

SB 605



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 2:45 pm

by

Tom Apple
Chancellor

and

Francisco Hernandez
Vice Chancellor for Students
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 605 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 605 which would fund 5 graduate assistants to conduct and disseminate research and support students interested in Asian American and Pacific Islander educational issues as well as careers in higher education and student affairs. Recent research shows AAPIs are underrepresented and underserved in many higher education institutions. AAPIs are only 5% of the nation but are the two fastest growing racial groups in the United States. Hawai'i is the state with the highest proportion of AAPI population and these groups are the majority in the state and the University of Hawai'i.

Funding graduate student assistants will increase the capacity of the Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity at Mānoa to work collaboratively with AAPI scholars nationally and with faculty from academic units at Mānoa and other campuses to address critical issues in higher education, and support careers in student affairs and higher education.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB605 provided that it does not adversely affect other UH budget priorities.

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 605

Submitted by Doris Ching, Educator
Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Hawai'i System
January 31, 2013

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Kidani, Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

I fully support Senate Bill 605 and commend the Senate Committee on Higher Education for the proposed measure that will address a critical, and often overlooked, concern regarding ethnic and racial groups that are underrepresented and underserved in higher education. This legislation will initiate a much needed and major step for educators and staff to be informed of, as well as address, the educational needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) groups that are underrepresented in higher education in Hawai'i and the nation. The proposed measure purports to provide resources for the conduct and dissemination of research as well as direct support for careers in student affairs and higher education. This project will increase both the understanding of educational needs of AAPI college students and the improvement of services provided to AAPI students to enhance their educational success. Having served as faculty and administrator at the University of Hawai'i (UH) for more than 36 years and having worked closely with all UH campuses as well as Hawai'i's private universities, I can assure you that AAPI students and educators at all public and private institutions, as well as the community, will benefit from this legislation.

AAPIs 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. By and large, 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 are designed to 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 wish to express my deep appreciation to the Legislature for your interest in this important issue. I urge you to pass SB 605. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 605.

Kalehua Mueller

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January 28, 2013

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 605

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Kidani, Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

I appreciate the opportunity to show my full support for Senate Bill 605. As a graduate student in the Education Administration program at the University of Hawai'i's College of Education and as President of the Higher Education Student Association, I understand the importance of addressing educational concerns for underrepresented and underserved ethnic and racial groups on campus. For example, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students are participating in higher education at increasing rates, as confirmed by universities' institution data, but many of these students do not graduate or earn degrees at the same rates as other ethnic and racial groups on campus. Therefore, there is a need for educators and higher education administrators to better understand the needs of AAPI college students in order to improve and facilitate academic success for these students. This legislation will enable educators to be informed of and begin to address the educational needs of this growing student population. This proposed measure would provide resources to enable other AAPI graduate students to work with established scholars and education staff to initiate and publish much-needed research and assist in developing and strengthening AAPI college student support programs on campus. This research assistanceship for graduate students at the University of Hawai'i's Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity Office will also help to encourage positive professional mentoring relationships for students. As a young professional working in a college access program at Windward Community College, I have benefited from similar mentoring relationships, and I know that this proposed legislation would create meaningful professional development opportunities for emerging scholars like myself. Furthermore, my professional experiences working with AAPI high schools students highlight the need for increased understanding of the educational needs of these students to ensure college access and degree completion.

I again wish to express my appreciation to the Legislature for considering this important measure. I strongly urge you to pass SB 605.

With Humility,

Kalehua Mueller
President, Higher Education Student Association

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 605

Submitted by Samuel D. Museus

Assistant Professor of Higher Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
January 29th, 2013

To: Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

I submit this testimony in full support of Senate Bill 605. Both nationally and in Hawai'i, various subgroups within the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population suffer from drastic disparities in educational attainment. Across the nation, Southeast Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Other Pacific Islanders, and low-income AAPIs hold college degrees at rates far lower than the national population. In the state of Hawai'i, Filipinos, Southeast Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Other Pacific Islanders, and low-income AAPIs are underrepresented among those who attend and complete college. Unfortunately, little research has been conducted on these populations and there is a dearth of knowledge about what contributes to their success. Given these realities, it is critical that higher education leaders generate better understandings of the challenges faced by these populations, the ways that these challenges can be overcome, and the factors that contribute to their success. Such knowledge can help inform educational programs and practices to increase success among AAPIs throughout the nation and here in Hawai'i. This project will enable the University of Hawai'i (UH) Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) Office to help generate such improved understandings and address the needs of these diverse populations.

There is also a need to foster the development of a new generation of college administrators and faculty who can utilize research and empirical data to effectively develop educational programs and practices that are designed to meet the needs of diverse AAPI populations both nationally and in Hawai'i. In addition to advancing critical knowledge about AAPIs, this project will also help support the training and development of higher education leaders who are prepared to meet the needs of the increasingly diverse communities across the nation and in the state of Hawai'i. Thus, SB 605 will provide support for the training of future leaders who can bolster the UH system's ability to meet the needs of the Hawai'i community in the years to come.

In sum, I urge you to approve SB 605. I thank the committee for considering these very important issues and for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 605.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:54 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: collins3@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB605 on Jan 31, 2013 14:45PM

SB605

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for HRE on Jan 31, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Collins	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Higher Education strand of the Educational Administration Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa has a history of fostering leadership that has greatly impacted the state and the discipline of higher education research at large. Currently the department is recruiting high quality students in record numbers. Students in the program are presenting at national conferences and helping to build the national prestige of the program. The interest in the program exceeds the ability to support high quality students financially. Productive doctoral programs can benefit and grow from several key elements: faculty focused on excellence in teaching, advising, and research, highly motivated students, and institutional support. Support for talented to students to study in a doctoral program is crucial to recruitment. In addition, financial support for students in the form of graduate assistantships increases the overall research capacity of the department. This element is currently missing from a productive but lean department. The additional of several graduate assistantships would not only provide funding for more students, but offer a few opportunities to enhance the research culture being developed in the department. Currently graduates from the program serve as deans, directors, and professors around the state, country, and world. Not only are we trying to live up to the notable history of the program, but also expand the scope of and reach of the current department boundaries. Thank you for your consideration. These are my opinions as an individual with a stake in the success of the program. This is not an official opinion of the University of Hawaii. Christopher S. Collins Assistant Professor Educational Administration

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January 29, 2013

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 605

Submitted by Hannah Tavares, Educator

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Kidani, Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

I fully support Senate Bill 605 and commend the Senate Committee on Higher Education for the proposed measure that will fund the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity at UH Manoa to address a critical need for an underserved and underrepresented group in higher education.

The 2010 U.S. Census Data indicate that Asian American and Pacific Islander (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 AAPIs continue to face barriers to college access and degree completion. As you may know, Filipinos represent a very large portion of our state's population (25%) and our public school students (21%), yet they are significantly underrepresented at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (7.7%). It is imperative that we as a community work together to meet the challenges to transform the dismal disparities affecting our AAPI students in higher education.

As an educator and a citizen of the state, I fully support SB 605 and I fully support the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) at UH Manoa 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 605 and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 605.

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 605
Submitted by Varaxy Yi, Graduate Student
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
January 28, 2013

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Kidani, Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

I am a first-year doctoral student at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the Education Administration program.

I fully support Senate Bill SB 605. The underrepresentation of Southeast Asian, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders in higher education is troubling. As a Cambodian American, I consider myself lucky to have had opportunities, the foresight, and the right leadership to guide me through my education. Unfortunately, my closest family members and others in my community have not had the same opportunities due to uninformed policies and lack of resources to support their specific educational needs. The need for informed policies is critical in addressing the concerns and shaping the future of the aforementioned communities—our communities.

I elected to come to Hawai'i because of its unique culture, large Asian population, and its commitment to Asian American and Pacific Islander education. My research focus, specifically on Southeast Asian American students, is inherently connected to the issue of underrepresentation. Therefore, I have a vested interest in the availability of opportunities to engage in research projects on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. More importantly, I simply desire to have a voice within the discussion.

I had the opportunity to work closely with my advisor, Dr. Samuel Museus, student peers, and other faculty and administrative staff in the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) office on the planning and execution of the Asian American & Pacific Islander Research Coalition (ARC) on October 4, 2012. This provided an unprecedented opportunity for students and faculty from all over the nation to engage in discussions on the state of Asian American and Pacific Islander issues in higher education. It was inspiring and deeply fulfilling to be part of this meeting. There are amazing leaders in our community who are motivated and are already leading these discussions. I have a desire for such discussions to continue and for the University of Hawai'i to support these leaders in the conversations.

This bill supports the discourse that will improve educational policies that directly affect Asian American and Pacific Islanders on this campus and everyone in the Hawaiian community. Ultimately, these conversations will lead to informed policies that benefit all students on other campuses across the nation. The lack of policies and awareness of our needs in higher education failed my brothers. Research and change is needed so it does not fail their children.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your support of this issue. I urge you to pass SB 605. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 605.