

UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

LATE

P.O. BOX 498

Honolulu, HI 96809-0498

Testimony in Support of HB3398 HD3  
Relating to Foreign Language Programs to  
Appropriate 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. House Finance Committee Members

FR: Bryan Andaya, President United Filipino Council of Hawaii

My name is Bryan Andaya. I am the president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH). I submit this testimony to support HB3398 HD2 on behalf of UFCH, an umbrella organization with member organizations from six islands. Current membership includes a total of 5,000 individual members.

At our annual convention in July 2007, our delegates passed a resolution to offer Philippine languages and history in Hawaii's community colleges and high schools, especially in communities with large Filipino populations. We are pleased to do all we can to support your leadership to advance this initiative. The study of ethnic studies and languages is at the core of democracy and a foundation in education. It is also the civil rights of America's diverse peoples to learn about their own history.

Filipinos in Hawaii want to contribute to the successful progress of social and global prosperity and peace in the 21st century. Please help us make this possible for all of Hawaii's emerging youth leaders and children by passing this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.

**Testimony In Support of HB3398 HD3  
Relating to Foreign Language Program**

**Senate Education Committee  
March 14, 2008, 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 225**

**LATE**

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

Randy Cortez  
University of Hawaii at Manoa Katipunan Club  
Email: [rcortez@hawaii.edu](mailto:rcortez@hawaii.edu)

I am in support of Bill HB 3398 HD3, relating to Foreign Language Programs to fund Philippine language and ethnic studies courses throughout the University of Hawaii system.

My name is Randy Cortez and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Currently, I am the Vice-President of the Katipunan Club, a co-curricular organization under the Filipino Language and Philippine Literature program. One of the main objectives of the club is to promote and preserve the Filipino culture, language, and literature in the state of Hawaii.

HB 3398 HD3 seeks to support the funding of Philippine languages and ethnic studies courses. Therefore, I am testifying in favor of HB 3398 HD3. This bill is necessary because recent statistics show that Filipinos will eventually become the majority Asian group in the state of Hawaii in 5-10 years. This is a very real possibility, especially due to the constant influx of immigrants from the Philippines. In order to take advantage of this mass immigration of Filipino immigrants, we must be willing to invest in their future through education.

This bill is important to the rest of the community because the Filipino community has become an influential demographic in the political arena. They wield an enormous amount of political clout due to their affiliations with various unions in the tourism industry – a vital industry that cannot afford to lose these dedicated and reliable Filipino workers. It only seems reasonable to pass this bill because Hawaii seems to strike a chord in Filipino immigrants as a place of opportunity and equal representation. Quite a number of these immigrants require assistance in various areas such as education, legal services, health, and commerce in order to make lives for themselves here in Hawaii. Furthermore, some of them speak in their native dialects of Tagalog, Ilokano, Visayan, Cebuano and many others. One of the best ways to alleviate the latter dilemma is to train people to speak the above languages so as to mitigate the situation. However, training these people in public institutions that comprise the University of Hawaii system require funding to develop a stable and effective curriculum.

The Philippine language and ethnic studies courses provide students with an oral and cultural base from which they can learn more about their culture.

Again, I am in support of Bill HB 3398 HD3, an influential bill that supports funding of the Philippine language and ethnic studies courses throughout the University of Hawaii system. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Filipino community, the Katipunan Club, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the State of Hawaii.

//SIGNED//  
Randy Cortez

**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

**LATE**

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Education

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

**From:** "Jo Farina" <JoFarina@Hawaii.RR.com>  
**To:** "Agnes Malate" <armalate@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Testimony  
**Date:** Thu, 13 Mar 2008 22:53:28 -1000

**LATE****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.

**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 HDI)

House Committee on Education

March 14, 2008, 2:00pm

Conference Room 225

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo, PhD

1133 Waimanu, Apt 2509

Honolulu, HI 96814

Tel: (808) 5962057

**ATE**

I am in strong support of BILL HB3398 HD3, Relating to Foreign Language Programs to fund Philippine language and ethnic studies courses in the community colleges in the University of Hawaii System.

My name is Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo, professor and coordinator of the UH Filipino and Philippine Literature Program but my testimony does not represent the official position of the University.

Among the community colleges of Hawaii, KCC and LCC are the only ones offering the Filipino (the national language of the Philippines) language courses. HCC used to offer it but did not continue. The community colleges in the other islands are very much interested in offering it in their colleges but then their proposals were turned down. There is no question about textbooks to be used, dictionaries and grammar books. We are willing to share what we are using at the UHM: books as well as videos, cds/dvds, handbooks, etc.

We are willing to train instructors and write or update the curriculum materials we currently have for the other UH colleges. We also can help set up classes on Filipino in the community colleges, UH-Hilo, and UH-West Oahu. When Filipino students enter college, they are eager to learn their heritage culture and language. We are wasting a wealth of resources by failing to train potential speakers that are crucial to ensuring equal access to education, health, and social services,

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony. Your support for HB 3398 HD3 is greatly needed for the offering of Philippine languages in the community colleges of the University of Hawaii System.

**Testimony in Support of HB3398 HD3 Relating to Foreign Language Programs to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii system to provide Philippine Languages and Filipino-American studies courses systemwide.**

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

**LATE**

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

Teresita V. Ramos, Ph.D.  
1133 Waimanu, Apt. 2511  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
Tel: (808) 596-2283

My name is Teresita V. Ramos, Emeritus Professor of UH Filipino and Philippine Literature, but my testimony does not represent the official position of the University. I am in full support of the teaching of the Filipino language in the University of Hawaii system with an amendment, the teaching of Filipino, the national language of the Philippines in the public high schools.

One of the stated missions of the University of Hawaii is its desire to be a leader in Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies. In Hawaii, the University is the only venue for heritage students wanting to learn about their cultures and languages. The teaching of heritage languages at the University is founded on the philosophy of developing community languages as a tool for learning the heritage culture, establishing identity, and developing unity of diverse community efforts for social and political empowerment.

The UH Filipino Program is the largest and the only program of its-kind in the United States. It offers a BA in Filipino and Philippine Literature. The Filipino faculty is willing and is trained to teach prospective teachers, do workshops on methodology and on materials development and act as resource for teachers who need help. We have done this before to Tagalog (Filipino) teachers on the Mainland and we have developed a network that can help prospective teachers or any teacher of Filipino. As a start we can work on distance education to help new teachers do part-time teaching only, but of course all these will need appropriations.

I am pleased that the House has forwarded this bill to the Senate, and urge you to push for Filipino in Hawaii, the 2nd Asian language in the United States (Census 1990) and the sixth non-English language in America (Census 2000). The Modern Language Association Journal (2005) just recently printed that more foreign languages like "Korean, Filipino and Vietnamese" are now taught in American schools. These languages have increased by more than 100,000 in 2005. For home security reasons, the US Department of Education, CIA, Foreign Service Institute, the Defense Language Institute and the military programs are focusing on and funding the teaching of Filipino

and other less commonly taught languages in Southeast Asia. The United States has given importance to these languages.

California, San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco are offering Filipino in many high schools. With our large Filipino population, why do we not have a single public school offering Filipino? Only one private school, St. Louis High School, dares to do it. No Philippine history, culture and language courses are offered as part of the regular public school curriculum. Students who have some knowledge of their native language(s) often lose it once they enter school. By not training the Filipino students early enough to maintain their language and culture, we are wasting a lot of potential speakers who may become advanced speakers of Philippine languages, and thus become a credit to their country, the United States, in time of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony. Your support for HB 3398 HD3 is greatly needed for the offering of Philippine languages in the community colleges of the University of Hawaii System, University of Hawaii at Hilo, and University of Hawaii-West Oahu. Ultimately, we need to start Philippine languages and ethnic studies in the public schools and community colleges to enhance the Filipino students' knowledge of their heritage and thus raise their self-esteem and likelihood to achieve academically and play a vital role in Hawaii's society.