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SB 606

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January 31, 2013

Senate Committee on Higher Education Hearing at 2:45pm

SUPPORT FOR SB 606, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Submitted by Jackie Graessle

Honorable Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

Please forgive my late testimony. I wish to note that, while I am employed by the University of Hawai'i (UH), this testimony is submitted as a *private citizen* and not as a representative of UH. I am a proud two-time UH alumnus who was also the beneficiary of on-campus employment.

One of the current initiatives of the UH is to support students so that they graduate in four years, recognizing that there is a limit to what they and their families can pay; especially in lean economic times. Most students need to work and this often causes delays in graduating. On-campus employment is a critical component of UH's initiative because it means students will be able to spend more time on campus rather than commuting to off-campus jobs.

Aside from the painstaking work of matching the employer with the student (ideally, locating jobs that dovetail with a student's educational pursuit); employers who utilize students must abide by different regulations than private sector employers.

The student's education must take primacy. This means employers have to work around student schedules; provide mentoring that helps prepare them to enter the work-force – a key mandate of land-grant universities; follow regulations, both federal and University imposed, etc.

Those that oversee student employment provide monitoring, education for employers, career counseling and advising for students, educational workshops, career fairs, etc., all targeted at professional development for students.

Expanding employment opportunities without providing the staff to manage the increase will diminish the quality of what is a very successful program that benefits students, the University, and ultimately, the Hawai'i community.

Please register my unequivocal support for SB606.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Graessle, MSW
47-149 'Iu'iu Street
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i
Telephone: (808) 239-9471