



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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by
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HB 1147 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 1147, Relating to the State Budget. The University of Hawai'i ("University") respectfully requests funds to support the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget adopted by the Board of Regents for the University of Hawai'i ("Board") which totals \$288.0 million for FY 2021–2022 and \$232.5 million for FY 2022-2023. While the University understands the dire fiscal conditions facing the State, our capital improvement program remains a priority as construction activity has been deemed essential throughout the pandemic and is a critical driver of the economy as the State looks to best position Hawai'i for both economic and social recovery from the pandemic.

In the past, the Board-approved CIP budget represented a comprehensive and strategic approach to its capital program framed primarily by the 2017 Integrated Academic and Facilities Plan for the University of Hawai'i System ("IAFP"), which commits the University to maximizing the use of existing space through shared classrooms and flexible furniture that support diverse programs and interdisciplinary learning. Based on these principles, the University adopted a 6-year CIP Plan that concentrates on modernizing existing facilities and increasing the quality of the learning, research and work environment. The process for developing the plan was driven by the Office of the Vice President for Administration and involved input from facilities teams, academic leaders, instructional and research faculty, surveys, enrollment data, course registration data, and Sightlines data. Goals and deliverables were determined through reviewing best practices and strategies for capital investment and facilities management; examining research and modern practices in teaching, learning and research; coordinating facilities planning with academic programs; and evaluating current space utilization and conditions of facilities.

In Spring 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted nearly every aspect of life worldwide and created significant challenges for the University, higher education as a whole, and the global and local economy. As such, while the Board-approved CIP budget stays true to the original 6-year CIP Plan principles of flexibility, integration with academic and programmatic needs, and strategic space management while maximizing the capital and operational dollar, it also prioritizes health and safety and other strategic projects that best position the University to offer modern facilities under an amended framework for academic and enterprise programs and amidst budget constraints.

For major capital improvement projects, any new facilities cannot result in a net square footage increase and must significantly advance a strategic initiative. Renew, Improve and Modernize

(“RIM”) Projects remain the foundation of our Board-approved CIP budget, with an emphasis on those projects necessary to protect health and safety measures, protect and maintain existing infrastructure and system investments and support current and funded research activity, as well as those that increase efficiency and utilization of existing spaces and promote flexible, shared and/or adaptive design and furniture. Now more than ever, it is important that we align current and future programmatic needs with our facilities needs, consistent with the IAFP principles, to further maximize our funding efficiency.

Based on the considerations set forth above, the Board-approved CIP budget strives for resiliency during these unparalleled times. This budget proposes to allow the University to continue to address health and safety and strategic priorities while positioning the University to adapt to long term plans and continue to fulfill its mission through the economic recovery and beyond. A summary of the Board-approved FY 2021–2023 CIP budget is provided below in order of priority:

Program ID	Project Title	MOF	FY22	FY23
UOH100	Mānoa Waikīkī Aquarium	C	\$1.5M	\$9.0M
UOH100	Mānoa Renew, Improve & Modernize Projects	C	\$110.5M	\$110.5M
UOH800	CCs Capital Renewal & Deferred Maintenance	C	\$25.0M	\$25.0M
UOH800	CCs Minor Capital Improvement Projects	C	\$25.0M	\$25.0M
UOH210	Hilo Renew, Improve & Modernize Projects	C	\$24.0M	\$13.5M
UOH100	Mānoa Mini Master Plan, Phase 2	C	\$60.0M	\$0
UOH800	CCs ADA Systemwide Upgrades	C	\$14.0M	\$14.0M
UOH800	Honolulu CC Technology Renovations	C	\$15.0M	\$0
UOH700	West O’ahu Renew, Improve & Modernize RIM Projects	C	\$3.0M	\$3.0M
UOH800	Windward CC Agripharmatech Bioprocessing Facility	C	\$3.0M	\$0
UOH100	Mānoa Central Administration Facility with Parking	C	\$4.0M	\$0
UOH700	West O’ahu Planning Projects	C	\$0.5M	\$0.5M
UOH800	Kapi’olani CC Koki’o	C	\$2.5M	\$30.0M
UOH800	Maui College Vocational Tech	C	\$0	\$2.0M
	TOTAL		\$288.0M	\$232.5M

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.