

Testimony Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2013

HB 1380 hd1 Relating to the University of Hawai`i

Submitted by: Amy Agbayani, PhD
Director, Student Equity Excellence and Diversity
UH Manoa

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the Committee

I support HB 1380 hd1 providing funds for Hawai`i residents from any UH campus to attend The Washington Center and other internship programs. My testimony in support of this bill is in my role as the designated UH Manoa faculty liaison to the Washington Center and I do not represent the official position of UH.

Although I have been the UH Manoa faculty liaison for only a year since Social Science Dean Dubanoski retired, I am familiar with internship programs, including The Washington Center's application process, residential facilities, academic and internship programs, costs and student support services. The Center offers a rigorous and quality internship program with federal agencies and non-profit organizations at our nation's capitol. Although there is great interest for internships in Washington, very few UH students attended The Washington Center because of the cost of travel, housing and fees. Financial support will be of great benefit to our students interested in public service. My office supports HB 1380 hd1. We can help UH students with information and student services support in partnership with The Washington Center and other internship programs.

Thank you for your continuing support of our students.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2013 at 2:00pm

by

Lui K. Hokoana, Ed.D
Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1380 HD1 — RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1380 HD1 which provides funds to implement a scholarship program to support students from any UH campus who are Hawai'i residents to participate in The Washington Center Internship and Seminar programs in Washington DC and other internship programs. The Washington Center is "an independent, nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries. The largest program of its kind, The Washington Center has 70 fulltime staff and more than 50,000 alumni."

Funds would be used for fees, travel, housing and other educational expenses for UH students. UH shall be responsible for the implementation of the program. Providing financial support for UH students to participate in The Washington Center's academic and internship programs and other internship programs will increase educational and civic opportunities for Hawai'i residents to work and learn.

The University supports HB 1380 HD1 provided it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request.

To the Members of the House Finance Committee:

Please accept my written testimony in support of HB 1380. My name is David Anderson and I am the Senior Vice President of Government & Strategic Initiatives at The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars in Washington, D.C.. This bill, which is co-sponsored by Representatives Nishimoto, Choy, and Mizuno, is designed to provide funding for University of Hawaii college students to complete our academic internship program in Washington, D.C. for academic credit. Students will intern four and one-half days a week as well as participate in a range of professional and civic activities. Housing is also guaranteed. I wish to emphasize that we currently work with the University of Hawaii. Dr. Amy Agbayani, who serves as the UH TWC liaison, testified at the House Higher Education Committee hearing.

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, which has a full-time staff of 80, is the largest, independent, nonprofit experiential education organization in the United States. For more than 35 years, we have played a crucial role in preparing young people for leadership and promoting civic participation by connecting motivated students with companies, organizations, congressional offices and federal agencies that exemplify the values of leadership and community service. The Washington Center has more than 50,000 alumni and provides an integrated academic and work experience to prepare college students and professionals for lives of achievement and civic engagement. More than 1,600 students from all 50 states and over 30 countries will participate in our internship program this year. Nearly all students who participate in The Washington Center's program receive academic credit (from their home institutions) for their semester or summer term in Washington D.C., thanks to cooperative agreements with more than 500 colleges and universities. Our alumni return home to their state workforces to affect change in their communities using the skills and knowledge that they received through the program.

The Washington Center has partnered with twenty one states since 1995, typically raising between \$1.5 and \$3 million per year to provide scholarship funding for qualified students. States typically appropriate between \$50,000 and \$500,000 per year. Our 12 current state partners are Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, Delaware, Puerto Rico (territory), Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Alabama, and Mississippi. State scholarships provide partial funding for students interested in the program; they help to mitigate the cost difference between a semester at a students' home institution versus a semester in Washington D.C.. Between 35 and 50 percent of The Washington Center's domestic enrollment is made up of students coming from funded states.

We are eager to make Hawaii the 22nd state in our State Initiatives Program. Very few students (only 13 over the last 15 years) have participated from Hawaii. Providing Hawaii students with adequate scholarship funding will allow them to take advantage of this opportunity.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

David M. Anderson, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President, Government & Strategic Initiatives
David.Anderson@twc.edu/202-238-7994
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