



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 1:35 p.m.

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor  
and

Stephen Meder

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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **HB 1509 HD3 SD1 – RELATING TO ENERGY**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 1509 HD3 (the House bill that came over to the Senate) because it seeks to establish a special fund to support both net-zero energy efficiency projects and deferred maintenance projects throughout the University system, and because HB 1509 HD3 provides needed general fund capital to partly address some of the deferred maintenance projects on our campuses.

The University understands that changes have been made to the House version of the bill and remain supportive of the purpose and concept of HB 1509 HD3 SD1.

From a technical standpoint, we will need to ensure that the creation of a special fund will meet the self-sustaining criteria as defined in Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Section 37-52.3(4). We are confident that the energy fund concept is viable when addressing stand-alone energy projects. The University has not yet been able to establish that this financial approach ensures that the fund will be self-sustaining over time.

In closing, the University supports the purpose and concept of HB 1509 HD3 SD1. We look forward to working out the details of the financing model and any related project figures with the committee.