

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



HB3398 HD1 – RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE
PROGRAMS

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 12, 2008 at 2:15 p.m.

by

Linda K. Johnsrud
Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

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Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy, University of Hawai'i System

HB3398HD1 – Relating to Foreign Language Programs

Chair Chang, Vice-Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

I am Linda K. Johnsrud, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy, University of Hawai'i System. On behalf of the University System, I am testifying on House Bill 3398 House Draft 1, which appropriates funds to the vice chancellors for student affairs at University of Hawai'i system campuses for shared resources for Philippine language and culture programs.

The language of House Bill 3398 HD 1 makes a compelling case for establishing Philippine language and culture programs and supporting recruitment and retention efforts. The bill proposes partnerships among student affairs and academic units and among campuses and with public schools and other groups. The bill requests appropriations for the ten campuses in the UH system.

As a general practice individual campuses are charged with establishing priorities and allocating resources for student support or curriculum development and the University system does not designate funding for each campus to develop courses and programs or provide specified student services. Therefore, we support the intent of House Bill 3398 House Draft 1, and its aim of increasing Filipino participation at the University of Hawai'i, but would prefer to honor each campus's process of setting priorities for their resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential
Carehome Administrators
Aloha Saguibsib Cultural
Foundation, Inc.
Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii
Annac ti Batac
Annac ti Caoayan 2002
Annak ti Kailokuan iti
America
Annak ti Sinait iti Hawaii
Asingan Organization of
Hawaii
Badoc-Pinili Aid
Association of Hawaii
Banna Association of
Hawaii
Bannatiran Association of
Hawaii
Batangas Association of
Hawaii
Bulacan Circle of Hawaii
Caballeros de Dimasalang
Cabugao Sons & Daughters
of Hawaii
Candonians of Hawaii
Caoayan ISAH
Cavitenians of Hawaii
Dingras Association of
Hawaii
Divine Word College
Alumni Association
FilAm Sports USA
Fil American Citizens
League
Filipino Business Women's
Club
Filipino Nurses Organization
of Hawaii
Filipino Women's Civic
Club
GUMIL Hawaii
GUMIL Oahu
Hawaii Filipino Women's
Club
Hawaii Council of Bilingual
Educators
ILAH
Ilocos Nortenians of
America
INCAT Alumni Association
of Hawaii
International Filipino
Society of Hawaii
Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.
La Union Circle of
Hawaii
Lingayen Gulf Club of
Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3398 HD1

House Committee on Higher Education
February 12, 2008, 2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 309

RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Title: Philippine Language and Philippine-American Studies

Description: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii system to provide Philippine language and Philippine-American studies courses systemwide. Appropriates funds.

(HB3398 HD1)

To: Hon. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Hon. Joe Bertram III, Vice-Chair;
Hon. House Committee Members of Higher Education
From: Jake Maegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of this bill. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I served as Chair of the 75th Anniversary Commission of Filipinos in Hawai'i, as well as a commissioner on the Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission. The achievements and contributions of Filipinos in Hawai'i since 1906 have been well documented. But the untold stories of alarming disparities are emerging in public health issues of domestic violence, incarceration, cancer, diabetes, cardio vascular diseases, unemployment, workers rights, and more.

After a hundred years, it is time to bring healing to Hawai'i's educational system that has failed our underserved communities, including Filipinos, by denying them the right to learn who they are, and where they came from. In so doing, Hawai'i's multi-ethnic students will also benefit from knowledge that will transform ignorance, fear, and racial strife into universal virtues. Provisions of this bill can foster the spirit of inquiry, self awareness, sense of belonging, empathy, compassion, unity and reciprocity for the greater good. Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill. Your help in its passage will bring about the type of profound change that is needed. Hawai'i cannot afford not to.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg,
President, Filipino American Citizens League



Unit Organizations

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Carehome Administrators
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Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii
Annac ti Batac
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Bulacan Circle of Hawaii
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Hawaii Filipino Women's
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ILAH
Ilocos Norteniens of
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INCAT Alumni Association
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Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.
La Union Circle of
Hawaii
Lingayen Gulf Club of
Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3398 HD1

House Committee on Higher Education

Date: February 12, 2008

Time: 2:15 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 309

RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Title: Philippine Language and Philippine-American Studies

Description: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii system to provide Philippine language and Philippine-American studies courses systemwide.

Appropriates funds. (HB3398 HD1)

To: Hon. Jerry L. Chang, Chair and Hon. Joe Bertram III, Vice-Chair;
Hon. House Committee Members of Higher Education
From: Helena Manzano, Board Member
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII

My name is Helena Manzano. National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII (NaFFAA) is in strong support of this bill. I serve on the Board of NaFFAA Region XII, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

The Ethnic Studies movement nationwide has played a critical role in producing topnotch thinkers and doers, who have advanced civil rights and socially responsible economic empowerment initiatives in the United States. This bill supports Hawai'i's institutions of secondary and higher education to carry out its mission to prepare students to turn around the demands of a complex and troubled world into opportunities of peace and prosperity for all. Philippine languages and ethnic studies programs are essential to move forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony to support this bill. Please vote yes to its passage.

Sincerely,

Helena Manzano, Board Member, NaFFAA Region XII



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701
E-mail: namihonolulu@yahoo.com

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3398 HD1 RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS House Committee on Higher Education

February 12, 2008, 2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 309

Title: Philippine Language and Philippine-American Studies
Description: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii system to provide Philippine language and Philippine-American studies courses systemwide. Appropriates funds. (HB3398 HD1)

To: Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair and Rep. Joe Bertram III, Vice-Chair
House Committee Members of Higher Education

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, President, NAMI
(Nursing, Advocates & Mentors, Inc.)

My name is Beatrice Ramos Razon. I am in strong support of this bill. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing, Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 nurses, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawaii's people by addressing the global issues of a worldwide nursing shortage through the training and mentoring of foreign medical graduate nurses to pass Hawai'i's nurses board exams.

Language access to government services is of grave importance to Hawai'i's diverse immigrant groups. Filipinos comprise 61 percent of immigrants, which is larger than all the other immigrant groups combined. Offering Philippine languages and Filipino American studies will perpetuate and promote heritage language speakers, who are at risk for losing their language skills, if they are not used. These emerging leaders are an overlooked resource that not only have tremendous potential for success, but are essential to Hawai'i's vibrant economic future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this bill. NAMI appreciates consideration of your support.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 3398 Testimony In Support of HB3398
Relating to Foreign Language Program

Description: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii system to provide Philippine language and Philippine-American studies courses systemwide.

House Higher Education Committee
February 12, 2008, 2:15pm
House Conference Room 309

The Honorable Rep. Jerry Change, Chair
Members of the House Higher Education Committee

By

Agnes Malate

P.O. Box 61501; Honolulu, Hawai`i 96839
armalate@yahoo.com/383-9318

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in strong support of HB 3398. I am speaking to you today as someone who has greatly benefited from taking an Ethnic Studies course in high school and Ilokano language and Philippine literature courses in college. Taking these courses reconnected me to my Filipino heritage and instilled an appreciation for Hawai`i's multicultural society that provided me with the foundation to better serve the community.

I belong to the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA) and Filipino Coalition for Solidarity; serve as the Vice-President for the Friends of Imi Ho`ola (a non-profit organization to help support disadvantaged/underrepresented students participating in the UH School of Medicine's post-baccalaureate, pre-medical program); and a member of the Advisory Council for the Pilipina Rural Project of the Domestic Violence Action Center.

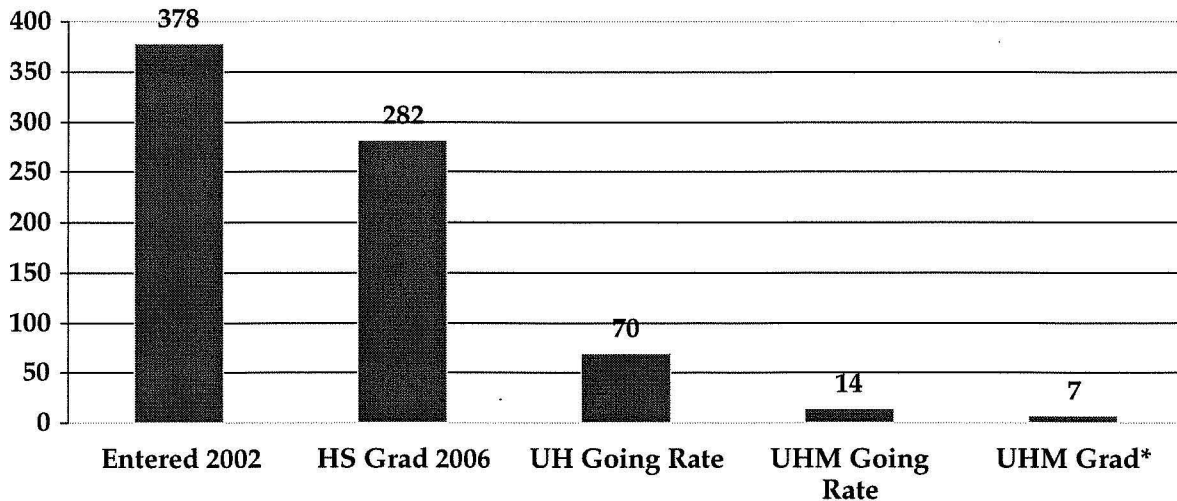
When I arrived in Hawai`i at the age of seven, I knew only a few words of English. In order to facilitate my transition into school and my new home, my teacher instructed for my parents to refrain from speaking Ilokano, my first language, and speak to me only in English. My parents had the foresight to recognize the value of being bilingual and continued to communicate with me in both languages. Despite their lack of hesitancy in keeping the language alive in our home, I found it more desirable to distance myself from it in order to fully be accepted by my peers and teachers. I made a decision to think, speak, and even dream only in English in order to gain more proficiency in my second language. Eventually I became ashamed to speak Ilokano in public and began to call my parents "Mom" and "Dad" instead of the Ilokano forms of "Nanang" and "Tatang". With it came an ethnic identity crises that began to be quelled in the ninth grade when I took an Ethnic Studies class and learned about the experiences of Filipinos and other ethnic groups in Hawai`i. Having a forum dedicated to understanding the peoples and cultures of Hawai`i was liberating and informed me on the significant figures and contributions made by the various ethnic groups.

Today, I observe the children of relatives and friends go through the same experiences as they start formal schooling and begin to measure the worthiness of the culture in which they were raised. I believe it persists because there is no ongoing institutional recognition and support for including material in curriculum that validates the importance of groups that have been historically considered on the periphery. Offering Philippine languages and Ethnic Studies is one of necessity and a way to ensure that the diverse cultures of Hawai`i have access to quality education, health, and social

services.

Studies have shown that students have a greater chance of success if there is a match between the cultures of their home and school. Having Philippine language and Ethnic Studies courses will help to bridge the gap that exists and facilitate school completion rate that remains dismally low at the high school and college levels.

WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE (2002-03 COHORT).



*Projected number to graduate from UH-Manoa in 2012. It is based on past UH trends of 50-55% graduation rate after 6 years in college.

Source: Waipahu High School, Preliminary Status and Improvement Report, School Year 2006-07. High School Background of First-Time Students, Institutional Research Office, University of Hawai'i, Fall 2006

Of the 378 students in the Waipahu High School 2002-03 cohort, only 70 enrolled in the University of Hawaii system in 2006, with only seven projected to graduate from UH-Manoa after six years in college. Clearly, there is a need to provide instruction that engages students in their learning and provides them with the knowledge and skills to meet the growing need in Hawai'i's community for a culturally competent workforce. A similar trend is found in a number of high schools with a high percentage of Filipinos.

I would like to reiterate my wholehearted support of HB 3398 with minor amendment to change **Philippine**-American back to **Filipino**-American as stated in original draft of the bill to reflect the inclusion of the Filipino-American experience in ethnic studies courses. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and I ask for you to fund the Philippine language and Ethnic Studies courses at the University of Hawaii system.

Sincerely,
Agnes Malate

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3398

**February 12, 2008, 2:15 PM
Conference Room 309
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street**

**RELATING TO PHILIPPINE LANGUAGES AND
PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN ETHNIC STUDIES**

**To: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
House of Representatives
HEDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov**

**Rep. Jerry L. Chang, chair
Rep. Joe Bertram III, vice chair**

**From: Aurelio S. Agcaoili, Ph.D.
Program Coordinator
Ilokano Language and Literature
University of Hawai'i at Manoa**

I am Aurelio S. Agcaoili, currently coordinator for Ilokano Language and Literature of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am also a faculty of this University and my testimony does not represent the official position of the University.

I am testifying in full and strong support of HB 3398 in my capacity as language and culture advocate, especially as one of the advocates of the language and cultural rights of the Ilokanos, the majority of the people of the Philippines who migrated to this State, or those descended from them.

The inclusive character of this bill, with the recognition of the historical importance of the Sebuano language, the language of the Sebuanos who worked side by side with the Ilokanos during the plantation days, makes it more relevant.

May I suggest that the contemporary rendering of 'Ilokano' with a 'k' and not with a 'c,' be used in the bill?

Thank you for the opportunity to give you this testimony.

CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

99-1325 Aiea Heights Drive, Aiea, HI 96701

Founded 1985

TO: Rep. Jerry Chang
Chair, House Committee on Higher Education

DATE OF HEARING: Tuesday, February 12, 2008
2:15 p.m., House Conference Room 309

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of HB3398 HD1

Mr. Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education. My name is Margarita L. Hopkins, president of the Congress of Visayan Organizations, the statewide umbrella of Visayan organizations in Hawaii.

I am testifying in strong support of HB3398 HD1 Relating to Foreign Language Programs, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii system for the offering of Philippine languages and Philippine-American studies in the UH system and high schools. We believe that this bill, if adopted, will help promote and heighten interest in Philippine languages and culture, will provide a solid grounding for Filipino-Americans who are in search of their Philippine roots, and also improve representation of the Filipino-American student population in the University of Hawaii system.

We therefore urge your committee to approve this bill.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

MARGARITA HOPKINS
President

Haunani Olds

From: Charlene Cuaresma [ccuaresma@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 12:48 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 3398 HD1

On behalf of Filipino community leaders, please accept the attached testimonies in strong support of HB 3398 HD1 relating to offering Philippine languages and Philippine American Studies in Hawai'i's high schools and community colleges.

House Committee on Higher Education
Date: Tues., Feb. 12, 2008
Time: 2:15 pm
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Rm. 309

Charlene Cuaresma

President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity
Secretary, National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII
Phone/Fax: (808) 254-4522
Cell Phone: (808) 371-3948
E-Mail: ccuaresma@hawaiiantel.net

"You cannot get to where you are going without looking to where you came."
Filipino Proverb

Haunani Olds

From: Elena C. [meclariza@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 1:14 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: armalate@yahoo.com
Subject: I Support Bill HB 3398

Dear House Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Elena Clariza. I am a graduate student in the Library and Information Science Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I support Bill HB 3398 to offer Philippine languages and Philippine-American ethnic studies courses at all UH campuses. I believe that these courses are important not only for Filipino students who would like to know about their cultural heritage, but also for those people who are interested in the Philippines.

The interest for these courses and for Philippine information in general goes beyond the Filipino community. For instance, one of my professors in Library Science, who is also an eminent member of this field, was disappointed to know that two Philippine Newspaper databases has been discontinued at Hamilton Library at UH-Manoa. He was dismayed because of the lack of funding for Philippine resources especially in a state with a large Filipino population.

What I do not understand, is that there are more course offerings for subjects such as French and Spanish in Hawaii Universities even though we do not have many French or Spanish speakers in the state. Granted, they are also important subjects, but **just as Philippine languages and Philippine-American ethnic studies.**

In addition, it also makes sense that there are many course offerings for Japanese language, not only for tourism, but for the local Japanese in Hawaii as well. In this sense, **Filipinos in Hawaii MUST have equal access to knowledge about their languages and culture in their own state university.** It is only fair. They are one of the largest contributors in terms of tax dollars because of their population size, and not to mention, their contribution to the tourism industry. They are definitely not asking much. **The state MUST take heed to the needs of the Filipino community.** Please do not disappoint them.

Sincerely,

Elena Clariza

Testimony in Support of HB3398

Relating to Foreign Language Programs

Description: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii system to provide Philippine language and Philippine American courses systemwide.

House Committee on Higher Education

February 12, 2008, 2:15 p.m.

House Conference Room 309

Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair

Members of the Committee on Higher Education

Dr. Jonathan Y. Okamura

Department of Ethnic Studies, UH Manoa

okamuraj@hawaii.edu, 956-4632

My name is Jon Okamura. I am a UH faculty member, and my testimony does not represent the official position of the University. I am an associate professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at UH Manoa where I teach courses on ethnicity and ethnic relations in Hawai'i, including our course on Filipinos in Hawai'i.

I fully support Bill HB 3398 that will fund Philippine language and Filipino American ethnic studies courses in the UH system. Passage of this bill is very important because offering ethnic studies courses on Filipino Americans and Philippine language courses can serve as a means for the much needed recruitment and retention of Filipino American students in the UH system. Compared to their 21 percent of public school students, Filipino Americans are greatly underrepresented in the UH system at less than 13 percent and among UH Mānoa undergraduates at about 9 percent.

Filipino Americans became even more underrepresented after substantial tuition hikes were implemented throughout the UH system in 1996 and 1997. Enrollment dropped from about 7,500 to 6,000 students after six years, and there are still 1,100 fewer Filipino American students than previously. At UH Mānoa, Filipino American undergraduates also declined for six consecutive years before finally starting to increase once again. The university is currently in the second year of six consecutive years of annual tuition increases of \$816 per year that will raise resident undergraduate tuition by 140 percent. Based on previous experience, Filipino American enrollment may very likely decline once again.

Given the considerable underrepresentation of Filipino Americans in the UH system, providing courses on Filipino Americans and Philippine languages can serve to increase their enrollment, transfer from the community colleges where they tend to be better represented to the baccalaureate degree-granting campuses, and eventual graduation with bachelor's degrees.

Offering these language and ethnic studies courses also may be a way to increase the number of Filipino American faculty in the UH system because they are even more underrepresented than are students. There are currently no Filipino American faculty at UH Hilo and UH West O'ahu and that has been the case for the past twenty years. Besides being

instructors, these faculty can serve as professional role models, informal advisers, and advocates for students and thereby enhance Filipino American recruitment and retention in the UH system.

Thank you for your attention.

Haunani Olds

From: Rachelle M Aurellano [aurellan@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 1:28 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: armalate@yahoo.com
Subject: Support for HB 3398

To: Committee on Higher Education, House of Representative

I am submitting this HB 3398.

Thank you.