



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
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by
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HB 2530 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH and University) is supportive of HB 2530 which would remove a statutory limit of an annual cap of \$3 million that the UH may provide to the University Foundation (UHF) from the UH tuition and fees special fund. The University does not represent that eliminating the statutory amount would necessarily result in paying more funds to the UHF. Rather, the University prefers to have the empowerment to assess how University funds could be leveraged to generate revenue and thereby contributing to more services for the University, students, faculty, and programs.

The UH currently does provide \$3 million annually to the UHF to pay for some of the operational expenses needed by UHF to generate philanthropic donations which returns to the University. In this way, the University views UHF's role as a major community partner that helps raise funds for University programs. The UHF also generates a major portion of its operating budget from its own philanthropic activities as well.

The University would like to be able to support the UHF so that they can, in turn, be more productive in their philanthropic efforts. The University manages its limited resources and funds prudently. Being able to provide additional funding to UHF if that funding can result in greater return of funds on our investment, can be a very prudent approach.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.