



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 22, 2013 at 11:00 am

by  
Francisco Hernandez Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 1354 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto & Johanson and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of HB 1354 HD1, which would provide resources for the system wide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity.

The word “Pamantasan” is a Filipino language word meaning “higher education”. The Pamantasan Council, established in 1987, is composed of students, administrators, faculty and staff from the various UH campuses.

The Pamantasan Council addresses issues of representation, curriculum and research, partnerships with public schools, universities in the Philippines and other states, workforce development and community services. The Council holds annual and periodic workshops to identify priority issues and needs consistent with the University's commitment to access and diversity. Even with limited resources, the Pamantasan Council has successfully supported University initiatives including the Maui College exchange agreement with Philippine Universities, the Leeward Community College Sulong Aral federal transfer project, and the new UH Hilo Philippine Studies faculty member.

The Pamantasan Council needs resources to implement (a) recommendations of the 2008 SCR 120 report to the Legislature regarding Philippine language courses, teacher training and certification; and (b) Pamantasan conference recommendations such as hiring of a Philippine librarian at UH Mānoa and developing courses for articulation between community colleges and 4-year campuses. With additional funding and positions, UH and the Pamantasan Council can provide necessary expertise and energy to increase the University's national leadership in Philippine Studies (UH Mānoa and Leeward CC are leaders in offering academic programs). In addition the appropriated funds will be used to support on-going recruitment and retention efforts (federal programs such as GEAR UP at Waipahu high school) to increase the number and success of Filipinos at each campus, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs, faculty, staff and administrators. Also, the funds will expand the curricular content on Philippine language, Philippine Studies and Filipino American Hawai'i ethnic studies, which at this time are very limited or not available at the various campuses.

HB 1354 HD1 provides census, UH and DOE data on Filipinos (second largest group in the state and the department of education) and their under-representation among college graduates, and current UH students, staff and faculty.

The University thanks the Legislature for introducing this bill and for its continuing support for access and diversity. The University administration will be working with the system wide Pamantasan Council to provide more budget details to the legislature. The University supports the intent of HB 1354 HD1 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.

The University thanks the Legislature for introducing this bill and for its continuing support for access and diversity. The University administration will be working with the system wide Pamantasan Council to provide more budget details to the legislature. The University supports the intent of HB 1354 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.

ary 7, 2013

mony in support of HB 1354,

nda Burch, student, Hawai'i Community College

s Quihano, student, Hawai'i Community College

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Aloha Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the Higher Education Committee

We support HB 1354. We feel that Pamantasan is a great thing to support. Last year we got to attend a UH System-wide conference, we got to meet great people. We got to meet people from our heritage and we got to hear how to help our culture. We want to say that we the students of Hawai'i Community College support this bill and hope that the legislation can support the expansion of the many cultures in Hawai'i for its people.

This program is not only about one culture but at the conference, We got to meet half Hawaiians and half African American and many more students that are multi-racial. We value the time spent there to meet and get to know my friends and ohana because we are all of one. We would hope that this gets the support it needs because we would love to attend and work making our campus a diverse and safe place.

We humbly ask our Legislators to sponsor and help the future of not only for us and our culture, but for everyone to know and love the cultures that make up who we are. If we are aware of our cultures and a strong foundation of who we are, then we too can help our island grow to better the future of today and forever.

Aloha,

Brenda Burch, Hawai'i Community College Kris Quihano, Hawai'i Community College

Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the Higher Education Committee

My name is Patricio Abinales, I am professor at the Asian Studies Program of the University of Hawaii-Manoa's School of Pacific and Asian Studies. I am also acting director of the university's Center for Philippine Studies. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 1354 in my limited capacity as acting director. I do not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawaii.

What I would just like to share with you today is a recurring and increasingly widespread phenomenon in Asia and the rest of the world that we in Hawaii – conscious of our links with that part of the Pacific – need to be aware of. And that is, there are Filipinos everywhere – 11 million of them in every urban center and sometimes even small towns in Asia, Europe, even Africa. In Japan where I was based as a professor in Kyoto University before coming here last year, there is reportedly 300,000 Filipinos in Tokyo alone. Kyoto where I was based, a city a fourth the size of Honolulu has 15,000 Filipinos.

It means that if the State of Hawaii and its premiere institution of higher learning, the University of Hawaii, are concerned with increasing the enrollment of Filipino, Filipino-American and Hawaiian-Filipino students, it has to do so with this worldwide Filipino diaspora in mind. It is a global Filipino that is experienced in various skills – from household help in Singapore and Hong Kong to valets in Rome and Paris, from oil workers in Tajikistan to boat cruise staff in Florida, from doctors in Tennessee to nurses in Ireland, from engineers in Saudi Arabia to computer specialists in Silicon Valley, from mail-order brides who helped revive Japanese farms to performers in hip hop bands and operas in Time Square, and, finally, from Marines in Iraq to peace corps volunteers in Peru – and one which is also perhaps one of the most polyglot communities in the world.

If we want our young students to succeed we will have to take into consideration that today's world's epicenter has moved to Asia and that in this epicenter and elsewhere Filipinos are becoming increasingly a presence. Preparing our students for this entails resources, human and material. It needs a program that has this global perspective in mind even as it enables the local Filipino population to contribute to Hawaii's development. This is a long-term project, and which is why we believe, we believe, of the critical importance of this bill.

Thank you very much.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

HB 1354 Relating to the University of Hawaii

House Higher Education committee February 7, 2013

Submitted by Lei Calingangan, Undergraduate major in Anthropology and minor Philippine Languages and Culture

I support HB 1354 bill for the UH Pamantasan Council.

Growing up in Hilo, my parents wanted to "Americanize" me. I grew up speaking Ilokano, but I lost my first language I spoke when I came back to Hawai'i from the Philippines. My parents insisted that I speak English and they barely spoke English themselves. As I was growing up, I lost my Identity as a Filipino. Going into college, I realized how much of myself I've lost and so I took the initiative to learn more about my people and history. I took some general Asian studies and History classes in Mainland college, but I wasn't satisfied. In my first semester of transferring into UH Manoa, I registered in a Filipino language course not knowing that I would be involved with it more than I thought. Through the Katipunan club of University of Hawaii, I became aware of many cultural issues in an international level and local level. I guess it wasn't enough for me because I wanted to be more involved with the club as well as the community. Since I've been studying in UH Manoa, I've learned a lot about myself my heritage. I've been involved in the community and school run events through these organizations I've been a part of. Taking courses in the Philippine language and cultures has had such a big influence on me that I've not only been part of Filipino organizations/events, but I've also have been minoring in Philippine Language and Culture. I believe that the University of Hawaii has helped me through my understanding of the Philippine culture and history as well as myself as part of its international and local community.

Thank you,

Lei Calingangan

Undergraduate Student, University of Hawaii at Manoa: Major - Anthropology, Minor - Philippine Language and Culture

Record's Assistant, University of Hawaii at Manoa Record's Office

Anthropology Intern, Bishop Museum

VP of Members engagement and Public Relations, NSCS (The National Society of Collegiate Scholars)

Member, GKIHS (Golden Key)

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pamantasan Executive Council

DATE: February 5, 2013

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Rep. Choy, Chair  
Rep. Ichiyama, Vice-Chair

FROM: Christine Quemuel, University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council  
(808) 956-8059

RE: Supporting HB 1354, Relating to the University of Hawai'i  
Thursday February 7, 2013 2:00 pm

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Higher Education hearing on Thursday, February 7, 2013 in strong support of HB 1354 relating to the University of Hawai'i, to provide resources for the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai'i and the largest immigrant group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education.

The Pamantasan Executive Council is the UH systemwide organization concerned with the status of Filipinos on all UH campuses throughout the state. The Council was established in 1987 to address the representation and success of Filipinos on campus and to ensure that Filipino American and Philippine courses are represented in the curriculum. The Executive Council is also charged with issues concerning Filipinos in the Department of Education, Filipinos in the work force, and international relations between colleges and universities in Hawai'i and the Philippines. The Pamantasan Council has no budget, and is a volunteer organization comprised of UH students, staff, faculty, and administrators who are committed to access and diversity issues.

Funding for Pamantasan positions and projects will insure that the state champions educational equity and diversity in higher education. We thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for their continued commitment to diversity to ensure that underrepresented communities in Hawai'i are supported. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support HB 1354, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

### **Pamantasan Council members:**

Florentino Abara, Military and Veteran's Program, Kapi'olani Community College  
Amy Agbayani, Director, Student Equity, Excellence & Diversity, UH Mānoa  
Aurelio Agcaoili, Ilokano Languages and Literatures, UH Mānoa  
Patricio Abinales, Acting Director, Center for Philippine Studies, UH Mānoa  
Erica Balbag-Gerard, Academic Counselor, Honolulu Community College  
Jason Cifra, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Hawai'i Community College  
Leon Florendo, Outreach Coordinator, Honolulu Community College  
Rodney Jubilado, Philippine Studies, UH Hilo  
Ramona Kincaid, University Center and Academic Support, Kaua'i Community College  
Roderick Labrador, Ethnic Studies, UH Mānoa

Vina Lanzona, Center for Philippine Studies, UH Mānoa  
Ernest Libarios, Sr., Counseling and Advising, Leeward Community College  
Ernest Niki Libarios, Jr., College of Education, UH Mānoa  
Raymund Liongson, Philippine Studies, Leeward Community College  
Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo, Philippine Languages and Literatures, UH Manoa  
Christine Quemuel, Women ' s Center, UH Mānoa  
Christen Sasaki, History, UH West O'ahu



## ichiyama3 - Malia

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 1:13 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** pilloscp@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

### **HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christine Pillos	Timpuyog Organization	Support	No

Comments: Education is very valuable especially to immigrants who immigrate to America. Passing this bill will help Filipinos and many other minorities shed light upon the education here in Hawaii. This will help us to encourage Filipino students to pursue higher education.

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My name is Camille Cabalo and I am a graduate of the Ethnic Studies program from UH Manoa.

Even in a specialized program such as mine, Filipino Americans were a subject matter underrepresented in the classes that were offered at UH. My department alone had only one or two classes devoted to studying and generating discussion and critical thinking in regards to this particularly diverse ethno-racial group; sometimes only one – depending on the semester.

I write in support of HB 1354 to help generate more curriculum and provide more class time to tease out the identity of Filipino Americans and hopefully dispel some greater misnomers and misguided notions about the stereotypes involving said identity.

## ichiyama3 - Malia

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 2:34 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** aptauyan@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

### **HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Adrian Tauyan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I support HB1354.

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By Deborah Manog, Timpuyog Organization – Vice President of Public Relations

IN SUPPORT OF ACT: HB 1354

Report Title: University of Hawaii; Appropriation; Filipino; Hawaii Pamantasan Council

Testimony presented before the House Committee on Higher Education on February 6, 2013 at 2pm.

Filipinos are part of the majority in the state of Hawaii, yet make up only 12% of the student population in the entire University of Hawaii system. The Filipino faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is only a handful; you could basically fit them all inside of one SUV.

However, many Filipinos, both young and old, are found working low-tier jobs, especially at the hotels.

Many of my peers, those who were born here and immigrated here, are the first person in their family to attend college. Although I encourage them to join student organizations such as Timpuyog, Katipunan, Filipinos Linked in Pride, many of them don't have the time to become a part of these clubs because they are busy working and going to school full time.

My co-worker moved here several years ago from the Philippines where she was a dentist. Here in Hawaii, she is only a dental assistant who works over around 50 hours a week and then heads off to her second job as a janitor. She puts in so many hours at work to pay for her daughter's college tuition at the University. However, because she works so much, her daughter doesn't qualify for financial aid. Besides this, I also have a bunch of friends whom I graduated with from my alma mater, Wallace Rider Farrington High School, who did not even apply to the University because they said they didn't have the money to go to college. This saddens my heart because no one should be deprived of higher education, simply because of their means and poverty.

During my time at the University, I have had the privilege to learn about the history of the Philippines and about the terrible struggles my ancestors have been through, both as an oppressed colony and as unwanted immigrants in America. I am lucky to have been a part of the Timpuyog Organization and try my best to reclaim the spoken tongue of my heritage, and keep it alive through things like our Dramafest production (short plays performed all in Ilokano) and Daton Magazine (a printed collection of works, ideas, and reflections of the students from the Ilokano Language and Literature Program). I wish more students had opportunities, such as these, to grow as individuals and learn about their culture and be able to participate in a higher education setting.

There needs to be a change and that's why I support Act HB 1354.

## ichiyama3 - Malia

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 12:40 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** regenerated\_1021@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

### **HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jaynnel agrade	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1354! With the growing number of population who speaks filipino language and other dialects, higher education is a must for those who are interested in helping people who do not speak or understand english language well.

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## ichiyama3 - Malia

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 12:02 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** cetv@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

### **HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carolina Torres Valle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Carolina Torres Valle. I was born in Peru, my family migrated to this country with hopes of opportunity and better education for their children. I believe that this statement holds true in all immigrant communities. Filipinos deserve the right to higher education, with enthusiasm they will help build our communities. I support HB 1354

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**ichiyama3 - Malia**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2013 10:56 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** seven7wenty@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick Empleo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**ichiyama3 - Malia**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2013 10:47 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** rubenecampos@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

**HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ruben Enrique Campos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB1354. All of Hawaii's people must be allowed equal access to education; no group should be under-represented. The Pamantasan Council can provide unique solutions relevant to our Filipino and Filipina community. Thank you for your time.

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## ichiyama3 - Malia

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 9:00 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** derickroliveros@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

### **HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
derick oliveros	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I really think HB1354 is a great idea especially since Hawaii is very populated I believe their are benifits.I support HB1354.

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Jessica Austin

I support House Bill 1354, because I see the need for more access to education for the Filipino community of Hawai'i. Although I have lived in Hawai'i for only 2 years, I have become an active member of the community and have been welcomed by the diverse communities and cultures of Honolulu. One of the first things that I and other community organizers want to address is the underrepresentation of Filipino youth in the university system. Education is a fundamental right, and many young people in the community have been at a disadvantage from the beginning in terms of having access to the system of higher education. As a community, we need to address this issue. I believe that Bill 1354 will begin to address the imbalance and social injustice that we have allowed to affect our youth for too long. The health and future of our community is at stake. We should not wait any longer to begin to address this issue.

Marnelli Joy Basilio  
99-142 Nanu Place  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

February 6, 2013

HB1354  
Relating to the University of Hawaii

Dear Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the Committee on Higher Education,

I am in support of HB 1354, which would provide resources for the statewide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity.

The word "Pamantasan" is a Filipino language word for higher education. The Pamantasan Council, established in 1987, is composed of students, administrators, faculty and staff from the various UH campuses. Even with limited resources, Filipino faculty and staff across all campuses encourage students to attend so they may also have the chance to voice their concerns and experiences.

Because of the lack of resources, fewer students are able to attend the Pamantasan Conference each year, and the students who do attend often share how hard they work to manage the costs and demands of school. The resources that would be provided through this bill would support recruitment and retention efforts to increase the number and success of Filipinos at each campus, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs, faculty, staff and administrators.

I support this bill because I am someone who has benefit from the support I found through the Pamantasan Council. Going to college was a no-brainer for me, but finding resources was not always as easy. As a college freshman, I was afforded the opportunity to be a part of the annual Pamantasan Conference, which helped to spark my interest and involvement in our Filipino Community.

While working towards my undergraduate degree, going to the Pamantasan Conference each year was an opportunity to get to know my peers across the state and share our experiences as first- or second- generation college students and members of immigrant families. I have also been able to build relationships with faculty and staff that have encouraged me academically and professionally. As a result, I am now a staff member at the William S. Richardson School of Law and a graduate student working towards my Master's Degree in Educational Administration with an emphasis in Higher Education.

I conclude with a quote that explains why the Pamantasan Council is so important. The late Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink once said, "I can't change the past, but I can certainly help somebody else in the future so they don't have to go through what I did."

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of this bill.

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
February 7, 2013 at 2PM

By

Marie Antonette A. Ramos,

HB 1354: Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the committee:

As a senior at UH Manoa, who will be graduating this May with a BA in Ethnic Studies and a minor in Filipino Language and Culture, I support HB1354.

In May of 2011, upon receiving my AA in Liberal Arts, I was chosen to deliver one of the student speeches at Leeward Community College's commencement ceremony. I quoted Sir Francis Bacon in stating that knowledge is power. Growing up in Waipahu – a predominantly Filipino community – I witnessed first hand the need for more resources and programs invested in promoting higher education. I am a proud and grateful product of Gear Up Hawai'i, which has helped me with my academic journey immensely. Last semester, thanks to the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, the Ethnic Studies department, and the Center for Philippine Studies at UH Manoa, I was able to conduct research exploring identity construction amongst Asian American Spoken Word artists in Washington D.C. as a fellow at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. This semester, I will be presenting a paper on Filipinos in Hawai'i at the Association for Asian American Studies conference in Seattle, WA. I have shared my story with you because I strongly believe that I would not have been able to accomplish these things were it not for the support and resources of the above departments, programs, and institutions. Not only have my experiences prompted me to raise personal, academic, and professional goals for myself, but they have fostered growth on all levels as well, which in turn allows me to better serve our community. HB 1354 will allow my peers to do the same.

## ichiyama3 - Malia

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 12:39 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** Janet.suga@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

### **HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 1354. As a Filipino, we need continued support in education especially concerning our culture. As the Native Hawaiians have educational benefits that teach them about their culture, the Filipino culture also needs to be taught to our children and to conserve and uphold traditions.

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## ichiyama3 - Malia

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 12:11 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** paulqm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

### **HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support House Bill 1354. As a Filipino American attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa, it is imperative that I learn more about my Filipino heritage in societal institutions to help me create and shape my Filipino identity. This bill, if passed, will be significantly beneficial to the Filipino community as it will recognize that the Filipino language programs are a valuable part of the education of the Filipino. It is my hope, that the house will see this importance, and fund the Pamantasan Council with the necessary funds they need.

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My name is Ashley Galacgac and I am a senior at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. In my Ethnic Studies curriculum, I have learned about the vital role Filipinos have played in Hawai'i's history, contributing economically, culturally, and socially. I am in full support of HB 1354. As a first generation Filipino-American, I grew up with my mother emphasizing promise of a better future through education. The reality is that many Filipinos do not see this promise fulfilled with current disparities. Passing this act would ensure access resources and opportunities for Filipino students.

I am part of the student-run organization Timpuyog. It is part of the Ilokano Language and Literature program at University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I have seen how important having efforts to foster language proficiency and cultural pride. These contribute to the leadership development and success of Filipino-American students. There is still a great need for more efforts to increase the representation of Filipino students and professionals in the education, health, legal, business, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields within the University community, but also within the greater community.



**ichiyama3 - Malia**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 1:07 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** mid@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

**HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Inah Golez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1354.

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Wednesday, February 6, 2013

TO: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair  
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Committee on Higher Education

From: Alycia Kiyabu  
Undergraduate Student of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
Timpuyog Organization at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Subject: Support for H.B. No. 1354

My name is Alycia Kiyabu and I am currently an undergraduate student of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and an executive member of the registered independent organization (RIO), Timpuyog, who functions as the supporting RIO to the Ilokano Language and Literature Program at UH Manoa. Timpuyog strives to instill cultural pride within its student members, as well as facilitate leadership skills within the Ilokano and Filipino Youth. It is because of Timpuyog's mission, and UH Manoa's mission to promote cultural diversity and access, that I am testifying in favor of the Hawaii House Bill No. 1354 .

Majority of the students within the Department of Education identify themselves as Filipino, yet there is a great underrepresentation of Filipinos within the University of Hawaii System. There is incongruence between the Filipino students in high school and the number of Filipino students enrolled in higher education institutions in Hawaii. This is validated

The HB No. 1354 will allow the UH Pamantasan Council to evaluate the quality of education given to Filipino students so they, the Pamantasan Council, can find the misstep between the large population of Filipino students in high school and why it is not similar or equivalent to the Filipino student population in the UH system, and allow them, the Pamantasan Council, to create and implement a plan to develop educational and professional resources for Filipino students. The H.B. 1354 will allow University of Hawaii systems to be institutions of cultural diversity, cultural awareness, and higher education access to the Filipino community of Hawaii.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of the H.B.1354. As a student who identifies herself of Filipino ethnicity, holds Filipino ancestry, and interacts and engages Filipino students on a daily basis, I ask that you consider supporting this bill that promotes access and diversity for current Filipino students and future Filipino generations. Thank you.

**ichiyama3 - Malia**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 1:38 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** cherry\_anne\_parubrubs@live.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

**HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cherry-Anne Parubrubs	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support this act.

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As an alumna and current staff of University of Hawaii at Manoa, I support the HB 1354 Pamantasan. I believe it is important to establish positions and appropriate funds to UH Pamantasan Council as it provides a space for faculty, staff, and students to gather and share ideas. It also provides a sense of belonging for underrepresented students on campus. Pamantasan serves a great network for all stakeholders of the UH System.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education

February 7, 2013 at 2pm  
By Radiant Marie Cordero,

HB 1354: Relating to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the committee:

As a 2012 graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and former employee at the State Capitol and current employee at the Council of the City & County of Honolulu, I express my greatest support to HB 1354. While I was a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I participated in the Pamantasan conference and was a member of multiple student organizations to uphold the values of higher education for Filipinos in the state of Hawaii. As a birth child to these islands and the United States of America, connecting to the land of my father and mother and their parents and so on, is important to a person while receiving a higher education. With the funds and resources needed to help Filipinos (whom are now the number one ethnic group in Hawaii as mentioned in the 2010 census) excel to the best of their ability, I fully support HB 1354 and urge your support as well.

Mahalo,  
Radiant Marie Cordero

Testimony to the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
February 7, 2013

By  
Nadezna Ortega  
Ilokano Major, Ilokano Language and Literature Program  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
February 7, 2013

HB 1354

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the committee:

As an Ilokano major and an Ilokano student in the Ilokano Language and Literature Program at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, I strongly support the intent of HB 1354. Ilokanos along with other Filipinos comprise almost twenty-five percent of the total population in the State of Hawai'i and yet rank among the lowest in socioeconomic status. Furthermore, we are among the least represented in college and in higher education. At the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Filipino students severely lack resources such as scholarships and other student services. There is only one scholarship available specifically for Ilokano majors every semester in the amount of \$500 awarded to one student. There are also very limited classes offered that addresses the cultures, languages, and realities of Filipino students. Moreover, there are not enough Filipino faculty members at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. It is extremely problematic for those attending the University to not even see themselves within the faculty population. Even within the Ilokano Language and Culture Program, there are only two full-time professors and one lecturer.

Once again, I am writing in support of HB 1354.

**ichiyama3 - Malia**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2013 12:17 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** cherie7@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

**HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cherie Joyce Guillermo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: Hi, My name is Cherie Joyce T. Guillermo and I am currently a sophomore at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am majoring in BS Biology and minoring in Filipino. Personally, I believe that there is a growing Filipino community in the state of Hawaii. There are also many Filipino students in the University of Hawaii that are born here but are not educated about their culture. In fact, there are also Filipinos who were born in the Philippines but grew up here and are also not educated about culture. I was born in the Philippines but I had never learned about the culture or grammar. Through the Filipino classes that I had taken at UH, I learned a lot more about my culture, the Philippine history, and grammar. When I went to McKinley High School, Filipino language was not offered. Instead, I took Japanese and learned so much more about the Japanese culture. As a college student, I grew a bigger appreciation for my culture and where I came from. I support this bill because I feel that it is important to educate Filipinos about their culture since culture is one of the factors that contribute to ones identity. In addition, it will also be good for non-Filipinos to learn about the culture because through culture, everyone could get closer and be more understanding of one another.

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## ichiyama3 - Malia

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 11:49 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** minatrullinger@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

### **HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
MIna Trullinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: "The Pamantasan Council needs resources to implement (a) recommendations of the 2008 SCR 120 report to the Legislature regarding Philippine language courses, teacher training and certification; and (b) Pamantasan conference recommendations such as hiring of a Philippine librarian at Manoa and developing courses for articulation among Community Colleges and 4-year campuses. With additional funding and positions, the Pamantasan Council can provide necessary expertise and energy to increase the University's national leadership in Philippine Studies (Manoa and Leeward CC are leaders in offering academic programs) and support on-going recruitment and retention efforts (federal programs such as Gear Up at Waipahu high school) to increase the number and success of Filipinos at each campus, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs, faculty, staff and administrators."

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Chairs and Committee Members:

My name is Precious Arao support the bill HB1354 that is being proposed. I am a student at the University of Hawaii @ Manoa as a third year college student. I am Chemistry major and recently decided on double majoring in Filipino. Pamantasan will help promote the Filipino language. Hawaii is comprised of high population of Filipinos and many are not educated enough about their culture. This bill will help advancing of Filipinos in Hawaii. Therefore, I strongly support this bill.

Sincerely,

Precious Arao



**ichiyama3 - Malia**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 10:52 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** rhomel@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rhomel Aquino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**ichiyama3 - Malia**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 9:01 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** glendad@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM

**HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Glenda Duldulao	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the intent of HB1354, which provide resources for the sytemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. I am a recent masteral graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am also of Philippine ancestry and was the first in the history of my family to accept a bachelors and masters degree. I consider these achievements and the desire to pursue higher education as a result of participating in programs such as Gear-Up, which the Pamantasan Council has supported. It was also because of the very few, professors with Philippine ancestry, who I was able to connect with and who supported me in my academic endeavors. The Pamantasan Council has been an important advocate for the Philippine community and its students. I am one of those Philippine students that they have successfully help, I hope that this council will continue to be supported and continue to expand their efforts in representing Philippine students in our community and in the university.

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**ichiyama3 - Malia**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 5:09 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** aprilei@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1354 on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB1354**

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aprilei Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB No. 1354**

**February 6, 2013**

**RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Title: University of Hawaii; Appropriation; Filipino; Hawaii Pamantasan Council (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds and positions to UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jason Ramano. I am currently a double major undergraduate student at University of Hawaii Manoa. I am pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Information & Computer Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Filipino. I am a graduate from President William McKinley High School and a proud member of the Hawaii Army National Guard.

I strongly support House Bill No. 1354 because not only it will help promote access and diversity, but also increase academic interest, student success, and graduation among Filipino students. While attending high school, I did not have Filipino courses as an option to fulfill my language requirements. Like many others, I did not even know that UH Manoa offered it nor was I inform about it. But with enough sufficient funds and appropriate promotion, I believe it will be easier for younger generation to be informed and grab their interest into further continuing their education. If there were Filipino courses available at the high school level and if high school students were given enough information about UH Filipino program, then it will serve as an additional motivation to go to UH and helping Hawaii education prosper.

With more funds and additional personnel in the UH Pamantasan Group, it will do a lot to help students achieve their goals in the Filipino program. More funds would mean more books and proper equipment to teaching the students, thus upgrading the way the students learn about the Filipino culture. I believe that with better equipment and more personnel, student success will dramatically increase and language requirements will be easily fulfilled if Filipino was chosen. Also, with the growing population of Filipinos in Hawaii, I'm sure that many students will be enticed to learn more about their language and culture. If they see that UH Manoa has a very strong Filipino program then our program could eventually turn into an asset to the school in terms of recruiting more students.

As a result of more interests from students going to UH Manoa, the school will see a lot more of student success. Because of this, it will probably increase the graduation rate at UH Manoa. This might be a little bit into bigger scale, but I'm sure having a stronger Filipino program will play a role into it to those ones who take it. Students will be able to knock out their language requirements easily.

In conclusion, more funds and more personnel in the Pamantasan Council would result into increase of academic interest, student success, and graduation among Filipino students. Not only that, it will raise awareness of plenty of Filipinos in our society and community. So please approve of this bill and let us have a much brighter future for the Filipino Program in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Jason Ramano



February 22, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto , Vice Chair  
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: **House Bill 1354, HD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii and Funding for the Pamantasan Council**

My name is Randy Cortez, President of JCI Hawaii Filipino Junior Chamber. Our organization's mission is to empower young active citizens with developmental opportunities to create positive change and perpetuate the local Filipino heritage. We strongly support HB 1354, HD1. Any additional funding would provide more development opportunities for many students, increase diversity, strengthen networks with the Filipino community and other organizations, as well as address insufficient staff issues at the University of Hawaii.

The Filipino population is the second largest ethnic group in our state and is continuing to grow. It's imperative that we continue to provide our students in higher education valuable resources to continue to perpetuate the Filipino cultural heritage.

Through my own personal experiences as a past participant of the Pamantasan conferences, I can certainly attest to the Council's significance in promoting access and diversity to students eager to learn their language and culture. Attending these conferences and other activities further piqued my interest and satisfied my appetite in learning more about my Filipino culture. Providing additional funding to the Pamantasan Council allows for more course offerings and activities that fosters personal development. Getting students interested in the subject is the first step when it comes to increasing Filipino representation in academia, thus adding to the diversity of our ohana.

I humbly ask for your favorable support for this measure. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Randy Cortez

RANDY CORTEZ  
President  
JCI-Hawaii Filipino Junior Chamber  
[www.fjcchamber.org](http://www.fjcchamber.org)