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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

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PART I

SECTION 1. Section 37-74, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsections (c) to (d) to read as follows:

"(c) The department of budget and finance shall:

(1) Review each operations plan to determine:

(A) That it is consistent with the policy decisions of the governor and appropriations by the legislature;

(B) That it reflects proper planning and efficient management methods; and

(C) That appropriations have been made for the planned purpose and will not be exhausted before the end of the fiscal year;

~~[provided that the department of budget and finance shall review the operations plan submitted by the University of Hawaii solely for consistency with the allotment ceilings established by the governor under section 37-34, appropriations by the legislature, the~~



1 ~~requirements of chapter 37D, and the status of~~  
2 ~~revenues to support operations plans for all state~~  
3 ~~programs;]~~

4 (2) Approve the operations plan if satisfied that it meets  
5 the requirements under paragraph (1). Otherwise, the  
6 department of budget and finance shall require  
7 revision of the operations plan in whole or in part;  
8 and

9 (3) Modify or withhold the planned expenditures at any  
10 time during the appropriation period if the department  
11 of budget and finance finds that the expenditures are  
12 greater than those necessary to execute the programs  
13 at the level authorized by the governor and the  
14 legislature, or that state receipts and surpluses will  
15 be insufficient to meet the authorized expenditure  
16 levels[; ~~provided that the planned expenditures for~~  
17 ~~the University of Hawaii may be modified or withheld~~  
18 ~~only in accordance with sections 37-36 and 37-37].~~

19 (d) No appropriation transfers or changes between programs  
20 or agencies shall be made without legislative authorization;  
21 provided that:



- 1 (1) Authorized transfers or changes, when made, shall be  
2 reported to the legislature;
- 3 (2) Except [~~with respect to appropriations to fund~~  
4 ~~financing agreements under chapter 37D, the University~~  
5 ~~of Hawaii shall have the flexibility to transfer~~  
6 ~~appropriated funds and positions for the operating~~  
7 ~~cost category among programs, among cost elements in a~~  
8 ~~program, and between quarters, as applicable; except]~~  
9 with respect to appropriations to fund financing  
10 agreements under chapter 37D, the department of  
11 education shall have the flexibility to transfer  
12 appropriated funds and positions for the operating  
13 cost category among programs and among cost elements  
14 in a program, and between quarters, as applicable; and  
15 the Hawaii health systems corporation and its regional  
16 system boards shall have the flexibility to transfer  
17 special fund appropriations among regional system  
18 hospital facilities as applicable and as mutually  
19 agreed to by the corporation and the respective  
20 regional system board; provided that the Hawaii health  
21 systems corporation and the regional system boards  
22 shall maintain the integrity and services of each



1 individual regional system and shall not transfer  
2 appropriations out of any regional system that would  
3 result in a reduction of services offered by the  
4 regional system, with due regard for statutory  
5 requirements, changing conditions, the needs of the  
6 programs, and the effective utilization of resources;  
7 and

8 (3) The [~~university and the~~] department of education shall  
9 account for each transfer implemented under this  
10 subsection in quarterly reports to the governor and  
11 annual reports at the end of each fiscal year to the  
12 legislature and the governor, which shall be prepared  
13 in the form and manner prescribed by the governor and  
14 shall include information on the sources and uses of  
15 the transfer."

16 PART II

17 SECTION 2. The University of Hawaii acquired lands for the  
18 University of Hawaii at West Oahu through a land exchange  
19 approved in Act 294, Session Laws of Hawaii 1996. Subsequently,  
20 the University of Hawaii at West Oahu campus has grown and  
21 continues to grow according to the university's long-range  
22 development plans. However, the legislature finds that there



1 remains significant acreage that could be used for revenue-  
2 generating purposes for the support of the University of Hawaii  
3 at West Oahu. As such, the legislature further finds that the  
4 disposition of such lands is an issue of statewide concern.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to prohibit the  
6 sale or gift of the University of Hawaii at West Oahu land  
7 acquired pursuant to Act 294, Session Laws of Hawaii 1996,  
8 without the prior consent of the legislature.

9 SECTION 3. Section 304A-2166, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

11 "(b) The following shall be deposited into the special  
12 fund:

13 (1) Appropriations by the legislature to the special fund;

14 (2) All net proceeds from the sale of public lands, all  
15 net rents from leases, licenses, and permits, or all  
16 net proceeds derived from development rights for  
17 public lands:

18 (A) Proposed for large lot subdivision as a five  
19 hundred acre parcel and designated as Lot 10077  
20 in Land Court Application 1069; and

21 (B) Obtained from the Campbell Estate in the land  
22 exchange described in section 2 of Act 294,



1                   Session Laws of Hawaii 1996, located mauka of the  
2                   H-1 Freeway and consisting of nine hundred forty-  
3                   one acres, more or less; [~~and~~]  
4                   provided that notwithstanding section 304A-105 to the  
5                   contrary, no sale of lands that are described in this  
6                   paragraph in fee simple, including land sold for roads  
7                   and streets, or gift of lands that are described in  
8                   this paragraph in fee simple, to the extent the gift  
9                   is otherwise permitted by law, shall occur without the  
10                  prior approval of the sale or gift by the legislature  
11                  by concurrent resolution to be adopted by at least a  
12                  two-thirds majority vote of both houses; and  
13                  (3) Interest earned or accrued on moneys in the special  
14                  fund."

15                  SECTION 4. Section 304A-2274, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16                  amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

17                  "(a) There is established the University of Hawaii real  
18                  property and facilities use revolving fund into which shall be  
19                  deposited all revenues collected by the university for the use  
20                  of university real property and facilities, except as otherwise  
21                  provided by law. The board of regents may establish prices,  
22                  fees, and charges, including those for the sale, lease, or use



1 of university real property and facilities, which include land,  
2 buildings, grounds, furnishings, and equipment; provided that  
3 the university shall comply with all statutory and common law  
4 requirements in the disposition of ceded lands[-] and those  
5 lands described in section 304A-2166(b)(2)(A) and (B). The  
6 board of regents shall be exempt from the public notice and  
7 public hearing requirements of chapter 91 in establishing and  
8 amending the fees and charges. The university may establish  
9 separate accounts within the revolving fund for major program  
10 activities. Funds deposited into the revolving fund accounts  
11 shall be expended to pay the costs of operating university  
12 facilities, including maintenance, administrative expenses,  
13 salaries, wages, and benefits of employees, contractor services,  
14 supplies, security, furnishings, equipment, janitorial services,  
15 insurance, utilities, and other operational expenses. Revenues  
16 not expended as provided in this section may be transferred to  
17 other university funds to be invested or expended for the  
18 administrative or overhead costs of the university. All  
19 expenditures from this revolving fund shall be subject to  
20 legislative appropriation."



## 1 PART III

2 SECTION 5. The legislature finds the 2012 National  
3 Association for Student Professionals Associations book, *Asian*  
4 *Americans and Pacific Islanders in Higher Education*, documents  
5 the growth, diversity, and underrepresentation in various levels  
6 of education among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The  
7 book has received local and national recognition for identifying  
8 issues and policies that must be addressed by researchers,  
9 universities, and state and federal policy makers. In  
10 particular, there is a need for research to address the  
11 underrepresentation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in  
12 higher education institutions.

13 The purpose of this part is to:

- 14 (1) Fund five part-time graduate assistant and student  
15 employee (2.5 FTE) positions in the office of student  
16 equity, excellence, and diversity at the University of  
17 Hawaii at Manoa to conduct and disseminate research  
18 relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander  
19 students in higher education; and
- 20 (2) Provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate  
21 students interested in diversity careers in student  
22 affairs and higher education.





1 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to:

4 (1) Fund five part-time graduate student assistant and  
5 student employee (2.5 FTE) positions in the office of  
6 student equity, excellence, and diversity at the  
7 University of Hawaii at Manoa to conduct and  
8 disseminate research relating to Asian American and  
9 Pacific Islander students in higher education; and

10 (2) Provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate  
11 students interested in diversity careers relating to  
12 student affairs and higher education.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
14 Hawaii for the purposes of this part.

15 PART IV

16 SECTION 7. Section 304A-2603, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 repealed.

18 [~~["§304A-2603] Revenue bonds. The board of regents is~~  
19 ~~authorized to issue sufficient amounts of revenue bonds pursuant~~  
20 ~~to [subpart D] for the purpose of providing adequate parking~~  
21 ~~structures or other facilities."]~~



1           SECTION 8. Chapter 304A, part VI, subpart D, Hawaii  
2 Revised Statutes, is repealed.

3   PART V

4           SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6           SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



# S.B. NO.

2905  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 1  
Proposed

**Report Title:**

UH; Budget; Program Execution; UH-West Oahu; Sale or Gift of Land; Asian Americans; Pacific Islanders; Appropriation; Revenue Bonds

**Description:**

Removes program execution exceptions provisions that are specific to the UH. Prohibits the sale or gift of land currently being used for the permanent campus of the UH-West Oahu without the prior consent of the Legislature. Appropriates moneys to fund positions in SEED, and to provide direct services relating to student affairs and higher education. Repeals the authority of UH to issue revenue bonds. Effective 7/1/2014.  
(HD1 Proposed)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
March 18, 2014 at 2:32 p.m.

by  
Howard Todo, Vice President for Budget and Finance/Chief Financial Officer  
University of Hawai'i

SB 2905 SD1 Proposed HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this multi-faceted measure. This testimony will address Parts I, II, and IV of SB2905 SD1 Proposed HD1 and our strong opposition to these Parts.

### PART I

The existing statutory language that grants the University System certain flexibility in the use of its resources recognizes that only 40 percent of the University's entire operating budget is supported by State funds and, as a consequence, the University must leverage and reallocate our various revenue sources to meet our operating needs in a time-sensitive manner. The proposed amendments would prohibit the University from transferring funds between programs, e.g., administrative support programs such as information technology, risk management, and payroll processing, that by design are financed by a combination of both general funds and non-general funds. Another example of the University leveraging its funds are the efforts made to ensure the maximum delivery of instructional services by the community college system. Fluctuations in enrollment between semesters mean that general funds must be transferred between community college campuses to ensure that instructional services are available to students. Eliminating the University's authority to make transfers between programs penalizes a system that has been rewarding performance based upon cost-effective use of limited resources.

The University understands that it must do a better job to become more effective and efficient in use of the funds and transparent with respect to how the funds were used. To this end, key members of the BOR have become more closely involved in reviewing our financial reports and have requested more detailed information. Last November, the BOR adopted a policy requiring the President to implement a system wide operating reserve, beginning with the 2015-17 Fiscal Biennium. The President is presently working on defining the amount that each campus is able to commit to this operating reserve.

Article 10, section 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution recognizes the authority of the BOR "... to have exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university" in balance with the Legislature's "... power to enact laws of statewide concern". Given that 60 percent of the University's operating budget is funded by private individuals paying tuition, or contracts and grants awarded for specific purposes that cannot be re-allocated, an appropriate question may be whether the University should be required

to consult with the State's Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) regarding management of non-general fund revenues that are collected by the University System for university-specific activities.

State Director of Finance Kalbert Young, in his testimony, states that "The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) defers to the UH regarding the operational impacts of the program budget execution exception provisions. The effect of removing UH's program budget execution exception provisions will mean that the UH will be subject to budget execution processes as applicable to nearly all other executive departments. This will likely mean that UH will be subject to reviews and recommendations by B&F and approvals by the Governor. Operationally, this will likely add to UH's current bureaucratic processes."

In the context of the current statutory flexibility to request and receive annual allotments, our newly implemented financial management system reflects the best practices of higher education financial system and does not recognize fiscal quarters. As a consequence University fiscal administrators develop and input an annual budget at the beginning of each fiscal year. Should the University be required to request quarterly allotments from the Department of Budget and Finance, this would as noted by Director Young add to the University's bureaucracy when it is moving forward in adopting best practices.

## **PART II**

Part II proposes to prohibit the sale or gift of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu land acquired pursuant to Act 294, Session Laws of Hawai'i 1996 without prior consent of the Legislature.

The University does not have immediate plans to sell any of its lands at UH West O'ahu, as we are currently updating its long range development plan, including its critical business plan. The primary objective of this business plan is to identify financial options with the goal of providing additional revenues for UH West O'ahu and reducing the need to request additional general funds in the future.

The Board of Regents is currently updating its Board policy on land sales and its statements on their purposes, which include the promotion and support of the University's educational and research mission while advancing the principals of environmental stewardship and sustainability. We also note that the Board of Regents has formed a task group to plan for University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu lands, which they expect to have in August. This legislative measure may conflict with the University in meeting its mission.

The University's current focus for the land at UHWO is on ground leasing opportunities and there are no immediate plans to sell land, but the University needs the flexibility to sell land if a development opportunity which is compatible with the University campus should arise. For example, the current City's zoning calls for a significant portion of the lands surrounding the campus to be for residential development. In order for this to be practical, those lands would need to be sold in fee, since leasehold residential development is not feasible. These land sales proceeds would be applied against outstanding revenue bonds or loans, resulting in reducing its current debt service obligations within UH West Oahu's operating budget.

Should the University be required to get the Legislature's approval for land sales, the timely closing of any sale would be jeopardized if the Legislature is in recess.

#### **PART IV**

We respectfully oppose the amending of Section 304A-2603, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, by requiring the Legislature's approval of the amount of revenue bonds to be issued and the specific projects that would expend those revenue bonds. Legislative authorization and approval by the Governor is currently required in order for the University to issue revenue bonds. Requiring additional prior legislative approval would hamper the timely execution of revenue bond funded projects of the University.

The ability to issue authorized revenue bonds on a timely basis to fund projects is critical to the University.

For the above mentioned reasons, the University of Hawai'i System prefers the original intent of SB 2905 and we respectfully request that this measure remove Parts I, II and IV from the proposed HD1.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2905**

Submitted by Doris Ching, Educator  
Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Hawai'i System  
March 18, 2014  
2:32 pm  
State Capitol, Room 309

Chair Choy, Vice-Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I fully support Senate Bill 2905. I am deeply grateful to the House Committee on Higher Education for this proposed measure that will help to address a critical concern regarding ethnic and racial groups that are underrepresented and underserved in higher education. This legislation will initiate a major step toward greater equity and much needed resources to meet the educational needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) groups that are underrepresented in higher education in Hawai'i and the nation. The passage of SB 2905 will enable the conduct and practical application of research, as well as direct support and mentoring of AAPI students for careers in student affairs and higher education. This bill will also increase the awareness of educational support needs of AAPI college students to assure their success on university campuses.

The multiple positive effects of SB 2905 are far-reaching. While the graduate assistants will benefit by the mentorship of faculty who are inspirational role models, the graduate assistants, in turn, will provide mentoring to undergraduate and other graduate students. Thus, the prospect of immeasurable long-term benefits of SB 2905 for developing future generations of AAPI scholars is immense.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the two fastest growing racial groups in the United States, as confirmed by 2010 U.S. Census data. Yet, Filipino Americans, Southeast Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and low-income AAPIs continue to face inequalities in college access and degree completion. These groups continue to lack visibility and attention in institutions of higher education. There is ongoing need for research and scholarship that inform policies, programs, and practices that will enhance the educational success of AAPI populations that are underrepresented and underserved in higher education. It is most appropriate that Hawai'i, with our high percentage of AAPI populations, and the UH at Mānoa's Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) Office, with its locally and nationally respected competence and track record in equity and diversity efforts, lead this project.

I deeply appreciate the House Committee on Higher Education for your interest in this important issue. I urge you to pass SB 2905. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important bill.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 2905, S.D. 1, Proposed H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**LATE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014

**TIME:** 2:32 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309

**TESTIFIER(S):** **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**(For more information, contact Diane Erickson,  
Deputy Attorney General at (808) 586-0618)**

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Chair Choy and Members of the Committee:

This bill (1) amends section 37-74(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to remove the limitations on review by the Department of Budget and Finance of the University of Hawaii's ("University") operation plan, to remove the limitations on the ability to modify or withhold planned expenditures by the University of Hawaii, and to repeal the University's flexibility to transfer appropriated funds and positions among programs, cost elements, and between quarters; (2) amends section 304A-2166, HRS, to prohibit the sale or gifting of land at the University of Hawaii - West Oahu acquired pursuant to Act 294, Session Laws of Hawaii 1998, without prior consent of the Legislature; (3) requires the University to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers relating to student affairs and higher education; and (4) repeals the University's ability to issue revenue bonds for parking structures and other facilities.

Article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution, gives the University of Hawaii Board of Regents "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides that: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern."

The Legislature should consider amending this bill to add a provision identifying the bill to be a law of statewide concern.



WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2905, S.D. 1, PROPOSED H.D. 1

March 18, 2014

**LATE**

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Senate Bill No. 2905, S.D. 1, Proposed H.D. 1, proposes to amend Chapter 37-74, HRS, which would remove program budget execution exception provisions that are specific to the University of Hawaii (UH). The bill also prohibits the sale or gift of UH West Oahu land without prior consent of the Legislature and repeals the authority of the University to issue revenue bonds. Further, the bill appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for direct services and research in higher education.

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) defers to the UH regarding the operational impacts of the program budget execution exception provisions. The effect of removing UH's program budget execution exception provisions will mean that the UH will be subject to budget execution processes as applicable to nearly all other executive departments. This will likely mean that UH will be subject to reviews and recommendations by B&F and approvals by the Governor. Operationally, this will likely add to UH's current bureaucratic processes.

Current program budget execution provisions of executive departments require review and recommendations from B&F staff to the Director of Finance, review and recommendations by the Director of Finance to the Governor, and then the approval of the Governor.

We do not know how this could affect UH's ability to more timely meet fluctuations in resource requirements due to actual student enrollments and would defer to UH for that operational insight.

With regards to repealing the UH's revenue bond authority, we would like to point out that the UH currently has an established revenue bond program through which capital projects and improvements are funded by revenue bonds supported by revenues generated by UH. If the intent of this bill is to have the UH cash fund their capital improvements through revenues generated, the Department would like to point out that the financing of long-lived assets through debt instruments can be a prudent form of financial management when appropriately planned and executed. However, if the intent of this bill would be to have the State fund UH's capital improvement projects through increased general obligation bond (GO) funding, this would create additional funding pressure upon the limited GO bond funding resource without any additional revenue to support increasing debt service requirements.

# Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President  
P. O. Box 270126 \* Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2905

House Committee on Higher Education

March 18, 2014, 2:32 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 309

To: Hon. Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair and Hon. Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Karen Awana,  
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. K.  
Mark Takai, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Richard Lee Fale, Rep. Lauren  
Kealohilani Matsumoto

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President, Filipino American Citizens League

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and House Higher  
Education Committee Members:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As vice president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am very proud to strongly support this bill. The League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

Deepest appreciation for hearing this bill to create 2.5 FTE student research positions to conduct and disseminate knowledge that addresses education disparities in Asian American and Pacific Islander communities for increased recruitment, retention, and graduation of students, better student services, increased student achievement, and accountability in advancing the Diversity Initiative of the University of Hawai'i. This will go a long way to address the disparities where Filipinos and Native Hawaiians are disproportionately over-represented in under-achieving public schools and under-represented in UH Mānoa.

Thank you for the opportunity for the Filipino American Citizen's League to speak up on behalf of under-represented groups, on whose talents and assets Hawai'i's strong economy and healthy communities depend.

Very Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President, Filipino American Citizens League



## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2905

House Committee on Higher Education

March 18, 2014, 2:32 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 309

To: Hon. Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair and Hon. Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Karen Awana, Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. K. Mark Takai, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Richard Lee Fale, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

From: Helena Manzano, Vice President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Description: Appropriates moneys to SEED at the University of Hawaii to fund 5 graduate assistant and student employee (2.5 FTE) positions to conduct and disseminate research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers relating to student affairs and higher education.

Dear Rep. Choy, Chair; Rep. Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and House Committee Members:

My name is Helena Manzano, vice president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. The Coalition strongly supports this bill. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

I strongly support this bill from the vantage points of a community leader, a trained social worker, and a UH alumnae. Filipinos, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other groups are still under-represented at UH Manoa. It is important to support students to conduct cutting edge research to address education disparities. It is just as important to create student employment positions in order to make education affordable for them. The knowledge gained to understand how to increase equal access and student achievement for Hawai'i's under-represented communities in higher education will inform policy makers, improve student services, and ensure a diverse and competitive work force.

The Coalition extends our gratitude to you for hearing this important bill.

Respectfully,

Helena Manzano, MSW, Vice President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2905**

House Committee on Higher Education

March 18, 2014, 2:32 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 309

To: Hon. Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair and Hon. Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Karen Awana,  
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. K.  
Mark Takai, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Richard Lee Fale, Rep. Lauren  
Kealohilani Matsumoto

From: Rouel Velasco, Chair, National Federation of Filipino American Associations  
Region 12

Dear Rep. Choy, Rep. Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and Hon. House Committee Members:

My name is Rouel Velasco, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which strongly supports this bill. NaFFAA Region 12 represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

NaFFAA strongly supports this bill because education is key to help empower marginalized Asian American and Pacific Islander people to continue making significant contributions in all fields for a thriving and civil society. Evidence-based policy making and student service programs are integral for good stewardship of limited resources and capacity building to uplift under-represented students, who can contribute significantly to Hawai'i's future through research, student services and student employment.

The members of NaFFAA Region 12 extend our appreciation to you for hearing this bill.

Sincerely,

Rouel Velasco, Chair  
NaFFAA Region XII



## *Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.*

*... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.*

*NAMI, P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701*

*E-mail: bramosrazon@aol.com*

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### **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2905**

House Committee on Higher Education

March 18, 2014, 2:32 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 309

To: Hon. Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair and Hon. Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Karen Awana,  
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. K. Mark Takai,  
Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Richard Lee Fale, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, Co-Founder and President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors Inc.

Description: Appropriates moneys to SEED at the University of Hawaii to fund 5 graduate assistant and student employee (2.5 FTE) positions to conduct and disseminate research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers relating to student affairs and higher education.

Dear Rep. Choy, Chair; Rep. Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and House Higher Education Committee Members:

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to submit our strong support for this bill. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service.

NAMI nurses have seen firsthand, the importance of creating research positions for graduate and undergraduate students to shed light on education disparities in Asian and Pacific Islander communities. As education is a social determinant of health, NAMI nurses served as mentors to UH SEED students, who aspired to gain social justice research experience by addressing persistent cancer disparities affecting the very communities to which they belong. These students represented groups that are first generation to attend college, that are over-represented in struggling public schools, and under-represented at UH Mānoa. As a result, these students are continuing on critical pathways to attain masters and doctoral degrees. At the same time, they in turn are mentoring other students. This dynamic process of recruitment, retention, and graduation of these students demonstrates the return in investment in student achievement.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide our full community support to you for its passage.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA  
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

**Testimony in Support of SB 2905**  
**House Committee on Higher Education**  
**March 18, 2014**  
**State Capitol, Room 309**  
**2:32 pm**

Chair Isaac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I would like to extend my sincere support of the Senate Bill 2905 and commend the House Committee on Higher Education for the proposed measure to fund five graduate assistants and student employee positions for the Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) Office at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to conduct and disseminate research on Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI). In October 2012, I attended the Asian American & Pacific Islander Research Coalition (ARC) Summit at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). As a 1.5 generation Filipina-American, I greatly benefitted from the panel discussions and conversations on the Asian American Pacific Island Higher Education issues. Attending the ARC Summit has immensely enthused me to learn more on critical issues in higher education that challenge Filipinos and Filipino Americans, specifically in Hawai'i with their limited access to higher education. I believe that there is a great need to continue this initiative and conversation, especially here in Hawai'i, where we largely serve AAPI students and the community. Therefore, I fully support the funding of 5 graduate students and student assistants because they would help in conducting more research projects and other initiatives to increase awareness and consciousness in these particular issues. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2905.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Custodio

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2905**

Submitted by Jenna Caparoso, Graduate Student and Research Assistant  
Educational Administration, Assessment Office

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

March 18, 2014

2:32 pm

State Capitol Room 309

Chair Issac Choy, Vice-Chair Linda Ichiyama, Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I would like to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2905 and to urge you to consider this critical legislation to fund five graduate assistants and student employee positions for the Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) Office at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). This measure addresses a significant matter concerning the current state of higher education and its ability to embrace the educational needs reflective and inclusive of its entire student population.

Although Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are the two fastest growing racial population in the United States, they remain underrepresented, underserved, and often invisible at higher education institutions. This is evident in the lack of AAPI faculty and staff presence on campuses, disregard and devaluation of AAPI-focused research and dissemination, and limited access to resources for AAPI students and those interested in diversity careers.

The proposed measure would greatly aid in these issues by providing opportunities and resources for both undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research and scholarship that gives AAPI students and the larger AAPI communities a voice – one I must contribute to. As a Hawai'i-born and raised mixed-Asian American woman and masters student in the Educational Administration program at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, I have committed my career path to actively supporting AAPIs and AAPI-focused scholarship. Much of my research interests surround racial and ethnic minority students, specifically students of Hawai'i. Furthermore, a large part of my decision to attend UHM (including my recent application to the doctoral program in Educational Administration) was because it is an ideal location for engaging in AAPI research. However, similar to the situations of other graduate students, I share funding concerns that may significantly impact my ability to continue a PhD at UHM. The opportunities afforded by SB 2905 would surely help to alleviate these personal concerns, as well.

The timing has never been more critical for educators and policy makers to engage in discussions on appropriate courses of action, such as Senate Bill 2905, that seek to give AAPIs in the state of Hawai'i and across the nation the currently overlooked attention in higher education they deserve. Such dialogues are catalysts for change – the beginnings of uniformed policies and practices that have the potential to cultivate awareness, respect, and compassion towards the entire student body – one inclusive of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your support on this issue. I urge you to pass SB 2905 and thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2905.





UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
MĀNOA

March 18, 2014

**Testimony in Support of SB 2905**  
**Submitted by Patricia Halagao, Ph.D., Associate Professor**  
**March 18, 2014**  
**2:32 pm**  
**State Capitol, Room 309**

To Chair Isaac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I strongly support Senate Bill 2905 to appropriate moneys to the University of Hawaii, Manoa's Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) office to support graduate student funding to conduct and disseminate research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers in student affairs and higher.

As you may know, research shows AAPI's are underrepresented and underserved in higher education. This appropriation of money will support a pathway of graduate students to complete their graduate work as well as to doubly contribute to the dearth of scholarship on AAPI's in higher education.

I know first hand the importance of funding under-represented graduate students. I myself was a recipient of a Minority Graduate Scholarship at the University of Washington's College of Education. I used my graduate fellowship to advance my research on multicultural education in higher education as well as worked as a Research Assistant in our Office of Minority recruitment and retention. I would not have completed my graduate studies without the support of graduate funding. I completed my studies in a timely manner, as well as gave back to an important issue. I now serve on faculty at the University of Hawaii's College of Education.

I hope more graduate students at the University of Hawaii, Manoa may benefit from this specific, yet far-reaching bill. I urge you to pass SB 2905 and thank you for the opportunity to support it.

Though I am employed at the University of Hawaii, my testimony is not the official testimony of UH.

**Testimony in Support of SB 2905**  
**House Committee on Higher Education**  
**March 18, 2014**  
**Conference Room 309**  
**2:32 pm**

To: Chair Isaac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I am writing this testimony in support of SB2905. Asian American Pacific Islander research and resources that foster diversity in the State of Hawaii are very important, given Hawaii's already rich diversity. Hawaii is a melting pot of families and individuals of Asians and Pacific Islanders and they face many unique barriers to attaining a quality education and meeting their career goals. This is especially so for those who are of the first generation living in the United States and those who are the first generation to graduate high school or go to college.

I am one of such individuals. I am currently a first-year medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. I am the first in my family to graduate from college, and am the first to pursue a professional degree. My journey here has not been without challenges, and it has always been obvious how few resources there are for students such as myself. Research on Asian and Pacific Islander issues, especially in the area of education is greatly needed, and it is important that we determine the barriers that individuals face so that we may address them as a society.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2905, and I ask you to please pass this important measure.

Sincerely,  
Ruel Reyes  
Mililani High School and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Graduate  
First-Year Medical Student, UH John A. Burns School of Medicine.

**Testimony in Support of SB 2905**

Submitted by Linda Furuto

Associate Professor of Mathematics Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

1776 University Avenue, Everly Hall 224, Honolulu, HI 96822

Telephone: 808-956-3359, Email: [lfuruto@hawaii.edu](mailto:lfuruto@hawaii.edu)

March 18, 2014

2:32 pm

State Capitol, Room 309

Honorable Chair Isaac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I fully support Senate Bill 2905 and commend the House Committee on Higher Education for the proposed measure that will fund the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to address a critical need for an underserved and underrepresented group in higher education.

As an educator and a resident of the State of Hawai'i, I urge you to consider the measure that will provide resources for the conduct and dissemination of research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, as well as provide direct support for careers in student affairs and higher education. This is a significant measure aimed at addressing a critical need within higher education that will have tremendous returns for our Linda Furuto

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 2905 and thank you for your support.

*This testimony reflects my personal views and is not official testimony of the University of Hawai'i.*

# Filipinos for Affirmative Action

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P.O. Box 61068 • Honolulu, HI 96839

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2905

House Committee on Higher Education

March 18, 2014, 2:32 pm

Hawai'i State Legislature

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309

**To:** Honorable Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair  
Honorable Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice-Chair  
Honorable House Committee on Higher Education: Rep. Henry Aquino, Rep. Karen Awana, Rep. Richard Fale, Rep. Fay Hanohano, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin Say, Rep. K. Mark Takai, Rep. Roy Takumi, Rep. Lauren Matsumoto,

**From:** Agnes Malate, MEd  
P.O. Box 61068; Honolulu, HI 96839 • armalate@yahoo.com

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in strong support of Senate Bill 2905 to fund graduate assistant and student employee positions for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) research, and to provide direct services to students interested in student affairs and higher education. I am a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action and a Faculty Specialist at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I have devoted my career to increasing diversity in higher education and the health field and I am currently pursuing a PhD in Educational Foundations at the UHM.

The majority of research and data portray Asian American/Pacific Islanders (AAPI) as high achieving groups that are able to successfully mitigate difficulties faced by other racial and ethnic minorities in the nation. However, more recent studies and statistics reveal that this is not necessarily the case for all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have been lumped together and treated as a single entity in the past. When data is disaggregated the disparities in this population is glaring. Demand for more specific details on the AAPI subpopulations has become more urgent as the growth in numbers has overtaken the rest of the U. S. population, increasing three times more from 2000 to 2009.

The information that the Census Bureau has collected on AAPI reveals remarkable differences especially in the area of education. SB 2905 is a step towards gaining a better understanding of the diversity and needs of the AAPI population in Hawai'i and across the nation. If funded, it will also provide valuable opportunities for students to conduct research and receive mentoring and other services.

I am grateful to the committee for your interest in advancing scholarship on AAPI and in investing in the next generation of higher education professionals to be prepared in meeting the challenges of a diverse student body and population. I ask that you pass SB 2905, and thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony,

*Although I am an employee of UHM, this testimony reflects my personal position and is not the official position of the University of Hawai'i.*

**Testimony in Support of SB 2905**  
**House Committee on Higher Education**  
**March 18, 2014**  
**State Capitol, Room 309**  
**2:32 pm**

Chair Isaac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I am writing in support for Senate Bill 2905. I am currently a fourth year medical student at John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. As the end of my formal medical school education ends I hope to match to the University of Hawai'i Internal Medicine Residency Program plan to become a community physician in the islands. However, my journey to medical school was not an easy one but the successes that I have accumulated to this point can in part be credited to the support and resources that the Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) office at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa has given me throughout my undergraduate and graduate education. The SEED program provides many Asian American and Pacific Islanders resources and mentorship to obtain higher education and I am a testament to their efforts.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide my testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2905. I urge you to pass this measure in order to increase the number of AAPI who have been able to pursue a higher education, like myself, and professionals in student affairs.

Sincerely,  
Scott Serrano  
Leilehua High School and University of Hawai'i at Manoa Graduate  
Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) and Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate  
Program Participant  
Fourth-Year Medical Student, UH John A. Burns School of Medicine

Kiana Yasuyo Shiroma  
Academic Advisor  
Honors & Regents & Presidential Scholars  
Programs University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
kianak@hawaii.edu  
808-542-6191

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2905**

Submitted by Kiana Shiroma, Academic Advisor  
Honors & Regents & Presidential Scholars Programs, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
March 18, 2014  
2:32 pm  
State Capitol, Room 309

Chair Isaac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I fully support Senate Bill 2905 and commend the House Committee on Higher Education for the proposed measure to fund five graduate assistants and student employee positions for the Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) Office at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) to conduct and disseminate research regarding Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers within the fields of student affairs and higher education. As an employee and student of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for 10 years, I am sure that AAPI faculty, staff, and students will benefit from this legislation. Being born and raised in Kailua, I also know that the larger community and state will be better because of this appropriation as well.

The 2010 U.S. Census demonstrates that AAPIs are the two fastest growing racial groups in the country. However, specific populations, including Filipino Americans, Southeast Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and low-income AAPIs continue to face challenges in post-secondary retention and graduation that other ethnic and racial groups do not have to overcome. Presently, there is still a need to research and support underrepresented and underserved racial and ethnic minorities in higher education, making the SEED Office the ideal location for these proposed graduate assistant and student employee positions. I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Legislature for your interest in this important issue. I urge you to pass SB 2905. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2905.

I am an employee of the University of Hawai'i, however, my testimony is not the official testimony of UH.

## **Testimony in Support of SB 2905**

Submitted by Clifton S. Tanabe

Associate Professor and Lecturer in Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

House Committee on Higher Education

March 18, 2014

2:32 pm

State Capitol, Room 309

Chair Isaac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I support SB 2905. While AAPI groups are among the fastest growing in the country, many AAPI members continue to struggle with barriers to college access and degree completion. Locally, many AAPI sub group students are underrepresented at our universities. It is imperative that we support those that do attend our universities. This is precisely what the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) works to accomplish! Through a consistent and sustained effort SEED works both to improve our understanding of what contributes to the college success of AAPI students, and to directly support and address the needs of AAPI students.

Please pass SB 2905. By doing so you will help to ensure the long term success of our local students and the local communities to which they will contribute.

This testimony reflects my personal views and is not the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair  
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
March 18, 2014  
2:32 pm  
State Capitol, Room 309

**RE: SB2905 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.**

**Position: In Strong Support**

Dear Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I am writing to testify **in strong support** of SB 2905.

As a current University of Hawai'i student and graduate assistant, I consider the intent and scope of SB 2905 to be a beneficial contribution to our educational community. The Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) is an integral part of the University and I support this bill that would allow SEED to continue its mission of promoting the success of students from underrepresented groups.

The bill's purpose, to support SEED to research the AAPI experience in higher education and provide services to both undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity-oriented student service careers, is commendable. Additionally, SB 2905's intent to offer this support through graduate assistant and student employee positions will allow those students to gain valuable experience that will benefit their future, as well as contribute to research vitally needed at the university level regarding underrepresented groups.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this bill, and continue to help SEED pursue its mission.

Though I attend and am employed as a graduate assistant at the University of Hawai'i, this testimony does not reflect the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,  
Amy Sojot  
Mililani, HI 96789



# Hannah M. Tavares

1003 Spencer Street, Apt #5  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
hmtav3602@gmail.com  
808-393-6184

Testimony in Support of SB 2905  
Submitted by Hannah M. Tavares  
Associate Professor in Higher Education  
March 18, 2014  
State Capitol Room 309  
2:32 pm

To: Chair Isaac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I submit this testimony in full support of Senate Bill 2905 and commend the House Committee on Higher Education for the proposed measure that will fund the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) at University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to address the underrepresentation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in higher education institutions.

The 2010 U.S. Census Data indicate that AAPI groups are the two fastest growing racial groups in the United States. Yet, Filipino Americans, Southeast Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders, and low-income AAPI’s continue to face numerous barriers to college access and degree completion. As you may know, Filipinos represent a very large portion of our state’s population and our public school students, yet they are significantly underrepresented at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

As an educator and a citizen of the state, I fully support SB 2905 and I fully support the SEED office at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to lead this project. The proposed measure will provide resources for the conduct and dissemination of research relating to AAPI students in higher education, as well as, provide direct support for careers in student affairs and higher education. These are significant measures aimed at addressing a critical need within higher education that will, in the long term, have huge returns for our communities.

I urge you to pass SB 2905 and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2905.

Though I am an employee of the University of Hawai‘i, my testimony is not the official testimony of UH.

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2905**

House Committee on Higher Education

March 18, 2014, 2:32 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 309

To: Hon. Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair and Hon. Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Karen Awana, Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. K. Mark Takai, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Richard Lee Fale, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

From: Karl Cubangbang, Student, University of Hawaii-Manoa

Dear Chair Isaac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Committee Members:

My name is Karl Cubangbang and I am currently a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. I am a junior standing student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Family Resources. I have aspirations of furthering my education in a Nursing or Public Health Master's program.

Because of high tuition costs, finding a job was needed to pay for courses and fees. Employers of off-campus jobs mandated hours for their student employees that were not flexible with school schedules. Instead of searching outside of campus for employment, students realize the many positive advantages of working on campus. On-campus jobs and employers understand the importance of their student's value for education in allowing flexible hours around school schedules. Working an on-campus job allowed me to focus on my education and make my hours in between my classes without the need to commute elsewhere. I have worked for numerous campus jobs during my time at the university. These jobs not only provided me with income that helps in purchasing school supplies and other daily life necessities but may provide me with the tools and references needed for employment in the future. I have met with many professionals specialized in my career interest that have guided me through different aspects of my life They have honed my talents in hopes that may benefit myself, my peers, and my community. The experiences I have gained working an on-campus job have made a lasting positive impact on my college career. I know that on-campus employment will also promote professionalism after I graduate.

I am very privileged to be a student employee of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and am forever grateful for this opportunity. I strongly support this bill and I ask for your strong consideration.

Sincerely,

Karl Cubangbang, Student, University of Hawaii-Manoa

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2905**

### **House Committee on Higher Education**

March 18, 2014, 2:32 pm

Hawai`i State Legislature Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 309

Submitted by: Mary Chang, Graduate Assistant, University of Hawai`i at Mānoa

Dear Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

I fully support Senate Bill 2905 to fund five graduate assistants and student employee positions for the Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) Office at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa (UHM) to conduct and disseminate research regarding Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students in higher education. The funding would also provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers within the fields of student affairs and higher education.

As you may know, five years ago, President Obama reestablished the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (Commission) to address issues concerning the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. One of the key areas of this federal government initiative is "Advancing Data Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination on AAPI Communities." More information on issues related to AAPI students is necessary because it will assist in closing achievement gaps and direct support to those communities most in need. Your support of this bill would help address the need for more research regarding underrepresented and underserved racial and ethnic minorities in higher education.

As a graduate assistant and student at the University of Hawai`i, I urge you to consider the proposed measure that will fund the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa. This is a significant measure aimed at addressing a critical need within higher education that will have important returns for our communities because it is the findings of such research that often influence key policy and financial decisions.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 2905, and thank you for your support.

This testimony reflects my personal views and is not official testimony of the University of Hawai`i.