

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

***\*\*All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board’s website.***

Your Name (required) \*

Jeffrey Cheyenne Cary

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \*

jeffreec@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

SS - IV.D. Recommend Board Approval of a Request to Implement a New Student Engagement Fee at UHH

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

## Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha Regents and guests, I am a student in the Bachelors of Nursing program and I am writing to express my opposition to increasing student fees. Tuition for my program is already quite high and we are forced to also pay \$685.78 every semester for access to ATI Testing modules. Can you please address the inclusion of any mandatory fees as part of "tuition?" This way financial aid will assess the cost accurately and student's wont be forced to find additional financing out of pocket

## Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Ronald Sturges

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii Student Caucus

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \*

sturgesr@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

SS - IV.C. Recommend Board Approval of an Increase in the Student Life Center Fee at UHH

Your Position (required) \*

Comments Only

## Your Testimony/Comments

This testimony is authorized to address all three UH Hilo fee proposals on the agenda (SS IV.B. - SS IV.D.)

## Your Testimony (pdf or word)

**BOR Student Success Committee Testimony UHSC.pdf** (815.9 kB)



UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAII  
STUDENT CAUCUS

Date 02/06/2025

BOARD OF REGENTS COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Relating to All Student Fee Agenda Items

Aloha Chair Tochiki, Vice-Chair Haning, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

As the student governance group of the University of Hawai'i, the UH Student Caucus (UHSC) is formally authorized to serve as a system-wide association of all University of Hawai'i campus student governments, representing approximately 50,000 students across the 10 campuses of the UH System.

**The UH Student Caucus offers comments for serious consideration relating to all three UH Hilo student fee proposals.**

Student feedback indicates a majority opposition to the proposed increases. While the sample size is not ideal for a comprehensive attitude assessment of the UH Hilo campus, what has been provided indicates a large degree of hesitation in regards to the fee increases. Some students also indicate that there is a lack of understanding as to why the fees must be increased and to such a large degree.

Student feedback indicates that a significant percentage of students are concerned by the magnitude of the fee increase. With the size of the fee increases surpassing 100% many indicated alarm. If the fee increase to such a degree is necessary and cannot be reduced to a more acceptable number then it is suggested that such an increase take place over a longer period of time, to be determined by further student feedback.

Student feedback indicates that the proposed fee increase, while addressing those with financial insecurities in its implementation, still fear for their financial stability. While the proposed increase also includes stipulations to address those on financial assistance programs many students still feel that their financial security is at risk.

Sincerely,

Ronald Sturges,  
Chairperson, UH Student Caucus

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Your Name (required) \*

Elena Hill

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \*

hillelena24@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

SS - IV.C. Recommend Board Approval of an Increase in the Student Life Center Fee at UHH

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

## Your Testimony/Comments

Dear University of Hawaii Board of Regents,

I was a student at UH Hilo about 10 years ago. I have since graduated, am employed and raising a family in Waiakea. I'd like for my children to go to UH Hilo one day but what I see on today's agenda with three fees amounting to over \$300 for new students is making me think otherwise.

When I was a student, I used to go to the library and the student life center. It was odd that I didn't have to pay to use the library but I had to pay to use the student life center. Is the message that books and studying is more important than fitness and health? Both are equally important for students to be successful and I know students who used to only go to the library and not the student life center and the opposite. I don't know why we have to pay for one and not the other. If we have to pay, then it should be reasonable. **An increase from \$78 to \$178 is not reasonable.**

Thank you for taking my feedback into consideration,  
Elena Hill

## Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required) \*

Tammy and J-Boy Kaulukukui

Your Organization (optional)

Parents

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \*

tamtamkukui@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

SS - IV.B. Recommend Board Approval of a New University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH)  
Student Athletic Fee

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha mai kakou a pau,

We are writing about the student fees at UH Hilo - athletic fee, life center, engagement.



We have one child who already graduated from UH Hilo, one is in her junior year at UH Hilo and our youngest son is in his senior year of high school. Our youngest wants to go to UH Hilo too but now the fees are making us question that.

None of our children or our ohana attend athletic events because we are busy with full-time jobs, volunteering with our homestead association and proudly living our lifestyle. We are active in the Hilo community but not in athletics. It doesn't make sense for this fee to be charged to all students. Like the theater, only the people who CHOOSE to attend the events need to pay to enter. Why can't athletics do that? This fee seems to benefit mostly the athletes. It's not fair for the rest of the students to cover the expenses for a small group of students. The proposal says there are unique challenges for UH Hilo Athletics. The university has a lot of leaders who get paid a lot of money. They should plan to deal with the unique challenges. They shouldn't pass those challenges on to the students and us parents.

For the same reasons that we don't go to athletics events, our children also don't go to the student life center. They are still active working in our lo'i and the loko i'a we help caretake. A \$100 increase is more than double what it is now. An increase of that amount should happen over time. This feels like students are being asked to pay for bills that the university neglected to pay attention to over time. They should try to find other ways to pay for this. Why put this cost on to students who might not use the center? The proposal says the long overdue fee adjustment of \$100. It's not the student's fault that the university failed to plan better.

But most confusing of all is the student engagement fee. I paid \$10 for my first son and my daughter's UH Hilo IDs. The other things mentioned as a benefit for this fee is fluff. It's the kind of thing that the university has been doing for years and did a great job of doing under the prior leaders. Why is there a need for a fee now? I asked a cousin who works for a different college and she said they get a budget from their administration out of tuition payments. Why can't that be done instead of a separate fee that is REALLY high. I don't see how my child will get \$200 value out of this fee.

Regents please do not allow UH Hilo to continue adding on more cost to the price of college. We fought hard to keep our keiki home. If costs continue to go up at home, the cost of sending our keiki away looks more attractive. That's not what we want for our ohana or our lahui. Please do not pass these proposals. UH Hilo should find other ways to pay for this.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Tammy and J-Boy Kaulukukui  
Born and raised in Hawaii  
Panaewa residents  
Homesteaders  
Small business owners  
Voters  
Tax payers  
Local citizens

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached