

SB 606

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
January, 31, 2013 at 2:45 PM
by
Francisco Hernandez, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Students
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SB 606 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the committee:

Opportunities for students to be employed on a part-time basis during their college careers can be very beneficial to individual students in that the jobs provide extra funds, additional skills for future employment and benefits to the people served by those jobs.

UH students can benefit greatly by being employed on or near their campus because they can earn money and adjust their work hours to fit their academic schedule. In addition these students will acquire job skills that will benefit them as they join our workforce or lead our economic growth. Finally, our students have many skills that can be used to benefit the communities that we serve. Whether it be tutoring in a subject that they have mastered or using their multi-lingual and multi-cultural skills to assist someone in need of translations, our students are prepared to be of service.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of the bill provided it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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

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

SB 606 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 606, which provides funds to hire student employees at all the campuses. As noted in SB 606 hiring student employees at UH benefits both the student and the University: students earn while they learn and the University has a talented workforce. College students can be hired to do many needed jobs e.g. tutors and recruiters at the high schools; jobs in offices, laboratories and classrooms. National research shows that students who work on-campus persists at a higher rate and earn better grades than students who work off-campus. It is in our best interest to have our students work with us and for us in order to improve the retention rate toward graduation. Career related jobs off-campus give our students an edge in securing permanent positions in their field after completion of their academic program.

Students and families continue to seek financial aid and employment to meet the cost of attendance. UH spends approximately \$22 million to hire students systemwide with funds from tuition and fees, federal and state general funds. Our data shows that during the first month of the fall semester, there were 2,534 students who were looking for an on-campus job and not placed at the end of that month. For that same period, there were more than 3 students applying to every off-campus job at Mānoa (figures for other campuses were not readily available online).

We estimate about 1,500 students can be hired if \$5 million is appropriated. The following table shows the allocation per campus based on the number of full time students. A minimum wage increase would change some of these numbers.

	Total FTE Fall 2012 enrollment	% of Total Enrollment	Avg. pay per student per year (2012)	\$ based on % of FTE X \$5M	# of Students Affected
Mānoa	16,773	41%	\$3,558	\$2,045,937	575
Hilo	3,659	9%	\$3,624	\$446,317	123
West O'ahu	1,222	3%	\$2,363	\$149,057	63
Hawai'i	2,288	6%	\$3,726	\$279,086	75
Honolulu	2,612	6%	\$3,422	\$318,607	93
Kapi'olani	4,949	12%	\$3,011	\$603,669	200
Kaua'i	865	2%	\$2,457	\$105,511	43
Leeward	4,586	11%	\$3,172	\$559,391	176
Maui	2,567	6%	\$3,843	\$313,118	81
Windward	1,470	4%	\$2,983	\$179,308	60
Total all Campuses	40,991	100%		\$5,000,000	1491

SB 606 also request funds to hire student employees and \$160,000 (3.00) for staff support.

The University of Hawai'i System supports the intent of the bill provided it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
January 31, 2013

By
Noreen Okikawa
Student Employee of the Year Coordinator
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB606 – Relating to the University of Hawai'i – Student Employment

I am the coordinator of the Student Employee of the Year (SEOTY) program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The SEOTY program provides UH employers with the opportunity to nominate their students for their outstanding work and contributions to their department and the University. Additionally, the SEOTY program highlights the personal and professional benefits that students gain through their student employment experience.

The SEOTY program is in its 28th year and we continue to get nominations from supervisors of student employees who perform outstanding work and statements from students on the value of their work experiences at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I have included quotes from previous winners of the SEOTY award as examples:

**2012 Student Employee of the Year
Christine Omiya, Senior majoring in Secondary Education**

“Being in a fast-paced customer service position has allowed me to further develop skills I already had, plus new ones. My job has also showed me that it’s important to think things through, look into further details and different solutions before choosing the best response. Sometimes, the first answer that’s off the top of my head may not be the best one, and it doesn’t benefit either the customer or me with such rash decisions. I’ve also learned to be more responsible for the actions I take, good or bad.

Being a student employee has made me realize: I need to take control and account of the decisions and actions I choose, rather than blaming it on others. I think this has helped me to be more on top with my studies.”

**2011 Student Employee of the Year
Jonathan Goto, Senior majoring in Accounting**

“My job experience gave me the necessary confidence and skills to make me want to take on more responsibility to continually cultivate my skills and develop my character. My job at the Shidler College of Business has always been a busy one. Ever since I started, there was always something to do, and I didn’t mind. I strongly believe in the adage “Nothing in life worth doing is easy,” which rings especially true for this job. This

office showed me the value in hard work, which is something I never fully appreciated prior, and instilled in me the drive to excel that I know will help me to succeed in the future.”

2010 Student Employee of the Year

Maria Kanehailua, Masters candidate in Hawaiian Language

“Every day at the office is always a learning experience that aids my growth as a young Hawaiian woman, a Masters student, a budding musician, a hula student, a scholar, an older sister, a daughter, an aunty, a future teacher, a cultural practitioner and preserver, basically in every aspect of my life.

My work consists of cataloging and digitizing old Hawaiian vinyl records, assisting students, teachers, and community members with various research projects, assisting my supervisor and teacher, Kumu Keawe Lopes, with his Hawaiian music classes (doing video media work), working closely with teachers who are constantly encouraging me in my studies, also cataloging and reviewing the works of Ka Waihona A Ke Aloha. Through these tasks, I have learned more about how to research and organize information, which in hand helps me through my process of finishing my Master’s thesis. I have also observed some of the elements that it takes to be a Hawaiian Language Music teacher and in turn am starting to feel more used to the idea of becoming a teacher myself.”

I urge you to pass SB606 as it will provide even more students with opportunities to engage in employment that will benefit them financially, personally and professionally as they navigate the life-changing experience of college life.

Written Testimony
The Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 2:45 pm
By
Dr. Lori M. Ideta

SB 606
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

While I am a proud three-time alum and employee of the University of Hawai'i, today, I present this written testimony as a private citizen.

I am in complete support of this measure that appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to create new or expanded opportunities for student employees across the UH system.

I began working as a student employee when I first enrolled at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa as an 18 year-old freshman. On-campus employment helped me pay for my education, kept me connected to the campus community, created professional relationships and partnerships, and introduced me to the world of higher education as a profession. Today, 30 years later, I am a proud faculty member and administrator of the University of Hawai'i. The skills I use today, the partnerships that I maintain today, and the knowledge I have today, are a direct result of the years that I worked as a student employee of the University of Hawai'i. Research is overwhelming in this area: students who work on campus have higher retention and success rates. I am an example of this and would be most pleased if we created and expanded similar opportunities for current and future students.

This measure provides financial assistance to students, but not in the guise of a "free lunch." It provides financial assistance through honest work, great co-curricular experiences, and "real life" out-of-classroom learning.

Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
January, 31, 2013
by
Kelsey Honda

SB 606 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII—STUDENT
EMPLOYMENT

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the committee:

I am Kelsey Honda. I am a senior at UH Mānoa majoring in electrical engineering and I support this bill.

I have been a student employee in the Mānoa Career Center for the past two and a half years. My job is to service students at the front counter and to respond to emails received from students using our services. We have many students, especially at the beginning of the semester seeking our services to locate a job on- or off-campus. We also occasionally receive email from students who are having difficulty finding a job. This is one example:

I have applied for dozens of jobs and am perfectly qualified but haven't received a single one. I need to be able to pay rent and I can't go to school anymore if something doesn't happen ASAP.

I feel for these students. I have learned so much from my position at UH, I wish every student could work and reap the benefits of working on campus. These are just a few of the skills I've developed in my position:

- Personal communication
- Customer service
- Defusing difficult clients
- Project management
- Office skills
- Teamwork

These are skills that will be useful to me no matter where I end up working.

A few of the benefits of working on campus are:

- I'm able to work between classes without spending a lot of time commuting to an off-campus job
- My employer understands and is flexible during study week and finals week
- Gain personal skills

There are many students still coming in looking for jobs, I hope this bill passes.

To: Honorable Senate Chair, Donna Kim, Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair of Higher Education Committee, and members of the committee.

Aloha,

My name is Kapo Cope and I am a full-time undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. I am pursuing my baccalaureate degree in both Communications and Hawaiian language, therefore, my schedule of classes are always scattered. Since I started my college career in 2008, I quickly learned that it was really hard to find an off-campus job that was flexible with my school schedule, which is a priority. After an unsuccessful search for some off-campus jobs, I was fortunate to have my first on-campus job when I attended Kapi'olani Community College after high school. I had another perfect opportunity to work for different programs on campus when I transferred to UH Mānoa, where I am currently studying. I am very fortunate to work in a diligent and positive department and I will be forever grateful for this opportunity.

There are many positive advantages for being a student employee which helped me tremendously. On-campus jobs and employers identify the values of being a college student and are very flexible around school schedules, knowing how tough it is to have a healthy balance between school, home and work life. I am allowed to focus on my studies and make my hours in between my classes. This job provides me with some kind of income that helps me purchase school supplies, transportation, and other daily life necessities. I have also met so many professionals that guide me through different aspects of my life. Having on-campus jobs have given me many experiences and it is an important component for my academic well-being that will allow me to continue to use these skills after I graduate.

I am very privileged to be a student employee of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I highly support the Senate Bill 606. Thank you for your consideration.

To: Honorable Senate Chair, Donna Kim, Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair of Higher Education Committee, and members of the committee.

Aloha,

My name is Andrew Baker. I am a sophomore at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am a full-time student pursuing my degree in communicology and I am employed on campus. I've been employed since the fall of 2011 and my on-campus job has been a tremendous opportunity for me. Due to the scheduling of certain classes, the hours that I am able to work change on a semester by semester basis. Working at UH gives me the flexibility to work around my class schedule, allowing me to focus on my academics. In addition, my job has provided me with opportunities to engage with others on campus and to grow in a both a personal and professional manner.

Having an on campus job has allowed me to help pay for my tuition and class materials, granting me more of a say in my own education. I am writing in to support S.B. 606. I believe that working on campus is an opportunity that should be offered to more students and can really help them. Thank you for your consideration

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 9:58 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: jenjen.custodio@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB606 on Jan 31, 2013 14:45PM
Attachments: Testimony SB606.docx

SB606

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Custodio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support for funds to be allocated to student employment across UH system wide campuses. When I was a graduate student, I was employed as a student assistant at UH Manoa, and this immensely helped ease my financial burdens. Working up to 20 hours on campus was my only source of income, other than student loans. For my mother and family, this was a great help, as she did not have to financially support me since I had my part-time job as a source of income.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov