



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education

March 11, 2008 at 2:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

by
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Presented by
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SB 2333, SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Jerry L. Chang, Vice Chair Joe Bertram, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2333, SD2 relating to the University of Hawai'i. We support the intent of the SB2333, SD2 and agree that robotics is a powerful vehicle for K-12 students to explore and develop exemplary skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. For nearly two decades, the College of Engineering has been involved in multiple aspects of robotics education and outreach and has witnessed its tremendous impact on our students, teachers, and community. The many successful robotics competitions and the dramatic increase in interest and participation are strong testaments to this achievement. It is for this reason that we support the intent of SB2333, SD2.

We appreciate the interest in the UH College of Engineering and acknowledge that the bill is the result of much thought and input from our State policy makers. As a result, if the Legislature feel it in the best interest of the State to establish a working group to discuss the feasibility of establishing an Institute of Robotics or related institute within the UH College of Engineering, we will support the exercise with a level of effort appropriate to the resources we have available. Generally, feasibility and cost studies require major staff, faculty, and consultation investment.

In closing, I would like to add that ACT111 marked a milestone in K-12 outreach for the College of Engineering. Through the Administration's Innovation in Education Initiative - Fostering Innovation and Relevance through Science and Technology – Pre-Academy, Robotics and the Research Experiences for Teachers – Middle School Program, the College will further expand its role in STEM outreach.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify and for your continued interest and support in the UH College of Engineering.