



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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By

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HB 1800 HD1 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) **supports** HB 1800 HD1, Relating to the State Budget. This bill adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of the Executive agencies and programs.

UH recognizes the uncertainty regarding the costs of the recovery and reconstruction efforts from the August wildfires and hopes that sufficient funding to sustain our mission will be available.

As the state's sole provider of public postsecondary education, we continue to strive to provide quality college and university education and training; create knowledge through research and scholarship; provide service through extension, technical assistance, and training; contribute to the cultural heritage of the community; and respond to state needs. We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to help the people of Hawai'i.

The following table represents all General Funded requests for additional funding and shows the budget request approved by the Board of Regents at its November 2023 meeting and what was included in the House Draft of the budget. This table does not include transfers which do not affect the overall General Fund budget.

UH supports the House Draft of the budget but respectfully requests that the transfer of one position from Hilo to Mānoa (UOH210 Seq. 31-001 and UOH100 Seq. 31-001) which was not approved by the House to be approved by the Senate.

Campus	Description	Board Request		HD1	
		FTE	\$\$\$	FTE	\$\$\$
Mānoa	General Fund Restoration		\$ 5,600,000		\$ 5,600,000
JABSOM	General Fund Restoration		\$ 1,800,000		\$ 1,800,000
Hilo	General Fund Restoration		\$ 3,420,000		\$ 3,420,000
West O'ahu	General Fund Restoration		\$ 1,620,000		\$ 1,620,000
System Admin	General Fund Restoration		\$ 5,086,848		\$ 5,086,848
Mānoa	Athletics Subsidy		\$ 3,200,000		\$ 3,200,000
Hilo	Athletics Subsidy		\$ 400,000		\$ 400,000
Community Colleges	Culinary Institute of the Pacific - Full Year Funding		\$ 389,245		
Community Colleges	Value Added Product Center - Full Year Funding		\$ 359,932		
Mānoa	Expand Teacher Cohort on Neighbor Islands	7.00	\$ 625,000		
Mānoa	CTAHR Extension Agents	5.00	\$ 506,555	5.00	\$ 506,555
System Admin	Increased campus safety	4.00	\$ 1,000,000	moved to TFSF	
Mānoa	Hawai'i Promise Expansion		\$ 12,506,711		\$ 12,506,711
Hilo	Hawai'i Promise Expansion		\$ 1,773,579		\$ 1,773,579
West O'ahu	Hawai'i Promise Expansion		\$ 4,026,116		\$ 4,026,116
Community Colleges	Hawai'i Promise Continuation		\$ 3,700,000		\$ 3,700,000
Community Colleges	Community-based Planning for Redevelopment of Lahaina	2.00	\$ 500,000		
Mānoa	Nursing Enrollment and Access thru UHM-UHWO Nursing Collaboration	6.50	\$ 1,068,821	6.50	\$ 1,068,821
JABSOM	Neighbor Island Health Access & Pathway Extension	4.00	\$ 925,000	4.00	\$ 925,000
Hilo	MA Counseling Psychology	3.00	\$ 210,000	3.00	\$ 210,000
West O'ahu	Pre-Nursing Support	3.00	\$ 322,032	3.00	\$ 322,032
West O'ahu	Early Childhood Education Support	2.00	\$ 180,910		
Hilo	BS Educational Studies & Expand Indigenous Teaching	4.00	\$ 285,000		
Community Colleges	Maui - Apprenticeship Training Expansion	-	\$ 250,000		
Community Colleges	LeeCC - Modernize Equipment	-	\$ 925,000		
System Admin	Systemwide Mental Health Services	6.00	\$ 510,000	6.00	\$ 510,000
Mānoa	Community Event Support	6.00	\$ 709,000		
West O'ahu	ACM Facilities & Core Services Support	4.00	\$ 252,648		

Campus	Description	Board Request		HD1	
		FTE	\$\$\$	FTE	\$\$\$
West O'ahu	Campus Safety	1.00	\$ 61,800		
Community Colleges	Maui - Water Quality Lab	2.00	\$ 160,000		
Mānoa	Stabilize UH Mānoa Athletics Operating Budget	43.00	\$ 3,136,642		
Mānoa	Cooperative Extension Support	5.00	\$ 581,555		
Community Colleges	WinCC - Incarcerated Students Program	3.00	\$ 250,528	3.00	\$ 250,528
Total		110.50	\$ 56,342,922	30.50	\$ 46,926,190

The top priority for UH is the restoration of our General Fund appropriation to pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, continuation of current funding levels for the subsidy to UH's Athletics programs and specific appropriations made outside of the budget or full-year funding of additions to last year's budget are also UH priorities.

For new funding, the top initiative is the expansion of the Hawai'i Promise Program to our four-year institutions and additional general fund support for the Promise Program at the Community Colleges, who have had to make up the difference in recent years with institutional funding.

Additionally, requests to help address the current workforce shortage in our healthcare and education industries will not only assist with employing Hawai'i's citizens in good-paying jobs but will also benefit the entire state.

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The following table delineates the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) requests for UH. Similar to the operating table, this shows both the Board-approved budget request and the House Draft of the budget. This table represents only General Obligation (GO) bond funded projects. The House Draft of the budget also reduces \$101,200,000 in currently appropriated General Fund CIP for FY25: \$30.0 million for Mānoa RIM, \$5.0 million for Coconut Island Sewer Line Upgrades, \$16.2 million for Hilo RIM, \$25.0 million for Community Colleges Capital Renewal and Deferred Maintenance, and \$25.0 million for Minor CIP at the Community Colleges.

Campus	Description	Board Request	HD1
System/Mānoa	System, RIM Projects	\$ 110,000,000	\$ 125,000,000
Mānoa	RIM Projects for Student Housing	\$ 40,000,000	
Mānoa	Hale Noelani Renovation	\$ 80,000,000	
Mānoa	PV Rooftop, PV Canopies, and Various Energy Efficiency Projects	\$ 30,000,000	
Mānoa	Waikīkī Aquarium Upgrades	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 4,500,000
Mānoa	Coconut Island Sewer Line Upgrades	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 6,000,000
Mānoa	Holmes Hall	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 8,000,000
Mānoa	Assessment and Feasibility of Hamilton Library	\$ 6,500,000	
Mānoa	Mini Master Plan, Phase 3 - Kuykendall Hall	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Mānoa	Central Administration Facility with Parking	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 8,000,000
Mānoa	Waikīkī Aquarium Seawall Repairs	\$ 3,000,000	
Mānoa	JABSOM Roof Replacement	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 6,250,000
Hilo	RIM Projects	\$ 7,300,000	\$ 16,200,000
West O'ahu	RIM Projects	\$ 5,000,000	
West O'ahu	Road B Entry Plaza	\$ 5,200,000	
West O'ahu	PV Carport	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Community Colleges	Major R&M		\$ 10,000,000
Community Colleges	Capital Renewal and Deferred Maintenance		\$ 25,000,000
Community Colleges	Palamanui - Improvements and Repair of Buildings		\$ 2,000,000
Community Colleges	Palamanui - Expansion of Nursing and Early Childhood Ed Labs		\$ 500,000
System	CTAHR - Poamoho Research Station		\$ 2,000,000
Total		\$ 331,500,000	\$ 223,450,000

Renew, Improve, and Modernize (“RIM”) Projects are the UH’s top priority, as these funds not only help to address the UH’s deferred maintenance backlog but improve sustainability and utility of our facilities to meet modern needs. The UH also respectfully requests the inclusion of additional funds to improve our student housing. The

appropriation language in HB 1800 HD1 for UOH900 (Systemwide) RIM does mention that such funds could be used for student housing projects. If additional funds could be made available for RIM – or, if specific funding could be added towards student housing – they would increase the feasibility that sufficient funding is available to address the facility needs of student housing.

The other projects in this list will help to protect health and safety, enhance sustainability, protect and maintain existing infrastructure and investments, and support important world-class instruction and research as well as community engagement.

We look forward to working with the Legislature throughout this Session and thank you for this opportunity to testify.