



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
February 2, 2011 at 8:30 am

by

Rockne Freitas

Vice President for Student Affairs and University/Community Relations, University of Hawai'i

HB 0395 RELATING TO TUITION WAIVERS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of HB 0395 is to require the UH Board of Regents to grant tuition waivers to native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students in the University of Hawai'i system.

The University supports the overall intent of this bill and appreciates the Legislature's concern for improving the academic success of native Hawaiians and Hawaiians in higher education. Likewise, the University strives to improve the access to state higher education and the success of our native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students. In its Mission Statement, the University states its unique commitment as an indigenous-serving institution, and "ensures active support for the participation of Native Hawaiians at the University and supports vigorous programs of study and support for the Hawaiian language, history, and culture."

In 2008, we placed Native Hawaiian Educational Attainment as our very first strategic outcome for the years 2008 to 2015. It is our goal to increase degree attainment of native Hawaiians or Hawaiians by 6 to 9 percent per year.

To help us succeed in our goal, we are encouraging students who have financial need to apply for financial aid so that we can maximize federal aid, such as the Federal Pell Grant, to students. We also already award the equivalent of 250 Native Hawaiian tuition exemptions to native Hawaiian or Hawaiian students with financial need, per UH Board of Regents policy. These are given in whole or partial amounts, depending on a student's financial need. Furthermore, we exempt non-resident native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students from paying the non-resident tuition differential; they are only charged the in-state rates for tuition. Finally, we currently award a scholarship called the Second Century Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,650,000 to Hawaiian students with financial need.

We are pleased to report that our enrollment of Hawaiians has nearly doubled across our ten UH campuses, growing from 6,631 students in Fall 2006 to 12,630 in Fall 2010. We believe this is due, in large part, to our commitment to financial aid for students who need funds to gain access to the University.

Awarding more tuition waivers for native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students would be very costly to the University without the opportunity to recoup federal, state, and private aid that is freely awarded to students with financial need. We respectfully request that the bill be amended to create a state financial grant program with funding that would apply to all native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students *with financial need*, as determined by the federal financial aid guidelines.

We also invite the State of Hawai'i to become a partner in funding the Second Century Scholarship (mentioned above). This way, the University can continue to apply a variety of federal, state, private, and institutional grants and scholarships that can target our Hawaiian students who experience financial hardship.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, February 2, 1011 at 8:30 am  
by  
Elmer Ka'ilikole Ka'ai

HB 395      Relating to Tuition Waivers in the University of Hawai'i System

Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 395 which grants tuition waivers to native Hawaiian students at the University of Hawai'i. It is well documented that the Hawaiian students population are underrepresented at the University of Hawai'i. The measure is trying to address this chronic issue.

I believe that University of Hawai'i could supports the intent; however, would probably prefer a scholarship vehicle to address this issue. One possible problem with tuition waivers is the additional cost on the University of Hawai'i (more courses and instructors, increased cost to student-related services, etc...). With a scholarship, it will allow the University of Hawai'i to cost-share with outside financial resources (Office of Hawaiian Affairs) in funding the program. In addition, a student will have greater flexibility in determining where his/her scholarship can be used for – tuition, books, room and board, etc.

Honestly, both vehicles should be available for our native Hawaiian students. A tuition waiver will not discriminate based on financial needs or merit while a scholarship will help those with financial needs or reward students for their achievements. Now, from a purely ceded lands compensation point-of-view, the University of Hawai'i has not paid any compensation to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs or the native Hawaiian people for their uses of ceded lands. A tuition waiver can serve as one form of compensation.

Mahalo for allowing me to provide testimony in support of HB 395.

## clee2 - Matt

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 4:17 PM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** Ken\_Conklin@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB395 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB395

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 46-255 Kahuhipa St. # 1205 Kane'ohe HI  
Phone: 247-7942  
E-mail: [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:  
TO: COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Chair  
Rep. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Re: HB 395  
RELATING TO TUITION WAIVERS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM Grants tuition waivers to native Hawaiian students at the University of Hawaii.

For hearing Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:30 a.m. Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

By: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.  
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Apt. 1205  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744  
tel/fax (808) 247-7942  
e-mail [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)

Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Lee; members of the committee:

I oppose HB 395 but know from experience you will not consider my reasons.

Tuition waivers based on race? This proposal keeps popping up in the Legislature every year. Which race is the favored one? Why, of course, it's the race which has been so highly favored in more than 160 federally funded programs racially exclusionary to benefit only them, plus a couple branches of the State government racially exclusionary to benefit only them, plus a bill in Congress to create a racially exclusionary government solely for them. We have a state bird, a state fish, a state flower, and maybe now a state insect. So you might as well declare ethnic Hawaiians our state race -- that would be a better bill than this one.

You have sworn an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution. Have you read the 14th Amendment? The part which says all people regardless of race are guaranteed the equal protection of the laws. It is, quite simply, unconstitutional for you to give government handouts exclusively to people of a particular race.

It might be reasonable to give tuition waivers to students whose families are in poverty. There are people of all races who would qualify. Why should only ethnic Hawaiians get these waivers when there are so many other equally needy individuals who would be excluded by race from getting the waivers? If someone doesn't have a drop of the magic blood, just go ahead and kick him to the curb.

It might be reasonable to give tuition waivers to students from families where no other family member has ever graduated from college (or perhaps never even attended college). There are people of all races who would qualify. Why should only ethnic Hawaiians get these waivers when there are so many other similarly situated individuals who would be excluded by race from getting the waivers? If someone doesn't have a drop of the magic blood, just go ahead and kick him to the curb.

I'm asking you to vote against this bill. I'm asking you not only to vote "no", I'm asking you to stand up when the bill comes for a vote, rip up a copy of the bill in plain view of everyone, and shout out loud and clear "HELL NO." But based on previous years' performance, I'm guessing the committee will pass it unanimously, without even any reservations, because you're afraid to stand up for what's right. This bill is so ridiculously racist it should never have even been scheduled for a hearing. But you'll pass it along until the very end of session, when the Ways and Means committee will mercifully allow it to die, not because the bill is morally obscene, but only because there's not enough money in the budget to pay for it.

Did you find this testimony to be insulting? Well then, I guess you're smarter than I thought when I saw the other bills you'll be passing with no "no" votes and no reservations. If this were a court you would hold me in contempt, and I would shout "YES INDEED" and gladly pay the fine.

**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:39 AM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** kamahanahokulani@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB395 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB395

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Daphne Farrar  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 85-101 Kaulawaha Road Waianae  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kamahanahokulani@gmail.com](mailto:kamahanahokulani@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:47 AM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** palamal@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB395 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB395

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Palama Lee  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 79 Kaneohe Bay Dr Kailua Hi  
Phone: 808-291-3015  
E-mail: [palamal@hawaii.edu](mailto:palamal@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:59 AM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** boydj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB395 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB395

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position:  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jamie Boyd  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 47-780 Ahuimanu Rd Kaneohe HI  
Phone: 808-239-1606  
E-mail: [boydj@hawaii.edu](mailto:boydj@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

**Comments:**

I am a Native Hawaiian passionate about retaining indigenous practices while knowing that I must succeed in the illegally imposed colonized government of modern Hawai'i. As the first Native Hawaiian to earn a PhD in Nursing at UH Manoa, I am convinced that other Hawaiians could also balance the need to hold to the ways of our ancestors while working with academia to be economically self sufficient in the UH System if barriers to cost were eliminated. Access is key. Barrowing the minimum in student loans to earn a PhD I accummulated 35,000 in debt to achieve 'balance' in modern Hawai'i. In stead of graduating in debt, perhaps Native Hawaiians could earn stipends to cover all tuition via various service learning options that would benefit all people of Hawai'i. This is pono. We can work for all that we need and earn tuition benefits. The option to earn a full waiver must exist for Native Hawaiians.

I fully support HB395



**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:21 AM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** sakamaka@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB395 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB395

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: sharmayne kamaka  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 45-519 kamehameha hwy kaneohe, HI  
Phone: 808-372-9284  
E-mail: [sakamaka@hawaii.edu](mailto:sakamaka@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

**Comments:**

I was very much impacted by the native hawaiian tuition waiver. I am an older student with much of life's expenses to cover. I would not be able to attend college if it wasn't for this tuition waiver. I am starting nursing school next semester as a result of returning to college, and will be able to attain a "living wage" in my homeland, Hawaii.

**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:29 AM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** mano1@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB395 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB395

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Joan K. Paglinawan  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 47-710 Ahuimanu Road Kaneohe, HI  
Phone: 808-239-8945  
E-mail: [mano1@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:mano1@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

**From:** Nalani Balutski [balutski.nalani@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:29 AM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 395 Testimony

Aloha,  
My name is Brandi Jean Nalani Balutski and I'm from Kahaluu, Oahu. I am a graduate student at UH Manoa. Please accept this email as my formal testimony **in support of HB 395**, a bill which provides tuition waivers for Native Hawaiian students in the UH System, which will be heard on Wednesday, February 2 at 8:30 am in Room 329.

In 1840, Kamehameha III (Kauikeaouli) established the Kanawai Hooponopono Kula (official school laws) that formally established the public education system and compulsory education in the Kingdom. Education, during this time, was respected and it was widely understood that the fate of a people depended on its access to quality education. It is unfortunate that education for Hawaiians has significantly digressed from its wonderful origins. Today, Hawaiians continue to suffer from high levels of poverty, as well as lack of access to the systems that would provide for better opportunity (public education, affordable housing, expanded economic opportunity, etc.). Investment in education, specifically higher education, is imperative to the advancement of the Hawaiian people. If UH can continue to offer affordable out-of-state tuition, pay our chancellors, medical school deans and president of UH outrageous salaries, and continue to occupy ceded lands rent free, we can most definitely invest in the education of Hawaiians through tuition waivers.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [balutski.nalani@gmail.com](mailto:balutski.nalani@gmail.com)

Mahalo,  
Brandi Jean Nalani Balutski

**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:29 AM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** lpouha@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB395 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB395

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lee L. Po'uha  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 53-116 Halai Street Hau'ula, HI 96717  
Phone: 808-391-7259  
E-mail: [lpouha@yahoo.com](mailto:lpouha@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:51 AM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** danielgruppen@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB395 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB395

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Daniel Kamalu-Gruppen  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 47-168 Iuiu Kaneohe  
Phone: 18082389140  
E-mail: [danielgruppen@gmail.com](mailto:danielgruppen@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:30 PM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** kalehua82@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB395 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB395

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kalehua Mueller  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Hamumu St. Mililani, HI  
Phone: 8089279343  
E-mail: [kalehua82@gmail.com](mailto:kalehua82@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** Thomas L Young [thomasy@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:14 PM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony to Support HB395

Aloha.

My name is Thomas Young and I am humbly asking the legislative body to pass HB395 because I can tell you first hand that this does work. While attending school my low income actually qualified me for PELL and Kamehameha grants while being the head of household and a single parent. I also had a part-time job. This combination allowed me to carry a full load of courses as a full time student. I was lucky I did not fall in the gap. Many of my friends however ended up in the gap and were forced to eventually choose work over school and therefore are still stuck in that fork in the road. These were non-traditional students, good students at that, who could have greatly improved their lot in life. Economics forced them to settle and they are still just a check or two away from poverty level.

Tuition waivers would significantly change the retention and graduation rates of our native Hawaiian students. More importantly out in the workforce you would certainly find Hawaiians in many of the under represented fields holding positions which truly allow them to weigh in on issues that affect not only their own lives but generations to come.

Financial aid officers would be able to spread available funds that now exist around to more non-Hawaiian students or increase individual awards thereby everybody wins. Less people would find themselves trying to swim that gap...and drown.

So please, pass this bill which is actually good for all students affected, bolster our local workforce, and empower the community as a whole.

Mahalo nui loa,

Thomas L. Young Sr.  
Educational Cultural Technician  
Title III  
Windward Community College

**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:53 PM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** emagaoay@fhb.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB395 on 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 2/2/2011 8:30:00 AM HB395

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ernest V. Magaoay  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone: 808-264-2150  
E-mail: [emagaoay@fhb.com](mailto:emagaoay@fhb.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:



Representative Faye P. Hanohano, Chair  
Representative Chris Lee, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Native Hawaiian Affairs

Kaleimomi Cezar  
95-1037 Ho'ama Street  
Mililani, HI 96789  
Tuesday, February 1, 2011

Support of House Bill 395, Relating to Tuition Waivers in the University of Hawaii System

Aloha, my name is Kaleimomi Cezar and I am a 2008 Master's of Social Work graduate from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am also a Native Hawaiian.

I am a product of the University of Hawaii System. I began my college education at Kapi'olani Community College, and later graduated with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii – West O'ahu campus. In 2006, I enrolled at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in their Social Work graduate program, and graduated in 2008. Without the support of scholarship programs such as the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program, I would not have been able to afford to pay for graduate school.

I am testifying in support of House Bill 395 because I believe that every Native Hawaiian should be given the chance to attend college. Fortunately, I grew up in a middle class family where my parents helped to pay for me to get my Bachelor's degree. But when I decided that I wanted to go back to school for my Master's Degree in Social Work, I didn't have the option of having my parents help pay for my higher education. Many Native Hawaiians put off going to college because they can't afford to pay the tuition or they have other obligations such as making sure the rent is paid or there's food on the table. As an educated Native Hawaiian, it saddens me to know that there are so many prospect full ones out there who are disadvantaged because they can't afford to get a college degree.

I feel that every Native Hawaiian should be given the chance to attend college, regardless of their socio-economic status. I also believe that if given the chance, there would be more Native Hawaiians enrolled in the University of Hawaii system who intend to graduate. Some people think that a degree is just a piece of paper, but in actuality, getting an education sets a good example for future generations ensuring that our people will continue to thrive throughout the generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.