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## LOCAL 5 HAWAII

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Monday, February 10, 2014

The Honorable Karl Rhoads - Chair and Committee Members  
Hawaii State Legislature  
House Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street

*RE: HB 2182, HD 1 relating to access to justice.*

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

UNITE HERE Local 5, a local labor organization representing 10,000 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State, would like to offer comments in support of House Bill 2182.

HB 2182 would establish the Hawai'i justice league program to provide loan repayments on behalf of eligible lawyers that pursue public interest work in Hawai'i.

If passed, Hawai'i would join 26 other States that already have similar legislation.

As a public interest organization focusing on issues affecting Hawai'i's working families, we recognize the difficulty graduates and organizations alike encounter in terms of attracting and retaining dedicated graduates to fields of work that often operate on limited resources and whom cannot compete with lucrative corporate employment opportunities.

We join our State's Access to Justice Commission and other public interest organizations in supporting HB 2182. We believe HB 2182 can provide greater access to justice for our State's residents at a time when our State's most vulnerable – including those less economically secure – continue to struggle to provide for themselves and their families.

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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Supporting HB 2182 Relating to Access to Justice  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Scheduled for Hearing Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 2:00 PM, Room 325

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*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low-income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.*

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of House Bill 2182, which would establish a program to provide loan repayments for eligible lawyers pursuing public interest work in Hawai'i. As a nonprofit legal organization dedicated to promoting social justice for Hawai'i's low-income and other vulnerable residents, we strongly believe in the need to support attorneys seeking to serve their community in public interest law.

The creation of a meaningful Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) would replicate successful existing programs in a number of states and law schools in the nation. The costs of loan repayment by graduates of law schools remains an almost insurmountable barrier to many who have a passion to provide public service through employment at a legal services program. That is a tragedy. The need has been recognized in numerous studies on the unavailability of critical legal assistance when low-income residents are confronted with a legal challenge that will impact on their ability to stop illegal eviction, inappropriate terminations from critical benefits, custody of their children and so many other barriers to survival and self-achievement.

The most recent study conducted by the Hawai'i Legal Services Hui indicated that the justice gap is so wide that less than one in four low-income residents in Hawaii were able to find assistance when confronted with a legal challenge. An effective LRAP program would provide a significant tool for legal aid programs and prospective employees to use in overcoming the economic barriers to public service that high loan repayment obligations impose.

Again, thank you for an opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2182.

To: Chair Kharl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Sharon E. Har, and Members of the Committee

From: Khara Jabola Carolus, President, Filipino Law Students Association

Date: February 8, 2014

Hrg: House Committee on Judiciary; Tues., February, 11, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Rm 325

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2182 Relating to Access to Justice**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of House Bill 2182 and its companion measure Senate Bill 2255. In December 2013, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor remarked, "Every area of the law is missing diversity." The low number of Filipinos represented in Hawaii's legal community is a startling and tragic example of Justice Sotomayor's observation.

Filipinos represent less than 3% of attorneys registered with the Hawaii State Bar Association although Filipinos account for 25% of Hawaii's population. Those from our community able to overcome structural barriers and pursue advanced education face a second, perhaps more oppressive, obstacle upon graduation: staggering student loan debt. This debt combined with the fact that Hawaii has the highest cost of living in the nation according to a U.S. Commerce Department Bureau of Economic Analysis report, prevents many talented law graduates from serving their communities through public interest lawyering. To make the situation clearer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that food costs in Hawaii are 70 percent higher than the national average. Hawaii residents pay the highest electricity rate in the U.S., triple the national average. These astronomical living expenses are exacerbated by the ever widening Hawaii-mainland salary gap for lawyers, particularly those in public interest work. While some argue that William S. Richardson School of Law tuition is "affordable" relative to mainland schools, nearly one-third of law students at Richardson report that they will graduate with \$80,000-\$120,000 in student loan debt.

HB 2182 provides a path to justice for communities historically excluded from legal resources by providing a loan repayment program for selected attorneys who practice public interest law in underserved communities. This legislation is critical because it helps to ensure fair representation for vulnerable sectors of the population that are most in need of legal assistance but unable to afford a lawyer. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Khara Jabola Carolus  
President, Filipino Law Students Association  
William S. Richardson Law School



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary  
February 11, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

by  
Aviam Soifer, Dean  
William S. Richardson School of Law  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2182 RELATING TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Chairperson Karl Rhoads, Vice Chairperson Sharon E. Har, and Members of the Committee:

HB 2182 is a bill authored and introduced by law students of the William S. Richardson School of Law. Richardson students have consistently demonstrated their commitment to public service in many forms, including their formation of Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL) in 1985, creating and implementing a significant *pro bono* requirement for graduation in the early 1990s, and their extensive, ongoing participation in clinical outreach work on behalf of our community. After graduation, they have worked for and served the most vulnerable among us in countless ways.

The Law School continues to support and encourage public service and increasing access to justice in our community through our many legal clinics and our direct involvement with the Access to justice Commission and the Bar.

We recognize the clear need for much greater access to justice, and the need to address the serious, burdensome debt that our students face upon graduation. The HB 2182 initiative could act as a vital supplement to federal loan forgiveness programs already in existence.

While we enthusiastically support the goals of the bill, we have some concern with respect to using the Law School as an administrator of collections for non-compliant participants. We want to avoid having the Law School placed in the position of creditor. This would be an undesirable and possibly adversarial relationship that does not comport with our mission.

In addition, should the Law School act as administrators of the program separately from the funding it provides, the Law School could become the target of criticism if and when only Richardson graduates are the direct beneficiaries of the program.

Again, we recognize and applaud the potential that HB 2182 holds as a big step in the right direction to address access to justice concerns and the burdensome loans shouldered by most of our graduates. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Student Bar Association  
William S. Richardson School of Law  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2182**

House Committee on Judiciary  
Hon. Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Hon. Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice-Chair

February 11, 2014

Aloha Chair and Honorable committee members,

My name is Joshua Michaels, and I am a member of the Student Bar Association's Working Group on Access to Justice. I testify on behalf of the Student Bar Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law (SBA), which strongly supports this bill.

The SBA represents over 300 students. It was established in 1985 and it is the only association of law school students organized within Hawai'i. The SBA's mission is to foster service-oriented legal professionals, who strive for justice through meaningful change.

The student delegates discussed what distinguishes us as Richardson lawyers, how to be accountable to community, and the importance of public interest law, at our 2013 Constitutional Convention. Our association then created the SBA Access to Justice Working Group, to clarify our role and focus our efforts.

We understand that we are newcomers to a long-standing conversation on Access to Justice. We acknowledge the work of those that have come before us, including: the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission, the Hawai'i Innocence Project, the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, the Community Alliance on Prisons, Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, and the many others.

The SBA advocates for Article 1, Section 8, of the Hawai'i State Constitution's promise that "No citizen shall be disfranchised, or deprived of any of the rights or privileges secured to other citizens, unless by the law of the land." It's time to act upon the recommendation of the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission, to create a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (2012 Annual Report). Let us step together toward a more *pono* Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2182.

Mahalo.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2182 HD1**

**House Committee on Judiciary:**  
**Rep. Karl Rhodes, Chair**  
**Rep. Sharon Har, Vice-Chair**

**February 9, 2014**

William S. Richardson School of Law  
University of Hawai'i  
2465 Campus Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Nikki Yamauchi  
Secretary

Students for Public Outreach and Civic Education (SPOCE) is a student-run organization at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and submits this testimony in strong support of the Hawaii Justice League Act of 2014.

SPOCE's primary goal is to increase public understanding of the law, particularly as it relates to the issues that people are most likely to encounter in their daily lives. We have been privileged, over the last several years, to be able to conduct education and outreach efforts in middle- and high-school classrooms both on Oahu and on the Neighbor Islands. In the process, we have encountered many students who are very enthusiastic about finding career paths that will enable them to help their families and communities. Many of these students have expressed a strong interest in exploring public interest law careers as a path to accomplishing those goals.

Many of the students who have the desire to serve their community through a career in the law will be unable to attend law school without accumulating substantial debt. The need to repay these debts can create a barrier for students who want to work in the often low-paying field of public interest law. The loan repayment program created by the Hawaii Justice League Act of 2014 will reduce that barrier.

The Hawaii Justice League Act of 2014 will help these deserving students attain their dream of being able to spend their careers serving their families and communities. Their service, in turn, will help those who need legal assistance the most, and will benefit our communities and our state.

We ask that the legislature pass this important measure without delay, and thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in favor of passage of this bill.

## TESTIMONY OF JOY STEVENS IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2182 HD 1

**To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary**

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2:00p,**

**Room 325**

[JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To the Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 2182 HD 1** related to Access to Justice. My name is Joy Stevens and I am a community resident of Kapolei, Hawaii.

I understand **HB2182 HD 1** is intended to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents by creating a state funded student loan repayment program for public interest lawyers. I also understand that the creation of this bill is based on the recommendation and findings of the Supreme Court of Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. The commission found that the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens' abilities to access the judicial system were the insufficient number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law. I wholeheartedly agree with this finding and therefore lend my full support to this bill. I strongly believe HB2182 will strengthen legal services in communities with the highest need.

The lack of legal representation and guidance in civil legal matters is a severe issue in our community. Those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney run a higher risk of losing their basic and fundamental rights, and often they do not gain access to valuable resources to improve the well-being of their families.

**HB 2182 HD1** will encourage more lawyers to work in the public interest arena to ensure all citizens have equitable access to legal guidance and representation in all civil legal matters. By having more lawyers working in this area, the state will protect the basic fundamental rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to please support **HB 2182 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Joy Stevens

joys@inpeace.org

January 30, 2014

TO: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair House Committee on Judiciary  
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
Representative Della Au Belatti  
Representative Tom Brower  
Representative Richard Creagan  
Representative Ken Ito  
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami  
Representative Chris Lee  
Representative Mark M. Nakashima  
Representative Clift Tsuji  
Representative Jessica Wooley  
Representative Bob McDermott  
Representative Cynthia Thielen

February 11, 2014 2:00 Conference Room 325

FROM: Stephanie W. Batzer, MSW, JD Candidate

RE: HB 2182 SD 1 Relating to Access to Justice – **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

Representative Rhoads, Chair; Representative Har, Vice Chair; and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, my name is Stephanie Batzer. I am a JD candidate at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I have had the great fortune to travel and live across the globe during the course of my adult life, finally settling in this great state for the past 16 years. Five years ago, I chose to make a mid life career change, moving from information technology to social work in order to give back to the communities that have supported me over my career. In my concentration internship, I had the fortune to serve as part of the Court Appointed Special Advocate program, where I represented the best interest of five children; three of whom with which I still work. My time in family court showed me how under-represented a large community of our Hawaiian citizens are. Representing the children, and recognizing the needs that continue to exist in the community, led me to apply and attend law school. I am fortunate that I am able to afford the tuition here, but a great many talented individuals are not. This deters many from attending law school, and leaves others with large loans upon graduation, forcing young lawyers away from public service and into corporate law. I strongly support HB 2182 Relating to Access to Justice. Loan forgiveness in exchange for public service can only help strengthen our community with Richardson lawyers.

This bill supports the core values rooted in Richardson lawyers, which include: Service, Social Justice, Dignity and Worth of the Person, Importance of Human Relationships, Integrity, and Competence.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 2182.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kat Brady	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Please support our law school students and encourage them to use their skills to advance justice in our community!

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.

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**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lezlie Kiaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Saisamoa Grey Price	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie Wing Shan Suen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have been a practicing attorney for six years in private law firms. I am currently pursuing a master of laws degree at the University of Hawai'i. I am now aspiring to become a public interest lawyer but can afford to do so, only after years of private practice. Every citizen deserves the right to have access to justice. This bill will help remove the barriers faced by many citizens in need of legal representation and those faced by law graduates developing a career in public interest law.

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**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caitlin Axe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lida Duke Angier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha Legislators, I strongly support passage of this bill. I am a third year law student and facing a tremendous amount of debt upon graduation. I am unquestionably committed to pursuing a career in social justice, but when I look at my loan repayment plan, it terrifies me. Things like planning for retirement and starting a family are considerations I feel like I have to put on hold without some relief from these loans. I understand that getting this education was a choice, but after working as a service industry employee and on behalf of such employees for fourteen years, I realized that I needed to know more about the way our system works now in order to figure out how to fix it. I got the most intensive and inspirational educational experience of my life at the William S. Richardson School of Law and hope the state will support students like me who want to put that education to use for Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo,  
Morgan Evans

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
heather Mcvay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## TESTIMONY OF KAUI PRATT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2182 HD 1

**To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary**

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2:00p,**

**Room 325**

[JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To the Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 2182 HD 1** related to Access to Justice. My name is Kauai Pratt and I am a community resident Kaneohe, Hawaii.

I understand **HB2182 HD 1** is intended to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents by creating a state funded student loan repayment program for public interest lawyers. I also understand that the creation of this bill is based on the recommendation and findings of the Supreme Court of Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. The commission found that the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens' abilities to access the judicial system were the insufficient number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law. I wholeheartedly agree with this finding and therefore lend my full support to this bill. I strongly believe HB2182 will strengthen legal services in communities with the highest need.

The lack of legal representation and guidance in civil legal matters is a severe issue in our community. Those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney run a higher risk of losing their basic and fundamental rights, and often they do not gain access to valuable resources to improve the well-being of their families.

Recently, my cousin was bullied by the state's Child Protective Services. It was unfortunate because she is a good mother of two little girls, active within her community and ambitious. She is also on a career path to become a nurse so that she can provide for her family. She was involved in an accident where one child was injured. CPS, without doing a proper investigation, took her children away from her for nearly two weeks without a court order. They then documented the abuse on record within 24 hours from the accident. We fought them to have them reconsider her case but they didn't and she could not afford to hire an attorney. They were rude and bullied her throughout the process. Now that she has a documented case of child abuse on her record, she will not be able to get a job in the health care field for the next five years until the report drops off her record. I wholeheartedly believe that this could have been avoided if she had access to legal representation. Unfortunately, because she has the documented abuse on her record, her family will continue to live in poverty because she will not be able to develop professionally for the next five years. I support this Access to Justice efforts because it is important for my family and my community!

**HB 2182 HD1** will encourage more lawyers to work in the public interest arena to ensure all citizens have equitable access to legal guidance and representation in all civil legal matters. By having more lawyers working in this area, the state will protect the basic fundamental rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to please support **HB 2182 HD1**.

Sincerely,

**Kauai Pratt, 45-411 Akimala St. Kaneohe, HI 96744**

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bryan Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## TESTIMONY OF RAINE M.A. ARNDT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2182

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2:00pm, Room 325

To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

I am a licensed clinical social worker that has worked exclusively in the non-profit and governmental sectors locally here in Hawai'i for the past 6 years. I am also a current student at the William S. Richardson School of Law, with an expected graduation date of May 2015. I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 2182** related to Access to Justice.

As a professional social worker entering the field of law, my hope is meld my two disciplines and to work in the public interest sector, advocating for and representing our most vulnerable citizens in order to promote a more equitable society. In doing so, I, along with so many other future attorneys hope to positively impact our community in a very practical way that is much needed in our present-day society.

In fact, my primary motivation for attending law school after already obtaining an advanced degree in social work was to extend the kind of public interest work I was (and am) already doing as a professional social worker onto a larger scale through skilled legal work which I feel can make a much larger impact than what I have been able to accomplish as a front-line social worker alone.

However, facing an extremely high cost of education and mounting student loans, I am facing challenges in pursuing my passion for public interest work due to the lower salaries expected in this particular field of law. Providing much needed financial assistance through loan repayment opportunities provided for in **HB 2182** will make the public interest lawyering pursuit possible for me and so many of my fellow law school colleagues.

It is for this reason that I personally support **HB 2182** as a way to recruit and retain more lawyers in the area of public interest, and I urge you to please do the same.

Sincerely,

Raine M.A. Arndt, LCSW, J.D. Candidate—William S. Richardson School of Law  
775 Kinalau Place Honolulu, HI 96819  
[raine@hawaii.edu](mailto:raine@hawaii.edu) / [rainearndt@gmail.com](mailto:rainearndt@gmail.com)  
[808-218-8947](tel:808-218-8947)

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brooke Hunter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**TESTIMONY OF Nicole Solatorio IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2182 HD 1**

**To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary**

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2:00p,**

**Room 325**

[JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To the Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 2182 HD 1** related to Access to Justice. My name is Nicole Solatorio and I am a community resident of Waianae, Hawaii.

I understand **HB2182 HD 1** is intended to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents by creating a state funded student loan repayment program for public interest lawyers. I also understand that the creation of this bill is based on the recommendation and findings of the Supreme Court of Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. The commission found that the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens' abilities to access the judicial system were the insufficient number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law. I wholeheartedly agree with this finding and therefore lend my full support to this bill. I strongly believe HB2182 will strengthen legal services in communities with the highest need.

The lack of legal representation and guidance in civil legal matters is a severe issue in our community. Those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney run a higher risk of losing their basic and fundamental rights, and often they do not gain access to valuable resources to improve the well-being of their families.

**HB 2182 HD1** will encourage more lawyers to work in the public interest arena to ensure all citizens have equitable access to legal guidance and representation in all civil legal matters. By having more lawyers working in this area, the state will protect the basic fundamental rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to please support **HB 2182 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Nicole Solatorio  
89-118 Pililaau Avenue  
Waianae HI 96792  
[nicoles@inpeace.org](mailto:nicoles@inpeace.org)

## TESTIMONY OF MISTY PAVE IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2255 & HB2182

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

[hedtestimony@capitolhawaii.gov](mailto:hedtestimony@capitolhawaii.gov)

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2:01p, Room 309**

**To: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

[JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**To: Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Gilbert Kahele and Members of the Senate Committee on High Education**

**Hearing: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 10:00a, Room 016**

To the Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Misty Pave and I am a community resident of Honolulu, Hawaii. I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **SB 2255** and **HB 2182** related to Access to Justice.

I understand these bills are intended to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents by creating a state funded student loan repayment program for public interest lawyers. I also understand that the creation of these bills is based on the recommendation and findings of the supreme Court of Hawaii Access to Justice Commission who found that the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens' abilities to access the judicial system is the insufficient number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law.

I strongly support these bills because this effort addresses a critical need in our community to offer vital and necessary legal resources to those who need them the most. The lack of competent representation and guidance in civil legal matters is a severe issue in our community. Those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney run a higher risk of infringement upon their basic and fundamental rights, and often they do not gain access to valuable resources to improve the well-being of their families.

In 2009, my daughter shared with me that someone she knew tried to molest her. She was about 8 or 9 yrs old when the incident happened. I reported to the police immediately when she informed me of this. A few months later they sent a detective to take our report and start a case to put this man in jail. He took the report and a few months later we were sent a packet. I called the contact number from that little packet, but no one ever returned my call. Unfortunately a month later I misplaced the packet, but I had the detectives contact info. I called him, he gave me a number to call. I called again and still no contact number. I called a few more times before I lost that number. And still no one returned my call. I tried to contact the detective again, but unfortunately never got a call back. Four years later, I received a call from a woman who advised me that they found my case and wanted to know if we still wanted to pursue this man. My daughter is now 18 years old. The woman advised me that the person who had responsibility for my case has since left and my case was put in a pile that was supposed to be handed to the next person. Her words to me was that it fell through the cracks. Both my daughter and I were disappointed that they let this go. The woman asked that if we no longer wanted to pursue then my daughter will have to call to inform her to no longer proceed with this action. I no longer have the voicemail from this woman because my phone broke and had to get a new one since, but I am sure that the voicemail can still be retrieved from my cell phone carrier if needed. This is my testimony. I feel as if my rights for me and my children are no longer protected. I took the right actions to protect my child and no one stepped up to help us, or more complete the duties of protection all the way through to the end.

**SB 2255** and **HB 21825** will encourage more lawyers to work in the public interest arena to ensure citizens like me have equitable access to competent representation in all civil legal matters. By having more lawyers working in this area, the state will protect the basic rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, please support **SB 2255 and HB 2182** as a way to increase more lawyers in the area of public interest.

Sincerely,  
Misty Pave  
808-728-7692  
mp2luv33@gmail.com

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie, Esq.  
579 Kāne‘apu Place ♦ Kailua, Hawai‘i 96734  
(808) 780-8236 ♦ melodykmackenzie@gmail.com

**H.B. 2182, H.D. 1**

**Relating to Access to Justice**

House Committee on Judiciary

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice-Chair

Hearing on Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of H.B. 2182, H.D. 1, which establishes a loan repayment program for attorneys who pursue public interest work.

I am an associate professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law and director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law. I submit this testimony, however, in my personal capacity as a private citizen, a graduate of the Law School, and an attorney who practiced for many years in the public interest sector representing Native Hawaiian clients.

When I attended Law School, tuition was affordable and, after graduation, although I could not spend money on luxuries, I could pursue my dream of working for the Native Hawaiian community. Today, it is very difficult for students, who graduate with tens of thousands of dollars of debt (each semester of resident tuition is over \$9,000), to be able to work for non-profits, in rural communities, or in advancing the rights of under-represented communities.

I have seen the great need in our community – and here I speak specifically of the Native Hawaiian community – for legal representation. At Ka Huli Ao, we are often asked to kōkua with legal advice; sometimes we are able to help through our clinics or through the Law School’s pro bono program. We are not able, however, to provide direct legal representation. We simply do not have the capacity or resources to be able to do so. Sometimes we can offer advice and make recommendations. But, all too often, we must turn away members of our community.

I understand that the Hawai‘i Justice League proposed by H.B. 2182, H.D. 1, is modeled after a similar program, the Hawai‘i Health Corps Program, created in 2012 by the Legislature. The purpose of the Hawai‘i Health Corps Program is to encourage health care professionals to serve in neighbor-island and rural communities where there are shortages of doctors and nurses. Although lack of funding for the Hawai‘i Health Corps Program has stymied its implementation, the basic idea is an excellent one. Like healthcare, there is a great unmet need for good, affordable, legal advice and representation in neighbor-island and rural communities.

The program established in H.B. 2182, H.D. 1, serves two important purposes: first, it helps to relieve the debt of hard-working and dedicated young men and women who seek to serve the community; and second, it is a means to provide access to the legal system – indeed, to provide justice – to our citizens. Although I understand that there may be some concerns about the how the Law School would administer the loan repayment program, I commend the Legislature for considering H.B. 2182, H.D. 1, and urge the Committee to pass it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.



## TESTIMONY OF MARISSA PICO IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2182 HD 1

**To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary**

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2:00p,**

**Room 325**

[JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To the Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 2182 HD 1** related to Access to Justice. My name is Marissa Pico and I am a community resident of Ewa Beach, Hawaii.

I understand **HB2182 HD 1** is intended to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents by creating a state funded student loan repayment program for public interest lawyers. I also understand that the creation of this bill is based on the recommendation and findings of the Supreme Court of Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. The commission found that the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens' abilities to access the judicial system were the insufficient number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law. I wholeheartedly agree with this finding and therefore lend my full support to this bill. I strongly believe HB2182 will strengthen legal services in communities with the highest need.

The lack of legal representation and guidance in civil legal matters is a severe issue in our community. Those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney run a higher risk of losing their basic and fundamental rights, and often they do not gain access to valuable resources to improve the well-being of their families.

**HB 2182 HD1** will encourage more lawyers to work in the public interest arena to ensure all citizens have equitable access to legal guidance and representation in all civil legal matters. By having more lawyers working in this area, the state will protect the basic fundamental rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to please support **HB 2182 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Marissa Pico  
91-1287 Hoopio St.  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matthew Weyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

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TESTIMONY OF *Jill Hipa* IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2182 HD 1

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon  
Har and Members of the House Committee  
on Judiciary  
Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2:00p,  
Room 325

[JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To the Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 2182 HD 1** related to Access to Justice. My name is *Jill Hipa* and I am a community resident *Honolulu* Hawaii.

I understand **HB2182 HD 1** is intended to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents by creating a state funded student loan repayment program for public interest lawyers. I also understand that the creation of this bill is based on the recommendation and findings of the Supreme Court of Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. The commission found that the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens' abilities to access the judicial system were the insufficient number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law. I wholeheartedly agree with this finding and therefore lend my full support to this bill. I strongly believe HB2182 will strengthen legal services in communities with the highest need.

The lack of legal representation and guidance in civil legal matters is a severe issue in our community. Those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney run a higher risk of losing their basic and fundamental rights, and often they do not gain access to valuable resources to improve the well-being of their families.

**HB 2182 HD1** will encourage more lawyers to work in the public interest arena to ensure all citizens have equitable access to legal guidance and representation in all civil legal matters. By having more lawyers working in this area, the state will protect the basic fundamental rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to please support **HB 2182 HD1**.

Sincerely,  
Name and Contact Information

*Jill Hipa*

*JillHipa@gmail.com*



**LATE**

Hon. Daniel R. Foley  
Associate Judge  
Intermediate Court of Appeals  
Chair

Jill M. Hasegawa  
Vice Chair

## HAWAII ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

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Commissioners:

Hon. Simeon R. Acoba, Jr.  
Rep. Della Au Belatti  
Hon. Joseph Cardoza  
Victor Geminiani  
Moses Haia

Sen. Clayton Hee  
Hon. Ronald Ibarra  
R. Elton Johnson, III  
Jean Johnson  
Tracy Jones

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina  
Michelle Acosta  
Derek Kobayashi  
Mary Anne Magnier  
Patricia McManaman

Scott S. Morishige  
Darien Nagata  
Hon. Trudy Senda  
Gary M. Slovin  
Dean Aviam Soifer

February 10, 2014

To: Representative Karl Rhoads  
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary

Re: House Committee on Judiciary  
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014  
Hearing Time: 2:00 p.m.

Testimony in **Support** of HB 2182, portion relating to loan repayment assistance for attorneys who pursue public interest work through non-profit legal service providers

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

The Hawaii Access to Justice Commission (the "Commission"), **supports** the creation and funding of a loan repayment assistance program for attorneys who pursue public interest work through non-profit legal service providers.

The Commission, which was created by Rule 21 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Hawaii on May 1, 2008, was established with the purpose of substantially increasing access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents of Hawaii ("low income Hawaii residents"), including developing initiatives designed to enhance recruitment and retention of attorneys who work for nonprofit civil legal services providers in Hawai'i and to encourage law students to consider, when licensed, the practice of poverty law in Hawai'i.

The Commission was created in response to the 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal needs and Barriers of Low- and Moderate-Income People of Hawaii (2007 Assessment), which found that four out of five low income Hawaii residents do not have their legal needs met and that legal service providers are only able to assist one in three persons who contact them for assistance. The Commission

recognizes that in order to increase delivery of legal services to low income Hawaii residents, more resources, including increasing the number of attorneys who practice public interest law is needed.

Many law students enter law school with the desire and passion to assist the public through public interest work. However, several barriers exist which deter those individuals from pursuing this aspiration. Chiefly among them is the financial reality of having to immediately payoff their student loans.

One crucial step towards increasing the number of public interest attorneys is to lessen some of the financial burdens of those attorneys through a loan repayment assistance program. With such a program, those attorneys interested in practicing public interest law would have one less financial obstacle.

The Commission strongly supports the passage of that portion of HB 2182, which calls for the creation of a loan repayment assistance program for attorneys who pursue public interest work through non-profit legal service providers. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Hasegawa". A horizontal line extends from the end of the signature to the right.

Jill M. Hasegawa, Esq.

Vice-Chair

Hawaii Access to Justice Commission

**LATE**

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2182, H.D. 1

February 11, 2014

RELATING TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2182, H.D. 1, establishes the Hawaii Justice League and loan repayment assistance program, under the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law, to support eligible lawyers in pursuit of public interest work in Hawaii. The bill creates the Hawaii Justice League Revolving Fund for the repayment program that would generate revenues through legislative appropriations; gifts, donations, and grants; reimbursements of loan repayments; proceeds from program operations; and interest earnings. The bill also appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds and revolving funds for FY 2015 to establish and administer the program.

The Department of Budget and Finance takes no position on the establishment of a loan repayment program to stimulate public interest legal work within Hawaii. However, as a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any revolving fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special or revolving funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to House Bill No. 2182, H.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed revolving fund will be self-sustaining.

**LATE**

February 10, 2014

Shae Kamaka'ala  
Secretary, Ho'āla 'Āina Kūpono  
P.O. Box 300304  
Ka'a'awa, Hawai'i 96730

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Sharon Har, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

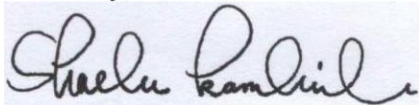
I am writing on behalf of Ho'āla 'Āina Kūpono (Ho'āla), a non-profit organization based in Kahana, Ko'olauloa, O'ahu. Ho'āla would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide **comments in support of HB 2182, "Relating to Access to Justice."**

Just last year, Ho'āla and the Kahana community had the privilege of working with the William S. Richardson School of Law's Native Hawaiian Rights Clinic, which connected the Kahana community to law professors and students. Prior to having this kind of access to legal assistance, our community did not fully comprehend our legal rights. The law school clinic educated and helped the Kahana community make these kinds of decisions, which inevitably expanded our efforts to enable the people of Kahana to rise to sustain its ahupua'a and people in health and abundance.

Access to legal assistance enabled the Kahana community to expand its Huilua fishpond restoration project, to working towards protecting and designating Kahana Bay as a Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area. This expansion allowed our community to work towards its ultimate goal to ensure a properly functioning ecosystem and ahupua'a. This would not have been possible without access to legal assistance. Increasing the ability for attorneys to work with and in their communities on issues that matter to the community, maximizes a community's capacity and allows them to move towards a better and healthier Hawai'i.

Ho'āla fully recognizes the value of HB2182 to allow attorneys to tap into their passions of why they decided to come to law school to truly serve a public purpose. HB2182 is mutually beneficial for both the public interest attorney and the community. Mahalo for your time and for considering this testimony in strong support of HB2182.

Sincerely,



Shae Kamaka'ala  
Secretary, Ho'āla 'Āina Kūpono

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2182 HD 1 WITH AMENDMENTS**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Access to Justice Working Group and the Student Bar Association, please accept the following amendments to HB2182 HD1. These amendments have been submitted with HB2182's companion bill SB2255. With the amendments, we wholeheartedly support the HB2182.

A hearing is scheduled for HB2182 HD 1 before the House Committee on Judiciary tomorrow, Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 2p in Room 325. Please document these amendments in the committee report.

**AMENDMENT 1: Remove any reference in HB2182 HD 1 that creates a debtor/creditor relationship between program participants and the William S. Richardson School of Law. The William S. Richardson School of Law will not be administratively responsible for collecting debts or reimbursements from program participants who do not meet their service requirements under the program. A third party collection agency will be contracted to collect and manage reimbursements from program participants who fail to meet their service requirements. Below please find specific page and line items to be changed under this amendment framework:**

- Please replace the language on Page 5, Line 9 with the following statement: "Will contract a third party collection agency to collect and manage reimbursements from participants who do not meet their service commitments under the program."
- On page 7, Line 9, place a comma after "law" and insert the following statement: "through a contracted third party collection agency,"

**AMENDMENT 2: Amend Section 4 of HB2182 HD 1 to read "the Director of Finance shall appropriate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in general obligation bonds and have those funds placed in the Hawaii justice league revolving fund. The expenditures of funds from the Hawaii Justice League revolving fund ought to be limited and the Hawaii Justice League shall use the interest from \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for administrative and programmatic costs." (Please note language will have to be cleaned up and we are hard at work on the mechanics of funding).**

The following are **minor amendments** to clean up the language of the bill in order to ensure the two companion bills HB2182 HD 1 and SB2255 are identical.

- Page 1, Line 18, insert "only" after the "can"
- Page 2, Line 1, strike/delete "only"
- Page 2, Line 13, strike/delete "assistance"
- Page 2, Line 16, strike/delete "assistance"
- Page 6, Line 7, strike/delete "this"



- Page 6, Line 8, add “(a)” after the word “subsection”
- Page 6, Line 14, Strike/delete the following statement “serve for at 5 least five consecutive years as a lawyer pursuing.” Replace this statement with “pursue”
- Page 6, Line 21, strike/delete “eligibility to participate” and replace with “Eligible Participants”
- Page 7, Line 4, strike/delete “participants” replace with “recipients”

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Mahalo Nui Loa!

**The Working Group on Access to Justice and the Student Bar Association**

Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair

Kau‘i Pratt, Interim-Chair

Matt Ka‘aihue, Keone Nakoa, Megan Moniz, Jordan Inafuku, Laura Cushman, Alan Akao, Shauna Kahiapo, Josh Michaels, Shae Kamaka'ala, and Rebbecca Soon

**LATE**

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jarrett Keohokalole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jordan Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

Shaelene Kamaka'ala  
P.O. Box 570 • Ka'a'awa, HI 96730  
808-551-3416 • shaelene@hawaii.edu

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2181 HD1  
House Committee on Judiciary

February 10, 2014

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Sharon Har, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

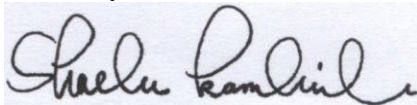
My name is Shae Kamaka'ala and I am a third year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide **comments in strong support of HB 2182, "Relating to Access to Justice."**

I have roughly \$26,000.00 in student loans and on top of high interest rates, a student loan repayment program makes it personally feasible for me to pursue a career doing public interest work, while supporting my family and affording the high cost of living in Hawai'i. Law students are pressured by the massive debts of loans to take on positions that are financially lucrative, but are not in furtherance of public interest work.

One comment would be to ensure that this bill incorporates amendments reflected in the companion bill SB2255 SD1.

The potential for positive change that this program will have on our community is endless and it is mutually beneficial for both the public interest attorney and the community. Mahalo for your time and for considering this testimony in strong support of HB2182.

Sincerely,



Shae Kamaka'ala

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF **Veronica Pratt** IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2255 & HB2182

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

[hedtestimony@capitolhawaii.gov](mailto:hedtestimony@capitolhawaii.gov)

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2:01p, Room 309**

**To: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

[JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**To: Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Gilbert Kahele and Members of the Senate Committee on High Education**

**Hearing: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 10:00a, Room 016**

To the Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Veronica Pratt and I am a community resident of Kaneohe, Hawaii. I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **SB 2255** and **HB 2182** related to Access to Justice.

I understand these bills are intended to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents by creating a state funded student loan repayment program for public interest lawyers. I also understand that the creation of these bills is based on the recommendation and findings of the supreme Court of Hawaii Access to Justice Commission who found that the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens' abilities to access the judicial system is the insufficient number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law.

I strongly support these bills because this effort addresses a critical need in our community to offer vital and necessary legal resources to those who need them the most. The lack of competent representation and guidance in civil legal matters is a severe issue in our community. Those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney run a higher risk of infringement upon their basic and fundamental rights, and often they do not gain access to valuable resources to improve the well-being of their families.

**SB 2255** and **HB 2182** will encourage more lawyers to work in the public interest arena to ensure citizens like me have equitable access to competent representation in all civil legal matters. By having more lawyers working in this area, the state will protect the basic rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, please support **SB 2255 and HB 2182** as a way to increase more lawyers in the area of public interest.

Sincerely,

[Insert Contact Information Name, Address and Email]

**LATE**

Tyler Hi`ikua Stevenson  
University of Oregon School of Law

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2182**  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair

February 10, 2014

Aloha Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Sharon Har and Committee Members,

My name is Tyler Stevenson and I am a second year law student at the University of Oregon School of Law. I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **HB2182**.

I have seen first hand the positive impact that good public interest lawyers have on the community and why HB2182 is crucial to providing strong legal counsel to low and moderate-income community members. Last summer, I was an intern at the Office of the Public Defender Maui County and had the pleasure to work among lawyers committed to protecting the liberties of community members who could not afford private legal counsel. Many of the public defenders I worked with love their job and believe in its purpose, however, in order to support themselves and a family, they had to work additional jobs. It has always been my passion to be a community leader in the public interest sector, but I continue to worry about the ability to support my growing family.

As an out-of-state law student, the current job prospects in Hawaii and high cost of living provide little incentive for my family and I to return to Hawaii. It will be difficult to provide a comfortable quality of life for my family with the income of a public interest sector job in Hawaii.

By the time I graduate in 2015, I will have over \$100,000.00 of student loans, which has directly influenced my decisions of whether to pursue a career in the public interest sector versus the private firm sector. The University of Oregon School of Law established a loan repayment plan that has helped turnout over 50% of its law school graduates in the public interest sector and is the leading option I have found to provide for my family's well being. However, my true career interests are to return home to Hawaii and serve the community in which I was born and raised.

I fully recognize the opportunity HB2182 gives me to pursue my passion of public interest work in Hawaii with financial security. Mahalo for considering this testimony in strong support for HB2182.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Hi`ikua Stevenson  
[thstev@gmail.com](mailto:thstev@gmail.com)

**LATE**

February 10, 2014

**Testimony in Strong Support of HB2182 Relating to Access to Justice**

My name is Renee Leotele Togafau and I write in strong support of HB2182 and its companion measure SB2255. I am a second year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

The choice to attend law school came after 5 years of working in the community. One of which was spent interning at the Legal Aid Society Honolulu (LASH) Family Unit. Throughout my time at LASH, I became exposed to members of underserved and underprivileged communities who were in great need of legal assistance. The staff attorneys at LASH were amazing and I was in awe of the dedication they exhibited. The work they were able to perform for these individuals inspired me to pursue a career in public interest law. Their dedication to individuals who were often *left behind* because they could not afford representation via private law firms, confirmed my belief in a society that is committed to uplifting the human condition.

**The Poor Lawyer**

I am often asked what type of law I want to practice. In a recent conversation with an older gentleman on this topic, I answered, "Public interest law." He responded with, "Oh so you're going to be a poor lawyer."

I have a debt that nears \$50,000 in student loans. This number does not include my final year of law school, which will likely bring the total closer to \$100,000. And despite knowing how heavy a debt I carry, my choice to pursue a career in law, specifically in the field of public interest, has not waived.

I understand that I have a choice. I can choose to work in a higher paying field. But this choice often does not allow me to work closer with the underserved communities that lack access to justice because of their own financial constraints.

This bill, if passed, is a reminder of CJ Richardson's vision for the law school, to *advance justice and the rule of law*.

Respectfully,



Renee Leotele Togafau  
JD Candidate, 2015

**LATE**

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

To the Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 2182 HD 1** related to Access to Justice. My name is Teresa Kaneakua and I am a life-time community resident of Wahiawa, Hawaii, a part-time law student at William S. Richardson School of Law, and a working mom.

I understand **HB2182 HD 1** is intended to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents by creating a state funded student loan repayment program for public interest lawyers. I also understand that the creation of this bill is based on the recommendation and findings of the Supreme Court of Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. The commission found that the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens' abilities to access the judicial system were the insufficient number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law. I wholeheartedly agree with this finding and therefore lend my full support to this bill. I strongly believe HB2182 will strengthen legal services in communities with the highest need.

The lack of legal representation and guidance in civil legal matters is a severe issue in our community. Those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney run a higher risk of losing their basic and fundamental rights, and often they do not gain access to valuable resources to improve the well-being of their families.

I see the need for us to pursue careers that directly serve our community and I want to be able to work in the public interest arena, however, the debt that I am incurring to attend law school and the cost of raising a family in Hawaii discourages me from pursuing a career in public interest law.

**HB 2182 HD1** will encourage and enable us to work in the public interest arena to ensure all citizens have equitable access to legal guidance and representation in all civil legal matters. By having more lawyers working in this area, the state will protect the basic fundamental rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to please support **HB 2182 HD1**.

Mahalo,

Teresa Kaneakua

--

Teresa E. Kaneakua  
JD Candidate, 2015  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
William S. Richardson School of Law

**LATE**

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Yoshida	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I am writing in strong support of HB 2182. I graduated from the William S. Richardson School of Law in May 2013, and I currently work at the legislature. Throughout law school I did not receive any financial support outside of financial aid, so my student loans are substantial. This law will help to alleviate a significant obstacle to a career in public service for me and for many of my present and future colleagues. Please pass this bill. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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**LATE**

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Oliver Manglona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## TESTIMONY OF LAURIE TAKENO IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2182 HD 1

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2:00p,  
Room 325

[JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**LATE**

To the Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I offer this testimony in **strong support** of **HB 2182 HD 1** related to Access to Justice. My name is Laurie Takeno and I am a community resident of Honolulu, Hawaii.

I understand **HB2182 HD 1** is intended to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents by creating a state funded student loan repayment program for public interest lawyers. I also understand that the creation of this bill is based on the recommendation and findings of the Supreme Court of Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. The commission found that the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens' abilities to access the judicial system were the insufficient number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law. I wholeheartedly agree with this finding and therefore lend my full support to this bill. I strongly believe HB2182 will strengthen legal services in communities with the highest need.

The lack of legal representation and guidance in civil legal matters is a severe issue in our community. Those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney run a higher risk of losing their basic and fundamental rights, and often they do not gain access to valuable resources to improve the well-being of their families.

As a committed community worker, I have run into a handful of hard-working, blue collar individuals who have come across situations requiring legal representation (often times to no fault of their own), but because of the sheer cost of attorney fees, could not afford the representation they deserved. One good friend of mine had to represent herself in a case where the terms and conditions of a loan were drastically changed on her without notice, but was very ill-equipped to do so having no knowledge of her legal rights. As a college graduate myself, still paying off loans more than ten years after graduation, I personally know I would not be able to afford the going rate for attorney fees should I run into an unfortunate situation that necessitates a lawyer.

**HB 2182 HD1** will encourage more lawyers to work in the public interest arena to ensure all citizens have equitable access to legal guidance and representation in all civil legal matters. By having more lawyers working in this area, the state will protect the basic fundamental rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to please support **HB 2182 HD1**.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Takeno  
[dunntakeno@gmail.com](mailto:dunntakeno@gmail.com)

# TESTIMONY OF SERGIO J. ALCUBILLA III IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2182 HD 1

To: Chair Karl Rhoads,  
Vice Chair Sharon Har, and Members of  
the House Committee on Judiciary  
Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2:00p,  
Room 325  
[JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JUDTESTIMONY@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**LATE**

To the Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I offer this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB 2182 HD 1** related to Access to Justice. My name is Sergio J. Alcubilla and I am a community resident of **Honolulu, Hawaii**.

I thank you for considering **HB2182 HD 1** as it is intended to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low- and moderate-income residents by creating a state funded student loan repayment program for public interest lawyers. I also understand that the creation of this bill is based on the recommendation and findings of the Supreme Court of Hawaii Access to Justice Commission. The commission found that the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens' abilities to access the judicial system were the insufficient number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law.

The lack of legal representation and guidance in civil legal matters is a severe issue in our community. Those who cannot afford to hire a private attorney run a higher risk of losing their basic and fundamental rights, and often they do not gain access to valuable resources to improve the well-being of their families.

As a staff member of the state's largest public interest law firm, I see first-hand the disparity in our legal system affecting the most vulnerable in our community. Without the help of organizations such as the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii and other non-profit law firms, many have nowhere else to turn to for legal help.

As a recent graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law and having been involved with Legal Aid through the AmeriCorps program while a law student, I believe the lack of attorneys willing to enter public interest law has become a barrier to access to justice. Despite the efforts of many of our non-profit legal service providers, the demand for legal services from the community far outweighs the capacity and limited resources of these organizations. Still, staff members from many of these organizations continue to work hard and remain dedicated to serving the legal needs of those that need it most.

As a law student, I had the opportunity to assist the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii's collaborative effort with the Hawaii State Bar Association and the Judiciary in establishing self-help centers in many of the state's courthouses. To date, the Honolulu Access to Justice Room at Honolulu District Court alone will have helped at least 1,000 self-represented litigants with limited legal services through volunteer attorneys.

Nevertheless, I understand fully the hesitation that many attorneys and law school graduates face in working in the public interest sector. Saddled with high student loan debt and facing low salaries, it is nearly impossible to survive in the most expensive state in the nation and continue serving the working poor without making certain sacrifices. Although I entered law school with the hope that my law degree would allow me to help and serve others, I have only been able to cling to this hope by working additional jobs to meet the most basic expenses of a growing family. Like many of the hard working people of this state, we rush from one job to the next and survive one pay period at a time.

There are many talented attorneys in the public interest sector that must supplement their income by working second and third jobs simply to continue in their work. Thus, it is no wonder that many of these attorneys soon give up their desire to help the public and enter into private practice. It is a great loss to the public when talented and capable attorneys with the desire to serve can no longer afford to help those that would benefit greatly from their help.

It is a sad truth that current economic forces of the legal market will determine who will be helped or not. The blindfold of justice cannot hide the fact that the law will be more forgiving to those that have the resources to tip the scales in their favor. **HB 2182 HD1** can help rectify this by encouraging more lawyers to work in the public interest arena to ensure all citizens have equitable access to legal guidance and representation in all civil legal matters. By having more lawyers working in this area, the state will protect the basic fundamental rights of our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to please support **HB 2182 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Sergio J. Alcubilla  
[sergioalcubilla3@gmail.com](mailto:sergioalcubilla3@gmail.com)  
907 Birch St. Apt. 302  
Honolulu, HI 96814

# LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 12:12 PM  
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**Cc:** jannaahu@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM\*

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
wehi ahu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE TESTIMONY**

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
wehi ahu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE TESTIMONY**

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Inafuku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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# LATE TESTIMONY

**HB2182**

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KEANI RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ	Individual	Support	No

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har3-Micah

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 1:26 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** bphanson@GMail.com  
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## LATE TESTIMONY

### HB2182

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pookela hanson	Individual	Support	No

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