



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
March 14, 2008 at 2:00 pm

By

Linda Johnsrud, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy,

HB 3398, HD3 – RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee on Education:

I am Linda 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 3, which provides funding to the vice chancellors for student affairs at University of Hawai'i campuses for shared resources for Philippine language and culture programs.

House Bill 3398 HD3 presents data about the representation of Filipinos in higher education and makes a compelling case for increasing the availability of Philippine language and culture programs and supporting recruitment and retention at the UH campuses.

While we agree with its intent, the University System cannot support HB3398 HD3 which appropriates funds to campus vice chancellors for student affairs for curriculum development and student services. As a general practice, chancellors are charged with the responsibility on their campuses for a process of establishing priorities and allocating resources, and we would prefer to honor this process of review and priority-setting at the campus level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii Interpreter Action Network
c/o Hawaii Newspaper Guild
888 Mililani Street, Room 303, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TO: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair; Rep. Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice-chair
Senate Committee on Education

RE: **Support, HB 3398**, Relating to Foreign Language Programs

FROM: M. Alohalani Boido, M. A., Chair
Legislative Action Committee, Hawaii Interpreter Action Network
Tel.: 946-2558, E-mail: boido@hawaii.edu

HEARING: Friday, 3-14-08 at 2:00 pm, Conference Room 225

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT, HB 3398 HD 3**, Relating to Foreign Language Programs

I am Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A., a Hawaii Judiciary Certified court interpreter (Spanish & English) and a founding member of Hawaii Interpreter Action Network (HIAN). HIAN is dedicated to representing Hawaii's court interpreters. We work to elevate professional standards of competence and ethics, and to improve working conditions.

The bill itself states the reasons why it should be enacted. We are in strong support because a major part of demand for language services in Hawaii is for Filipino languages.

Bilingual workers, and interpreters and translators, are drawn from one of three groups: 1) immigrants who were highly educated in their home country before arriving in the U.S., 2) immigrant children and children of immigrants who largely learn their Language Other Than English (LOTE) at home ("heritage speakers"), and 3) speakers who learn their LOTE at school in the USA.

For all three groups, formal study in school is needed to develop the high level of language knowledge necessary to provide competent bilingual services. Groups 2 and 3, above, rely on the American school system for the necessary formal study. The very expensive alternative is to travel for study to the country where the language is spoken.

To create high-level Hawaii-raised and/or Hawaii-educated speakers in Filipino languages, we need these formal opportunities for schooling. The majority of Hawaii's Filipinos are Ilokanos. The only Ilokano Language and Literature Program in the USA is at UH-Manoa.

Hawaii-raised and Hawaii-educated people are among those most likely to go on to provide very needed bilingual services in government and non-profit offices as staff, as well as interpreter and translator services to government offices, the community, and business. Such services are essential to providing language access to government services and linguistic due process in the courts, as well as facilitating international commerce.

HB 3398 HD 3 provides an economical and sensible way to educate people in languages essential to Hawaii's provision of government services and the development of international commerce. It also serves to give people a source of pride and joy in their culture and identity for Filipinos, and the joy of learning and sharing for all of us.

Please support HB 3398 HD 3. Hawaii needs this bill. Thank you.



Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential
Carehome Administrators
Aloha Saguibsib Cultural
Foundation, Inc.
Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii
Annac ti Batac
Annac ti Caoayan 2002
Annac ti Kailokuan iti
America
Annac 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 HD3 RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Senate Education Committee
Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Education Committee Members

March 14, 2008, 3 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Room 225

To: Hon. Norman Sakamoto, Chair; Hon. Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair; Hon.
Senate Education Committee Members
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

Filipino American Citizens League

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3398 HD3 RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Senate Education Committee
Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Education Committee Members

March 14, 2008, 2:00pm
Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Room 225

Title: Philippine Language and Filipino-American Studies
Description: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii system to provide Philippine language and Filipino-American studies courses systemwide. Appropriates funds. (HB3398 HD3)

To: Hon. Norman Sakamoto, Chair; Hon., Jill Tokuda Vice-Chair
Hon. Senate Education Committee Members
From: Jake Manegdeg, 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

Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

A HAWAII RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP • FOUNDED IN 1990

c/o 728 Nunu St. • Kailua, HI 96734 • <http://www.philippinesonline.org/thecoalition/>

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3398 HD3 RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Senate Education Committee
Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Sen. Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair
Respective Senate Education Committee Members

March 14, 2008, 2:00pm * • Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Room 225

To: Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Chair; Sen. Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair
Respective Senate Education Committee Members
From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I am submitting testimony in strong support of this bill. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

As a third generation descendant of sakadas, or sugarcane contract workers, and as a product of Hawai'i's public schools during its territorial days, I never learned my Philippine language of Ilo-kano, nor Philippine history, although my school and community were comprised predominantly of Filipinos. Instead, German, French, Spanish and Japanese were offered. My education and purpose in life crystallized during student protests and civil disobedience to save the University of Hawai'i Ethnic Studies program, and to denounce the naming of the social science building after Australian psychologist Stanley Porteus. His research promoted the superior intelligence quotients (IQs) of Caucasians, beginning with comparisons to Australian Aborigines, then with Hawai'i's plantation labor force of Hawaiians, Chinese, Japanese, and Filipinos. These conclusions justified racist, institutional policies by the Hawai'i Board of Education, which tracked minority students into vocational classes to meet the labor needs of low paying jobs with poor working conditions in the agricultural and service industries.

Ethnic Studies and Philippine languages are the keys to unlock historical truths and relevance to a child's life by reclaiming a people's integrity, developing an ethical and compassionate character, and building critical thinking skills for civic engagement in democracy to uphold civil rights.

The Coalition has passed resolutions to address disparities related to health, education, labor issues affecting the hotel and caregiver industries, immigration, Filipino WWII veterans equity, language access, and more. This bill will foster diversity competency for all of Hawai'i's people. Community empowerment for progressive collaborations to meet the challenges of local and global opportunities in the 21st century will follow.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our support of this bill from the Filipino community. Your consideration for its passage is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma, President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 • Honolulu • Hawaii 96817

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3398 HD3

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 Norteniens 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

Senate Committee on Education
Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Education Committee Members

March 14, 2008, 2:00pm ❖ Conference Room 225

RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

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

To: Hon. Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Hon. Jill Tokuda,
Vice-Chair; Hon. Senate Education Committee
Members Members of International Affairs
From: Franklin Borromeo, President, Oahu Filipino
Community Council

My name is Franklin Borromeo. I am very proud to provide strong support of HB 3398 HD3. I serve as President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC). Our Council is an umbrella organization comprised of sixty-two members (62) that represent a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities.

Providing Philippine languages and ethnic studies throughout the University of Hawaii's community college system and Hawaii's public high schools is an important measure toward community empowerment for the benefit of all. It becomes a social justice issue when students, especially in schools with large numbers of Filipinos, are denied the right to learn their history, languages, and culture. OFCC supports education that will lead to greater collaborations and equity among Hawaii's diverse people to address the pressing needs of our global society.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.
Please enact HB 3398 HD3.

Sincerely,

Franklin Borromeo
President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of
Hawaii
Narvacan/San Antonio Club of
Hawaii
Nueva Vizcaya Association of
Hawaii
Pasuquinos Association of
Hawaii
Philippine Cultural Foundation
Philippine Nurses
Association of Hawaii
Piddig Association of Hawaii
Sanchez Mira Association of
Hawaii
San Manuel Pangasinan
Association of Hawaii
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San Nicolas Goodwill
Foundation
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Hawaii
Santa Lucia Association of
Hawaii
Sarrat Association of Hawaii
Sarrat International Inc.
Sinait Nt. High School Alumni
of Hawaii
Solsona of Hawaii
Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii
TPCP
Kalihi Ballroom, Inc.
Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii
Samar Leyte Association of
Hawaii
Sampaguaita/Sunflower Club of
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Tessie Oculito, RN, President
Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii
92-1269 Umana St. | Kapolei, HI 96707
E-Mail: toculto@hawaii.rr.com | Phone: (808) 457-1066

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3398 HD3 RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Senate Education Committee
Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Education Committee Members

March 14, 2008, 2:00pm
Conference Room 225

To: Hon. Norman Sakamoto, Chair; Hon. Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair;
Hon. Senate Education Committee Members
From: Tessie Oculito, President, Philippine Nurses Association Hawaii

My name is Tessie Oculito. I am the president of the Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii (PNAH). We are in strong support of this bill. As a national affiliate of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, our shared mission is to uphold and foster the positive image and welfare of our constituent members; to promote professional excellence and contribute to significant outcomes to healthcare and society. Our vision is to be an organization responsive to its constituent needs, and to be a force in the world arena of nursing.

Most of our members are first generation Filipinos, who immigrated to the United States because of the global nursing shortage. We see the harmful effects of the extinction of heritage language among generations of Hawai'i's multi-ethnic groups, including Filipinos. American families and the U.S. labor force are at an economic disadvantage because of insufficient cultural and linguistic competencies for critical transactions ranging from inter-generation family discord, to patients with health care providers, to brokering and closing socially responsible and mutually prosperous business deals.

We support this bill because students from diverse backgrounds in public schools and higher education will become informed of each other's historical lessons and worldview through their languages. This type of cutting edge education provides a strategic vantage point for an enlightened society to champion global challenges.

Sincerely,

Tessie Oculito, RN
President, Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB3398 HD3

Relating to Foreign Language Program

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

Senate Committee on Education

March 14, 2008, 2:00 pm

Conference Room 225

Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair

Members of the Senate 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 HD3. 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.

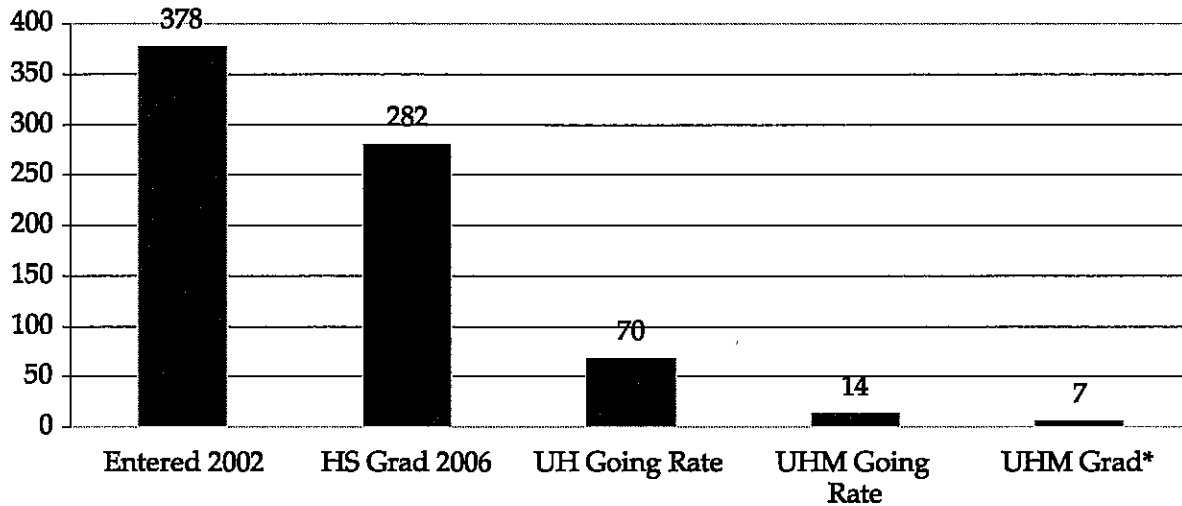
When I arrived in Hawai'i at the age of seven, I knew only a few words of English. In order to facilitate my transition into school and my new home, my teacher instructed for my parents to refrain from speaking Ilokano, my first language, and speak to me only in English. My parents had the foresight 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 that I did 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 Filipino-American/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



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 HD3

RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Senate Education Committee

Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair

Honorable Senate Education Committee Members

March 14, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Room 225.

To: Hon. Norman Sakamoto, Chair; Hon. Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair;
Hon. Senate Education Committee Members
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 STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3398 HD 3

**March 14, 2008, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 225**

RELATING TO PHILIPPINE LANGUAGES AND FILIPINO-AMERICAN ETHNIC STUDIES

**To: Committee on Education
 SENATE**

**Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
 Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair**

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

I am Aurelio S. Agcaoili, currently program coordinator and assistant professor for Ilokano Language and Literature of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. My testimony does not reflect the official position of the University of Hawai'i but I am testifying as member of a heritage community and as a heritage language instructor; likewise, I am testifying because of the realization that there is an urgent need for the Philippine heritage languages to be taught in this State if only to do justice to the reality of diversity and cultural pluralism that we must sustain and nurture. I am thus testifying in strong support of this HB 3389 HD 3.

The University's Ilokano Language and Literature Program is the only one in the State of Hawai'i and in the whole of the United States. As a full program that offers a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Ilokano, it is so unique that there is no other program in the world except our own. The University of Hawai'i System thus can claim this pride of offering the only B. A. program, with concentration in Ilokano in the entire educational system anywhere else in the world. This has put our program at the center of everything including providing directions to Ilokano Studies that we have critically begun at our Program.

One of the strengths of our Ilokano Language and Literature Program is that aside from its academic commitment to offer the best training there is in any University setting, it is involved as well with various Ilokano and culture-oriented programs and services in various state and government agencies, and in many civic and literary organizations in Hawai'i, the United States Mainland, and abroad. Today, the program has entered into a working partnership with many universities in the Philippines through the Nakem Conferences, and writers associations in Hawai'i, the United States Mainland, the Philippines, and Australia. This could only mean the kind of contribution the Ilokano

Language and Literature Program has in the production of critical knowledge not only on the Ilokano wherever they are but on the contribution they give in creating a just and fair community for the many even as they pursue their dream of the good life in this State or elsewhere. For indeed, the Ilokano and his language and culture are everywhere, whether that presence is visible (for reasons that can only be political, economic, or cultural) or invisible (for reasons that are, more often than not, political and cultural).

The foregoing, thus, serves, as the premise of my statement in support of the intents and purposes of House Bill 3389. Please consider my support as one that is **strong**, convinced of the vision of this Bill, and the kind of results it wants to pursue. In short, I find this Bill meritorious, just and fair, and sensitive to the requisites of cultural and linguistic pluralism, the kind of work that we also do at the Ilokano Language and Literature Program of the University of Hawai'i.

This Bill will help us expand what we have and bring to the students of community colleges outside Manoa the access they need in terms of language and multicultural competency training.

In addition, this Bill will give a directly response to the long-time need of Ilokano to have their voice in this State considering that they, and those descended from them, constitute about 85% of the Philippine population in this State. In addition, this Bill will be instrumental to the access the new Ilokano immigrants to their own language, with about 4500 of them coming to Hawai'i (or about 85% of the total new Filipino immigrants every year according to the Philippine Consulate data) each year.

However, I would like to submit **a qualification** for this strong support: that the description shall be "**Philippine languages**" instead of simply, "Philippine language". This is to give due recognition to the variety and diversity of the ethnolinguistic groups of people in the Philippines who are in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to give you this testimony.

Aurelio S. Agcaoili

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 3398 HD 3

**March 14, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 229
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street**

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

**To: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
SENATE
testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov**

**Senator Norman Sakamoto, chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, vice chair**

**From: Rachelle Aurellano
President, Timpuyog: Ilokano Student Organization
Ilokano Language and Literature Program
University of Hawai'i at Manoa**

I am Rachelle Aurellano, President of Timpuyog: Ilokano Student Organization, an organization of all students enrolled in the various courses of the Ilokano Language and Literature Program of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Likewise, I am a student enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts Program with concentration in Ilokano.

I am personally aware of the need to revisit our heritage languages in the State and the need for these to be taught in the State's educational system, preferably starting in basic education and culminating in the colleges and universities. This is to fulfill the requisites of multiculturalism and diversity in this State.

I am in strong support of this Bill because I know it will realize the many goals towards cultural pluralism, a virtue, indeed, in our political life.

My statement does not reflect the official position of the University but is premised on the realization, as student of Ilokano, and as President of the student organization, that we need more and more heritage course in Ilokano, not only at this University campus in Manoa, but also in the various campuses of this University.

I am pretty much aware of the facts: That more than 85% of the people of the Philippines, or those people descending from them in this State are Ilokanos and that about the same rate come to this State as new immigrants each year.

In this light, this Bill would be very relevant because:

(a) it guarantees language access to the majority of the Ilokans in this State, and

(b) it equips our Ilokano people and the Sebuanos and Tagalogs, with the necessary language skills in the pursuit of linguistic justice and cultural democracy in this State.

Given the above, may I be permitted to give my testimony in full and strong support of HB 3398 HD 3?

Thank you so much for this rare opportunity to be heard.

Rachelle Aurellano

Testimony in Support of HB3398 HD3
Relating to Foreign Language Programs

Description: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i system to provide Philippine language and Filipino American studies courses systemwide.

Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 14, 2008, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on 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 HD3 that will fund Philippine language and Filipino American studies courses in the UH system. Passage of this bill is very important because offering courses on Filipino Americans and Philippine languages 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 Filipino American studies and Philippine language courses 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.

Testimony in Support of HB3398 HD3

Relating to Foreign Language Program

Description: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii System to provide Philippine language and Filipino-American Studies courses systemwide. Appropriates funds. (H83398 HD3)

Senate Committee on Education

March 14, 2008, 2:00pm

Conference Room 225

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Jovanie de la Cruz 94-391 Hokuahiahi St. Mililani, HI. 96789 Tel: (808) 728-7653

I am in vehement support of BILL HB3398 HD3, Relating to Foreign Language Programs to fund Philippine language and Filipino-American studies courses.

My name is Jovanie de la Cruz, Editor-in-Chief of the Katipunan Magazine, the official publication of the Filipino Language and Philippine Literature Program at University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and majoring in Filipino and Philippine Literature.

The population of Filipino community had significantly increased overtime and this will most likely to continue based from the trend that we are on. Increased on the Filipino population can be attributed to constant influx of immigrants and birth of Filipino-Americans from immigrant parents. This situation emphasized the need of having a well-develop curriculum on Philippine languages and ethnic studies courses in the community colleges in the University of Hawai'i System.

These courses, if funded, will offer feasible venue for Filipino and Filipino-Americans to learn and appreciate their heritage culture that seems to disappear due to the lack of program(s) that addresses this needs. We need to start Philippine languages and ethnic studies in the public schools and community colleges to enhance the Filipino and Filipino-American students' knowledge of their heritage and thus raise their self-esteem. Also, these students can become future prospect employees for home security institutions in the United States like CIA, Foreign Service Institute, the Defense Language Institute, the military and etc., upon earning their degree; thus becoming a gargantuan asset for this country especially in time of need.

In behalf of the Katipunan Magazine editorial board, we thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony. Your support for HB 3398 HD3 is greatly needed for the offering of Philippine languages and Filipino-American studies in the community colleges of the University of Hawaii System.

testimony

From: Elena C. [meclariza@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2008 7:58 AM
To: testimony
Cc: armalate@yahoo.com
Subject: Support for HB 3398 HD3

Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Dear Mr. Sakamoto:

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 HD3 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

From: Agnes Malate [armalate@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2008 5:49 AM
To: Jovanie De La Cruz; testimony
Cc: mabanglo@hawaii.edu; agbayani@hawaii.edu; ccuaresma@hawaiiantel.net;
helenam@stoptheviolence.org
Subject: Re: Testimony for HB3398 HD3

Aloha Jovanie,

Thank you for taking the time to express your support of the bill. I know you are really busy preparing for the conference.

Agnes
383-9318

--- Jovanie De La Cruz <jovanie@hawaii.edu> wrote:

Aloha and Mabuhay,

I'm Jovanie de la Cruz, editor-in-chief of the Katipunan Magazine here at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Attached is a transmittal cover and my testimony in support for HB3398 HD3. Thank for your concern on this matter.

Sincerely,
Jovanie

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CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

99-1325 Aiea Heights Drive, Aiea, HI 96701

Founded 1985

TO: Sen. Norman Sakamoto
Chair, Senate Committee on Education

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, March 14, 2008
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 225

SUBJECT: Testimony in strong support of HB3398 HD2

Mr. Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on 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 HD2, 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

Testimony In Support of HB3398 HD3
Relating to Foreign Language Program

Description: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii system to provide
Philippine language and Filipino American studies courses systemwide.
Appropriates funds. (H83398 HD3)

Senate Committee on Education
March 14, 2008, 2:00PM
Conference Room 225

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Maria Jo Farina,
President of the Tagalog Association of Oahu (TAO) Inc.,
Waipahu, Hawaii PH# 671 8218

I am in support of Bill HB 3398 HD3, Relating to Foreign Language Programs
to fund Philippine language and Filipino American studies courses.

TAO, Inc. of which I am the President, is an organization of immigrants from
the Tagalog Region of the Philippines. These immigrants have children who
were born and raised in Hawaii, most of them of school age who are eager to
learn Philippine languages and ethnic studies courses. It will be a major
encouragement for them to go for higher education if given the chance to study
the language and culture of their parents' country of origin. If these children
are happy going to school, it will also help solve the problem of juvenile
delinquency in Hawaii. It is like shooting two birds with one stone.

Therefore, please consider my testimony supporting HB 3398 HD3 to help
encourage Filipino youths and other ethnic groups to aspire for higher
education, not only for their own good but for the community in general and
the State of Hawaii in particular.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.