



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Matt Elliott, Athletics Director
Department of Athletics
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 3263 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Athletics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM Athletics) supports SB 3263 SD2 HD1. Since July 1, 2025, collegiate institutions have been permitted to use funding to provide additional scholarships and share revenue with student-athletes under a new national Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) framework. NIL opportunities are important to college sports because they recognize the real economic value that student-athletes create while preserving their ability to benefit from their own work and identity.

UHM Athletics currently provides NIL opportunities in accordance with its primary objectives to create an outstanding student-athlete experience, recruit and retain elite student-athletes, and achieve competitive success at the top of the Mountain West and Big West conferences. UHM Athletics appreciates the House Committee on Finance's inclusion of \$5 million in the FY 2026–2027 state budget. UHM Athletics is currently relying on private fundraising to meet the current NIL obligations to student-athletes. Additional funding would create a certain revenue source that will allow the department to fully pursue its goals.

As UHM Athletics manages this new phase of college athletics, SB 3263 SD2 HD1 provides appropriate structure around NIL programming in the state. The department supports the establishment of student-athlete rights, reasonable education and reporting requirements, protections for student-athletes, and a thoughtful framework to move forward in a transparent manner.

UHM Athletics supports SB 3263 SD2 HD1 and encourages the committee to pass the bill.

March 23, 2026

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on
Consumer Protection & Commerce
Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session of 2026

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB 3263, SD2, HD1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

Hearing Date: March 25, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti and members of the committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 3263, SD2, HD1. This bill would allow UH to adopt policies for NIL agreements and activities, as well as provide education, support, and funding for NIL compensation.

As a former student-athlete at UH, I know first-hand of the countless hours that go into practicing, watching films and working out required to represent UH with pride and be part of a successful athletic program. Student-athletes must balance rigorous schedules with their full-time academic pursuits. Although financial aid is available to some student athletes, it rarely covers the cost of attendance when you factor in living expenses without the opportunity for employment. NIL compensation can provide student-athletes with the ability to supplement their scholarships/financial aid with additional income to help make ends meet.

Importantly, NIL has shifted from a recruiting enhancement only available at Power 4 programs to a critical component of collegiate athletics. Coaches across the country — including at UH — emphasize that NIL is central not only to recruiting top talent, but also to retaining players who might otherwise look elsewhere for such opportunities. The absence of sufficient NIL for UH athletes has and will continue to put our programs at a disadvantage compared to other similarly positioned programs and negatively impacts UH's ability to recruit. Even a small NIL agreement will influence an individual student-athletes decision to choose a school and program to attend.

The rise of NIL has also created confusion and the risk of crooked representatives taking advantage of student-athletes. Most student-athletes lack the resources and expertise to properly evaluate the consequences of NIL marketing agreements, tax liability or other potential pitfalls. Hawaii needs a reasonable framework to educate and provide structured and equitable NIL support to student-athletes. SB 3263, SD2, HD1 would ensure UH's

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student-athletes have the same opportunities to benefit from their hard-earned reputation and NIL value as their peers nationwide, while at the same time protecting them from confusion and risk. Without the framework, Hawai'i will be at a competitive disadvantage compared to other national programs.

I appreciate the committee's willingness to put forth a reasoned approach to NIL for UH's student-athletes, and strongly urge this committee to pass SB 3263, SD2, HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Iosua". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael L. Iosua



Kurt Milne | Owner/Operator
Ala Moana & Kapi'olani & Kalākaua
kurt@cfahawaii.com | 808-258-2505

Subject: Written Testimony in Support of Additional Funding for UH Athletics

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kurt Milne, and I am a local business owner and Chick-fil-A Operator, owning and operating the Ala Moana and Kapi'olani & Kalākaua locations here in Hawai'i. I am proud to support University of Hawai'i Athletics as a community partner, donor, and long-time supporter.

I am also personally a product of the University of Hawai'i athletic community. Athletics played a significant role in bringing me to Hawai'i, and the relationships and connections I built through that community are what ultimately led me to stay. Because of those roots, I have been able to build and operate multiple businesses across the islands, which in turn have created hundreds of jobs and contributed to our local economy.

UH Athletics plays a vital role in bringing our community together. As a business owner, I've seen firsthand how UH sports create shared experiences that unite residents, families, students, and visitors. Whether it's a football game, volleyball match, or community event, UH Athletics provides a sense of pride and connection that is uniquely Hawai'i.

I support additional State funding for UH Athletics because it is an investment in our people and our future. Our student-athletes represent the values of discipline, teamwork, and leadership, and they serve as role models for the next generation. In order to remain competitive and continue providing these opportunities, UH Athletics must have the resources to recruit, develop, and retain top talent.

The benefits to our State are significant. When UH teams succeed, it drives economic activity through tourism, local spending, and job creation. It also elevates Hawai'i's visibility on a national stage, strengthening our brand as a world-class destination. Beyond economics, UH Athletics strengthens the cultural fabric of our islands by fostering pride, unity, and a shared sense of identity.

Continued investment in UH Athletics is an investment in Hawai'i's future—supporting our people, strengthening our economy, and creating opportunities for generations to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kurt Milne



March 24, 2026

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3263 – FUNDING FOR UH ATHLETICS

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 3263 and additional State funding for University of Hawai‘i Athletics.

As a member of Hawai‘i’s business and media community, I have seen firsthand the unique role UH Athletics plays in uniting our state. Few institutions bring together residents, visitors, and communities across all islands the way UH Athletics does, while representing Hawai‘i on a national stage.

In today’s rapidly evolving collegiate athletics landscape—driven by conference realignment, NIL opportunities, and increased operational costs—additional financial support is not optional, it is necessary. Without strategic investment, UH Athletics risks falling behind peer institutions, which would directly impact competitiveness, visibility, and long-term sustainability.

Importantly, this investment provides tangible returns to the State and its residents:

- **Economic Impact:** UH Athletics drives tourism, visitor spending, and local business activity tied to events, travel, and broadcast exposure.
- **State Visibility:** National broadcasts and competitive programs elevate Hawai‘i’s brand globally, supporting broader economic and tourism initiatives.
- **Workforce Development:** Student-athletes gain education, discipline, and career pathways that contribute to Hawai‘i’s long-term workforce.
- **Community Value:** UH Athletics remains one of the few platforms that consistently brings together our diverse communities across all islands.

As the University transitions into a more competitive conference environment, the need for State support becomes even more critical to ensure UH Athletics remains viable and competitive at the national level.

This is not simply an investment in athletics—it is an investment in Hawai‘i’s economy, visibility, and people.



I respectfully urge your support for SB 3263.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Lockwood".

Kristina Lockwood
Vice President/General Manager

March 25, 2026, 2 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: COMMENTS ON SB3263 SD2 HD1 — RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and other Committee Members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii offers **comments** on [SB3263 SD2 HD1](#), which would affirm the right of student-athletes to engage in name, image, and likeness activities for compensation, require the University to adopt NIL policies, establish transparency and accountability requirements in the administration of NIL activities, and provide certain protections and educational support for student-athletes entering NIL agreements.

This bill deserves praise for its effort to establish NIL policies and enable students to participate in NIL contracts. This is an evolving area that would be helped by greater clarity for both students and schools, though federal legislation¹ may soon change the landscape of NIL payments.

In addition, the current version of the bill has wisely removed an appropriation that would have allowed state funds to be used for athlete compensation. Any legislative appropriation provided for the establishment of an NIL program should be limited to administrative and educational needs. UH should follow the established practice of schools that pay student athletes from third-party contracts, donations, revenues and other funding sources, not taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ [H.R. 4312](#) – SCORE Act, 119th Congress (2025-2026).



March 24, 2026

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
Senate BILL 3263
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I**

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
The Honorable Scott Z. Matayoshi, Chair
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice-Chair

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 2:00 pm
Conference Room 329
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Grandinetti and members of the Committee,

Island Energy Services, LLC (“IES”) is a proud supporter and longtime contributor to UH Athletics through its Corporate Partner Program and direct contributions to several of the sports teams. As a beloved institution and cherished fan favorite, IES continues to believe investments into UH Athletics is good business. As Hawai'i's only Division 1 college athletics program, “Hawai'i's Team” represent our unifying brand for many local residents, our dedicated employees and loyal customers that take great pride in following and cheering on the Bows. A study in 2015 found that UH Athletics generated \$66 million in local spending, \$129 million in business sales, nearly 37 million in income, and \$7 million in tax revenue while supporting 860 local jobs.

In recent years, several changes to the national collegiate athletics landscape have significantly increased the cost of maintaining a program that can compete on a level playing field. Programs like Name, Image and Likeness (NIL), revenue sharing with student-athletes and removing the limits on the number of scholarships have dramatically increased the financial needs for all NCAA member institutions. Hawai'i's dislocation from

LATE

the US Continent and it's peer conference foes only serve to amplify these increased costs for UH Athletics.

We believe SB 3263 SD2 HD1 is an important and necessary step in the right direction. However, we strongly encourage passage with amendments to include up to \$16 million in additional financial support for:

- ✓ \$10.8M for core operational expenses
 - Nutrition, medical care and insurance
 - Academic support and compliance
 - Recruiting
 - Increased cost of travel
- ✓ \$5M Name, Image & Likeness (NIL) Program
 - Supports a Title IX – compliant institutional NIL program
 - Retains local talent and attracts nationally student-athletes
 - Meets new D1 baseline expectations in-line with peers

In conclusion, additional financial support for UH Athletics is not only needed at this crucial moment in collegiate athletics, but a good investment into Hawai'i's economy, statewide community pride and identity on a national level.

Mahalo.

Albert D.K. Chee, Jr.
Executive Vice-President



LATE * Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

T. George Paris
Managing Director

March 24, 2026

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Members of the House Committee on Finance
Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session of 2026

Re: Strong Support for SB3263 SD2, Relating to Student-Athlete Compensation

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Grandinetti and Members of the Consumer Protection & Commerce,

The Hawaii **Ironworkers Stabilization Fund**, in strong support of SB3263 SD2, Relating to Student-Athlete Compensation.

We understand that a thriving Hawaii is built on strong foundations, and that includes investing in our people and our institutions. The University of Hawaii (UH) is the single most important institution for higher education and opportunity in our state, and its athletic programs are a vital source of community pride and identity.

Investing in UH football program is a necessary step in the ever-changing world of collegiate athletics. Hawaii must remain competitive. As an island state with only one comprehensive public university, we have a responsibility to our local student athletes and to our community.

This measure is crucial for the University of Hawaii (UH) to retain local talent and remain competitive with mainland schools, enabling local student-athletes to succeed at home. A successful college football program is essential for fostering community health and pride. The bill also establishes a modern, flexible framework that includes essential educational support for student athletes. and our community pride, the Ironworkers Stabilization Fund strongly urges the Committee to **PASS** SB3263 SD2 and commit to UH what is necessary effectively maintain its viability as an option for Hawaii's best athletes and strengthen the local community connection to the program.

Respectfully,

T.George Paris
Managing Director

Written Testimony of Carlos A. Santana

March 23, 2026

Prepared for the Hawai`i State Legislature

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

For consideration of SB3263: Relating to the University of Hawai`i

Proponent Testimony

My name is Carlos A. Santana. I am a graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law. I have also completed graduate-level coursework on Name, Image, Likeness and Athlete Compensation through the University of Florida. I submit this testimony in support of SB3263 relating to student-athlete compensation.

Name, Image, and Likeness

The landscape of college athletics is changing rapidly. The University of Hawai`i must keep up to remain competitive. These changes are mostly coming through litigation and judiciary decisions. Many of these court opinions allege the National Collegiate Athletic Association (“NCAA”) has violated antitrust laws by restricting athletes from earning compensation for the use of their name, image, and likeness (“NIL”). As the courts incrementally dismantle the NCAA’s policies on NIL compensation, the Hawai`i legislature should provide specific guidance for the state court through legislation specific to the issue of student-athlete compensation.

In 2015, the Ninth Circuit court held that the NCAA’s rules operate as an unreasonable restraint on trade, in violation of antitrust law.¹ This was only the beginning of the end of the NCAA’s NIL policy. The most notable court case is *In re College Athlete NIL Litigation*, commonly known as *House v. NCAA*.² In this federal case, the plaintiff filed an antitrust challenge against the NCAA and five athletic conferences.³ The complaint alleges that the NCAA’s restrictions on athlete compensation for NIL use constitute an unreasonable restraint on trade⁴ in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890.⁵ The complaint also

¹ *O’Bannon v. NCAA*, 802 F.3d 1049 (9th Cir. 2015).

² No. 4:20-cv-09122 (N.C. Cal. 2025).

³ The Atlantic Coast Conference (“ACC”), Big Ten, Big 12, Southeastern Conference (“SEC”), and Pac-12 were co-defendants in the case.

⁴ *In re College Athlete NIL Litigation*, 4:20-cv-03919 (N.D. Cal.).

⁵ Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, 15 U.S.C. § 1 (2025), “Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States, or with foreign nations, is declared to be illegal.” (<https://uscode.house.gov>)

alleges that the NCAA, defendant conferences, and member institutions engaged in a conspiracy to collectively refuse to negotiate with athletes for compensation.⁶ After other plaintiffs joined the case, the court certified it as a class action. The case was settled in June 2025 when the court approved an agreed-upon settlement between the parties.

The biggest impact of this settlement is in the area of student-athlete compensation. The settlement provided for \$2.8 billion in damages to the various classes of athlete plaintiffs dating back to 2016. The settlement also included:

- Allowing member institutions to be able to enter into direct NIL agreements with athletes for their broadcast NIL rights (up to a cap of 22 percent of Average Shared Revenue for Power Five institutions⁷);
- Eliminating scholarship limits in favor of roster limits; and,
- Enacting restrictions on NIL deals entered into between athletes and third parties, specifically boosters and booster collectives, specifically that such deals must be for a valid business purpose and for fair market value.⁸

Federal Legislation

Currently, there is no federal law regarding NIL for collegiate student-athletes. There are, however, several proposed bills in the current congress to address this issue. The Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements [SCORE] Act⁹ the College Athletics Reform Act¹⁰ and the Student-Athlete Fairness and Enforcement Act¹¹ are just a few of these proposals. These bills are similar in that they all would limit or prohibit institutions, conferences, and interstate intercollegiate athletic associations (e.g., the NCAA) from restricting the ability of a student-athlete to enter in an NIL agreement.

However, there are two issues that are not mentioned in most of these bills. These are the tax implications of this type of revenue and the status of international student-athletes.

Tax Implications

One purpose of proposed federal NIL legislation is to provide a “level playing field” in terms of recruiting student-athletes. With the current lack of federal law in this area, several states have enacted and more are considering legislation related to the compensation of

⁶ *In re College Athlete NIL Litigation*, See Note 4.

⁷ Power Five institutions are those institutions that are members of the five conferences in Note 3.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ H.R. 4312, 119th Cong. (2025-2026).

¹⁰ H.R. 6350 & S. 2470, 119th Cong. (2025-2026).

¹¹ S. 2932, 119th Cong. (2025-2026).

student-athletes.¹² But the states have also been silent on the tax liability these athletes take on when they receive compensation. Most of the proposals include a requirement to provide student-athletes with financial literacy training. But tax matters can be too complex for a basic financial literacy course.

Ignoring the tax issue in the state laws creates an unintended advantage for states that have low or no income tax. Consider a high school student weighing their options of universities that are recruiting the athlete. In mentioning the NIL opportunities, schools in states like Florida or Texas can mention these states have no income tax. This means the student would pocket more money in Florida or Texas than they would in states like Georgia or Idaho which have income tax rates over 5 percent.¹³ Some states like California, Hawaii, and New York have graduated income tax rates. This means as the student-athlete earns more in NIL, they also pay a higher percentage in state income tax.¹⁴

This gets more complicated when the student learns that cash earned for a service (active income) is taxed in the state where the service is performed while compensation for royalties (passive income) is taxed in the state of the student-athlete's residence. This creates the possibility of the student incurring tax liability in multiple states. This can also create a tax liability if the student travels to a state other than the school's state or their state of residence to compete in an athletic event. For example, a student attending the University of Texas may have residency in Arizona. But the team travels to Oklahoma for a competition. If the student provides a service for NIL compensation while in Oklahoma, now the student has incurred a tax liability in that state.

International Students

Legislation should also address the matter of international students. In a recent case, an Australian national was denied a P-1A visa. International students typically apply for F-1 student visas to attend universities in the United States. However, a student is not permitted to work off-campus with an F-1 visa.

Many international athletes (non-students) apply for a P-1A visa, which allows international athletes to compete in the United States. However, the P-1A visa does not permit the holder to attend college in the United States. In the Australian student's case, this student-athlete attending a university in the United States applied for the P-1A visa. The U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services ("USCIS") denied the application because (1) her proposed NIL activities were not seen as "ancillary promotional activities" and are unrelated to her status

¹² NIL STATE LAWS, <https://www.nilnetwork.com/nil-laws-by-state/> (last visited March 20, 2026).

¹³ NATIONAL TAX REPORTS, <https://nationaltaxreports.com/state-income-tax-brackets-by-state> (last visited March 18, 2026).

¹⁴ *Id.*

as an athlete, (2) her NIL representation agreement is not an agency agreement; and (3) she cannot attend school on a P-1A visa.¹⁵ The student-athlete is challenging this decision and the overall limits on P-1A visa access for college athletes. The case is still pending.

The problem:

- Students cannot work on an F-1 visa
- Athletes cannot attend school on a P-1A visa

The solution:

- Create a new visa (possibly an F-1A) for foreign students to attend a university, participate in intercollegiate athletics, and avail themselves of NIL opportunities.

Two proposed federal bills do address this issue. If enacted, these proposed laws would permit an F-1 visa holder to be employed for the purpose of engaging in activities related to a commercial NIL use agreement in exchange for compensation.¹⁶

The legislature and the University of Hawai`i must persuade federal legislators to require the USCIS to address this issue for international student-athletes.

Student-Athletes as University Employees

In July 2024, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals issued an opinion finding that some college athletes can and should be considered employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 ("FLSA").¹⁷ In doing so, they developed a four-part test for determining whether particular athletes should be considered employees. Under this test, college athletes may be employees under the FLSA when they (a) perform services for another party, (b) necessarily and primarily for the other party's benefit, (c) under that party's control or right of control, and (d) in return for "express" or "implied" compensation or "in-kind benefits."¹⁸ This case has not been resolved and is currently pending scheduling of a hearing on the NCAA's motion to dismiss.¹⁹

SB3263 SD2 HD1 would resolve this issue in Hawai`i courts as it states that nothing in the amended law would create an employment relationship between a student-athlete and the university.²⁰ This section should be retained in the final version of the bill.

¹⁵ *Poa v. Jaddou (USCIS)*, 3:24-cv-00887, Louisiana Middle District Court.

¹⁶ See S. 2932 § 601 & H.R. 6350 § 3(e), 119th Cong. (2025-2026).

¹⁷ 29 U.S.C. §§ 201-219 (2025).

¹⁸ *Johnson v. NCAA*, No. 22-1223 (3d Cir. 2024).

¹⁹ As of March 23, 2026.

²⁰ S.B. 3263 HD1 § 304A(1)

Conclusion

I support this legislation to support the student-athletes and the university. Creating NIL opportunities for all student-athletes, including international student-athletes, is good for the participants, the institution, and the state. While some might feel that it is unfortunate that college athletics has evolved to be about monetary compensation for the athletes, this is the world we live in, and we must stay on par to contend with other universities.

The federal courts and several state legislatures have been weighing in on the issue of athlete compensation. The Hawai`i legislature has an opportunity show that it supports student-athletes' rights and also supports the university's efforts to remain competitive in a rapidly changing environment.

As part of an educational curriculum, athletics teaches goal setting and teamwork, among many other benefits. It's time to show the student-athletes that the legislature is part of the team.

I fully support SB3263 and encourage all legislators to vote in favor.

March 24, 2026

Daren S. Kimura, MS, Ed.D
PO Box 23392
Honolulu, HI 96823
SB 3263, SD2, HD1 (HSCR 1268-26)

Re: Written Testimony in Support of Student-Athletes at the University of Hawai‘i

Aloha Chairman Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee,

As a life-long University of Hawai‘i fan and a proud graduate of the Shidler College of Business, I write today in strong support of the student-athletes of the University of Hawai‘i and to highlight the profound and far-reaching value they bring to our state—culturally, socially, and economically.

First and foremost, these young men and women represent the very best of Hawai‘i. They are ambassadors of our islands, carrying with them the spirit of aloha, humility, resilience, and respect. Whether competing at home or traveling across the continent, University of Hawai‘i student-athletes consistently demonstrate discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. Their conduct reflects not only on their institution, but on our entire state, reinforcing a positive image of Hawai‘i to a national and global audience.

Beyond competition, these student-athletes embody the core values that we strive to instill in our communities: hard work, accountability, and commitment to excellence. Balancing rigorous academic demands with the pressures of high-level athletics requires extraordinary dedication. In doing so, they serve as powerful role models for the youth of Hawai‘i. Young people across our islands see in them a path forward—proof that success is achievable through effort, integrity, and determination.

Their influence extends well beyond the field or court. Through community outreach, youth clinics, and local engagement, they actively inspire the next generation. They show our keiki that greatness does not require leaving Hawai‘i behind, but can be built right here at home with pride in one’s culture and community.

In addition to their social and cultural contributions, the economic impact of University of Hawai‘i athletics is substantial. Athletic events draw thousands of residents and visitors alike, supporting local businesses, hospitality, and tourism sectors. From game-day spending to increased visibility for Hawai‘i as a destination, these programs generate meaningful economic

activity that benefits the broader state economy. Media exposure tied to athletics further elevates Hawai'i's brand, encouraging travel and investment.

Moreover, a strong athletics program helps create a Statewide feeling of positivity that cannot be measured empirically, but is known to stimulate consumer spending locally, attract and retain students, contributing to enrollment stability and the long-term vitality of the university system. This, in turn, supports jobs, innovation, and workforce development within the state.

For all of these reasons, continued support for University of Hawai'i student-athletes is not only justified—it is essential. Investing in these programs is an investment in our youth, our culture, and our economy. These athletes give back to Hawai'i in immeasurable ways, and it is both appropriate and necessary that we stand behind them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your continued commitment to the people of Hawai'i.

Always a UH Fan and Supporter,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daren S. Kimura', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daren S. Kimura, MS, Ed.D

SB-3263-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 1:59:26 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelley K Fey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for UH Athletics

From: Shelley Kahuanui Fey

Date: 3/21/2006

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 3263. I am part a family with three generations of student-athletes benefiting from University of Hawaii Athletics programs. Starting with my father Harry Kahuanui who was a standout athlete in Football and Basketball. He went on to represent Hawaii in the East-West Shrine Game (first from UH), played for the Marines and eventually became a Football & Basketball coach at Kahuku and Roosevelt. My brother Lance Kahuanui played football (1972-76) and spent part of his career as a football coach. I was fortunate to play in the early years of the Wāhine Basketball program in 1976-78. I went on to coach Basketball at Kamehameha and Punahou. My son Kūpono Fey played on the Men's Volleyball team in 2013-2017. He went on to play professionally in Italy and Greece and is the current Associate Head Coach for the Men's VB program.

As you can see, the legacy that my father initiated began with his athleticism which caught the eyes of coaches at the University of Hawaii. He grew up in Kalihi, attended Farmington HS and without UH Athletics to provide him with the education to continue his life's path, I don't think we'd be where we are today. In addition to family members mentioned, my sister Charlene Christenson was an all-star volleyball player at UH Hilo and her son Micah Christenson not only stood out as an athlete at Kamehameha and USC but is the current starting setter for USA Men's Volleyball.

We believe strongly that the Univ. of Hawaii athletics represents all of Hawaii. It develops community and pride, programs we can come together to cheer for, opportunities for us to gather for a common purpose and inspire that which is Hawaii, very family and community oriented. Humble, kind, caring and loving.

We need to support UH Athletics not only for the student-athletes, but for Hawaii in general. When we walk into a room of fans, there is no better feeling to have than that sense of pride. Something our community needs to have as well as continue to build. It goes back to my father being recognized till this day as an athlete and coach. The legacy that UH develops over time is unquestionable, one that we have experienced as a family.

On another note, I am a current board member of the UH Letterwinners Club, one made up of former UH Athletes. Our mission is to promote fellowship among past letterwinners, encourage loyalty, service and pride in our Alma mater and assist current student-athletes. I began this journey when my son was playing. UH Men's Volleyball had only 4.5 scholarships. It was a bit of a struggle but we were able to support him during his time at UH. How are student athletes to be supported across the board? Here's an opportunity to do so. We cannot overlook the need to support those who don't have the means but are standouts in their sport. We also need to attract those top athletes who will enhance and help us build up our programs and with your support we can do this. I encourage you to pass this bill as well as provide support in as many means as feasible to support OUR UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Mahalo for your time,

Shelley Kahuanui Fey

808-223-9971

6020 Summer St.

Honolulu, HI 96821

Written Testimony for SB 3263
Wes Kimura – UH Baseball 1979-1982

LATE

- Thank you for allowing testimony in support of SB 3263.
- My name is Wes Kimura, and I've been a supporter of University of Hawaii Athletics for nearly 50 years in various roles:
 - A fan
 - Corporate Sponsor
 - Booster Club donor
 - A board member of the Letterwinners Club
 - Former student-athlete (baseball 1979-1982) including being a part of the 1980 College World Series team
- I gained a great deal of academic knowledge in the classroom during my years at the University of Hawaii while earning a Business degree. But participating in college athletics provided real life values and behaviors which I found essential in my 40+ year business career, like:
 - Discipline and work ethic
 - Perseverance and Resilience
 - Sportsmanship
 - Leadership and Responsibility
 - Teamwork and Collaboration
- Growing up in Hawaii, we were often told that we couldn't compete with those on the continent, but what I learned as a UH student-athlete is that we can definitely compete with anyone in the world, we just need an opportunity, and coaches who would instill these values, behaviors, and beliefs.
- Being a student-athlete at the University of Hawaii changed the trajectory of my life, and I see the same in the many student-athletes who I have had the privilege of interacting with throughout the years.
- We recently honored Coach Les Murakami on his induction into the College Baseball Hall of Fame, with 65 of his former players attending the ceremony, with many flying in from the continent. Most shared how much their lives were impacted by their athletic experience at the University of Hawaii which helped to propel them throughout their lives and careers.
- Providing the opportunity and sharing this college athletics experience with future Rainbow Warriors and Wahine is why I support SB 3263.
- Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

SB-3263-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 8:31:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Ann Satele	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Lee Ann (Pestana) Satele. My husband Alvis Satele and I are proud alumni and parents of alumna “AJ” UH Hilo baseball (wife Raeceen Woolford (WVB), UH Football players Brashton (wife Joy Saleapaga (T&F) and Liko (wife Dayna Hokama), and Wahine volleyball player Chanteal (husband Marcus Malepeai (FB). Alvis played for Coach Dick Tomey from 1981 to 84 when the Bows filled Aloha Stadium with 50,000 fans. And I played for Dave Shoji on the Wahine Volleyball team from 1981 to 84. Our full athletic scholarships to UH impacted our lives and legacy of our children and 15 grandchildren.

Over the last 40 years, we witnessed many changes at UH and saw victories when government supported new beginnings.

In the 1980s, Title IX gave more scholarships to women. UH became one of the first NCAA Women’s Volleyball programs to win back-to-back National Championships in 1982 and 83. A team made possible with scholarships to recruit the top tier female athletes.

In the early 1990s, the decision to build an on-campus arena with 10,301 seats instead of 6,000 that was being proposed. In 1994 the Stan Sheriff Arena sold out its opening game and has since set national attendance records and instantly became a dream venue for players of Hawaii and from all over the world to play in.

The new landscape of collegiate athletics involves NIL deals. It’s a vital part of fielding competitive teams.

Coaches like Robyn Ahmow, Timmy Chang, Charlie Wade, Eran Ganot, Laura Beeman and others who love Hawaii enough to stay, but they need the support it takes to build teams Hawaii can be proud to call THE HOME TEAM.

I ask you to take the step of faith again and say yes.

Testimony by Lee Ann Pestana Satele

LATE