

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 2 pm  
by

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Vice Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### 4 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the committee:

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of HB 1354 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 SCF 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 4-year campuses. With additional funding and positions, UH and the Pamantasan Council 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 (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 Filipino language, Philippine Studies and Filipino American Hawai'i ethnic studies, which at the moment are very limited or not available at the various campuses.

HB 1354 provides census, UH and DOE data on Filipinos (second largest group in the department of education) and their under-representation among college graduate 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 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.

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nda Burch, student, Hawai'i Community College

s Quihano, student, Hawai'i Community College

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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.

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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

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