studies to catalyze the growth of a green economy in Hawaii
- continue to develop more opportunities for students to work on their sustainability passions with financial support through paid positions, internships and fellowships
- support the establishment a Strategic Energy Partnership in collaboration with key stakeholders that may include the Public Utilities Commission, Hawaii Energy, the utility company, the UH Foundation, and others to finance energy efficiency and demand management projects that can realize significant energy cost savings
- expand the impact of the annual Sustainability in Higher Education Summit, an important catalyst that gathers sustainability practitioners, researchers, and advocates from across the university system and the communities we serve, to integrate sustainability into community engagement, campus life, operations, and curriculum development across all ten campuses
- support the state in achieving its sustainability goals as stated in the Aloha+ Challenge Resolution

Thank you for your help and support.

Aloha,
Amy Schwab
1519 Nuuanu Avenue, Apt. 746
Honolulu, HI 96817

Student Sustainability Coalition of Hawaii
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Testimony of Kristen Jamieson

IN SUPPORT OF SB 707, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE
Before the Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee
February 10, 2015

I, Kristen Jamieson, am a student at UH Manoa studying Natural Resource and Environmental Management and am the Food Waste Coordinator for the student organization Sustainable UH. I am here today representing the Student Sustainability Coalition of Hawaii in support of SB 707.

The System Sustainability Coordinator as well as the Student System Sustainability Coordinator positions have been essential in catalyzing important progress towards a more sustainable university. The Sustainability in Higher Education Summit, planned by the Sustainability Coordinators in partnership with the Student Sustainability Coalition of Hawaii, achieved the implementation of the Board of Regent's sustainability policy to make important goals towards carbon neutrality, zero waste and local food self sufficiency.

Due to the transient nature of universities, where passionate students and faculty wax and wane over the years, it is important to create a stable position coordinating sustainability to maintain momentum around sustainability efforts. These positions catalyze student engagement and empowerment to do a great service to the university, while . On a personal note, participating in sustainability has offered me powerful professional skills and personal relationships.

It is important that the universities actions are in line with their mission of sustainability, and these positions ensure positive action towards those goals. Currently, the university spends over a quarter of tuition dollars on energy bills and this is just one example of how improved sustainability is beneficial for financial, social and environmental duties of the university.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: lkalkbrenner@scu.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB707 on Feb 10, 2015 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 6:54:18 AM

SB707

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HEA on Feb 10, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lindsey Kalkbrenner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SUPPORT SB 707 As a Native Hawaiian and sustainability professional in higher education, I strongly support the idea of establishing a UH System Office of Sustainability. I have been involved with Sustainability in higher education in Hawaii, having participated in the annual Sustainability in Higher Education Summit, and believe the funding for a UH System Office of Sustainability would enable coordination across all ten campuses to catalyze the system's efforts and create economies of scope and scale to enable efficient implementation of the Board of Regents' Sustainability Policy. Hawaii has the opportunity to be a leader in modeling sustainability. A UH System Office of Sustainability would provide the framework for Hawaii higher education, and would help to catalyze the growth of Hawaii's green economy by empowering the next generation of leaders. Thank you for your consideration, Lindsey Lindsey Kalkbrenner (originally from Kamuela, HI) Director, Center for Sustainability Santa Clara University Santa Clara, CA
lkalkbrenner@scu.edu

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: mryan603@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB707 on Feb 10, 2015 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 10:59:36 AM

SB707

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HEA on Feb 10, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Ryan	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee, As a student of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a voter in Hawaii, I believe that an Office of Sustainability at the UH will be essential to create a bright and positive future for us all. As members of the academic and and progressive community, we stand in the unique position of being leaders in environmental initiatives in both our state as well as our country. Please invest in our education and our futures by voting to support SB 707. Thank you. Mark Ryan, Student UH Manoa

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February 10, 2015

TESTIMONY FOR SB-707 AND HB-1206:

I have been involved with Sustainability in Higher Education/Hawaii for 8 years in our UH Community College System, and testify that funding for a UH System Office of Sustainability would:

- support implementation of the Board of Regents' sustainability policy to achieve carbon neutrality, zero waste, and local food self sufficiency
- develop mechanisms to track and re-invest savings realized from sustainability initiatives
- provide coordination across all ten campuses to help students develop sustainability curriculum and articulate courses in sustainability studies to catalyze the growth of a green economy in Hawaii
- continue to develop more opportunities for students to work on their sustainability passions with financial support through paid positions, internships and fellowships
- support the establishment a Strategic Energy Partnership in collaboration with key stakeholders that may include the Public Utilities Commission, Hawaii Energy, the utility company, the UH Foundation, and others to finance energy efficiency and demand management projects that can realize significant energy cost savings
- expand the impact of the annual Sustainability in Higher Education Summit, an important catalyst that gathers sustainability practitioners, researchers, and advocates from across the university system and the communities we serve, to integrate sustainability into community engagement, campus life, operations, and curriculum development across all ten campuses
- support the state in achieving its sustainability goals as stated in the Aloha+ Challenge Resolution

Thank you for your help and support,
Tara Rojas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: wyatt804@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB707 on Feb 10, 2015 14:00PM*
Date: Monday, February 09, 2015 7:56:59 PM

SB707

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for HEA on Feb 10, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wyatt Gordon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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