
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Hawaii Justice
2 League Act of 2014.

3 The legislature finds that there is a lack of access to
4 justice within the State in both civil and criminal contexts.
5 The supreme court of Hawaii access to justice commission,
6 established in 2008 to increase access to justice in civil legal
7 matters for low- and moderate-income residents, found that one
8 of the reasons for the severe disparity among citizens'
9 abilities to access the judicial system is the insufficient
10 number of attorneys choosing to practice public interest law.

11 The legislature finds that few new lawyers are able to
12 practice public interest law due to the high cost of attending
13 law school, the debt that law school graduates incur to finance
14 their legal education, the high cost of living in Hawaii, and
15 the compensation which is much lower than in other practice
16 areas. Because of these circumstances, new lawyers pursuing
17 public interest jobs often cannot service their student loan
18 debt. Lawyers that choose to serve in public interest law can



1 only do so by maintaining a "no-frills" subsistence level
2 lifestyle. The increasingly high cost of attending law school
3 requires lawyers to seek out higher paying jobs that allow for
4 repayment of student loans.

5 The legislature further finds that twenty-six other
6 jurisdictions nationwide have loan repayment assistance programs
7 to encourage lawyers to pursue public interest work within their
8 jurisdiction. Additionally, the legislature finds that the
9 current federal programs, although helpful, are inadequate to
10 incentivize public interest work in Hawaii because it is more
11 economically feasible for lawyers to live in jurisdictions that
12 offer a lower cost of living and higher salary levels.

13 Loan repayment programs have been successfully used in
14 Hawaii to increase the number of educators serving in hard-to-
15 fill teaching positions, and the legislature believes that loan
16 repayment programs can also be used to encourage and enable
17 lawyers to pursue public interest work in the State.

18 The legislature finds that encouraging law students and
19 lawyers to practice public interest law is essential to ensuring
20 access to the justice system. Therefore, it is the intent of
21 the legislature in enacting this legislation to provide for the



1 partial repayment of student loans of lawyers who provide public
2 interest legal services.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish the Hawaii justice
4 league, under the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson
5 school of law, to provide student loan repayment for lawyers who
6 agree to pursue public interest work in Hawaii.

7 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
8 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
9 as follows:

10 "CHAPTER

11 HAWAII JUSTICE LEAGUE

12 § -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the
13 context requires otherwise:

14 "Lawyer" means a person admitted to practice law as
15 required by the rules of the supreme court of Hawaii.

16 "Loan repayment" means the payment, per year, of up to
17 twenty per cent of a Hawaii justice league program participant's
18 legal training costs, including but not limited to the cost of
19 in-state tuition at the William S. Richardson school of law, for
20 a maximum of five years.



1 "Participant" means a lawyer who is receiving loan
2 repayment assistance through the Hawaii justice league loan
3 repayment assistance program.

4 "Public interest work" means work for an organization that
5 has been granted tax exempt status as a charitable organization
6 by the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to section 501(c)(3),
7 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code
8 of 1986, as amended; local, state, or federal government; Native
9 Hawaiian public interest organizations; and low-income community
10 based private practice.

11 § -2 Hawaii justice league program established. The
12 Hawaii justice league program is established to encourage
13 lawyers to pursue public interest work in Hawaii. The program
14 shall be administered by the University of Hawaii William S.
15 Richardson school of law. In administering the program, the
16 University of Hawaii William S. Richardson school of law shall:

- 17 (1) Adopt rules and develop guidelines to administer the
18 program;
- 19 (2) Identify and designate areas of the State with
20 greatest need for public interest work;



- 1 (3) Establish criteria and a certification process for
- 2 what constitutes eligible "community based private
- 3 practice" for public interest work;
- 4 (4) Establish criteria for the selection by the University
- 5 of Hawaii William S. Richardson school of law of
- 6 lawyers to participate in the program;
- 7 (5) Define and determine compliance with the service
- 8 commitments of the program;
- 9 (6) Collect and manage reimbursements from participants
- 10 who do not meet their service commitments under the
- 11 program;
- 12 (7) Publicize the program, particularly to maximize
- 13 participation by individuals who live in areas of the
- 14 State where there is greatest need for public interest
- 15 work; and
- 16 (8) Solicit and accept grants and donations from public
- 17 and private sources for the program, including
- 18 maximizing the use of federal matching funds.

19 § -3 **Hawaii justice league loan repayment assistance**
20 **program.** (a) There is created within the Hawaii justice league
21 program, the Hawaii justice league loan repayment assistance
22 program to be administered by the University of Hawaii William



1 S. Richardson school of law, in partnership with a lending
2 financial institution whose operations are principally conducted
3 in Hawaii. The Hawaii justice league loan repayment assistance
4 program shall provide loan repayments to lawyers who make the
5 service commitment under subsection (b). The University of
6 Hawaii William S. Richardson school of law shall make loan
7 repayments directly to the financial institution under
8 subsection (a) to offset the loan repayment for which the Hawaii
9 justice league program recipient would otherwise be liable. The
10 University of Hawaii William S. Richardson school of law shall
11 prioritize loan repayments in accordance with the greatest need
12 for public interest work.

13 (b) The Hawaii justice league program shall provide loan
14 repayments on behalf of a lawyer who agrees to serve for at
15 least five consecutive years as a lawyer pursuing public
16 interest work in Hawaii; provided that eligible lawyers, as
17 applicable, shall have graduated from a duly accredited law
18 school within the United States; provided further that
19 preference shall be given to graduates of the University of
20 Hawaii William S. Richardson school of law, as applicable.

21 (c) Eligible participants in the program shall be
22 determined by the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson



1 school of law on a competitive basis and in accordance with
2 subsection (b).

3 (d) If a Hawaii justice league program participant fails
4 to satisfy the recipient's service commitment under subsection
5 (b), the Hawaii justice league program participant shall be
6 liable for the repayment of the outstanding balance of the loan
7 to the lending financial institution under subsection (a). In
8 addition, the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson school
9 of law may seek reimbursement for any loan repayment made by the
10 university on behalf of the Hawaii justice league program
11 participant.

12 (e) In accordance with chapter 103D, the University of
13 Hawaii William S. Richardson school of law may enter into
14 written contracts with collection agencies to collect delinquent
15 reimbursements of loan repayments. All payments collected,
16 exclusive of a collection agency's commissions, shall revert and
17 be credited to the Hawaii justice league revolving fund. A
18 collection agency that enters into a written contract with the
19 University of Hawaii William S. Richardson school of law to
20 collect delinquent reimbursements of loan repayments pursuant to
21 this section may collect a commission from the debtor in



1 accordance with the terms of, and up to the amounts authorized
2 in, the written contract.

3 § -4 Rules. The University of Hawaii William S.
4 Richardson school of law shall adopt rules to administer this
5 chapter. The rules shall be adopted pursuant to chapter 91, but
6 shall be exempt from public notice and public hearing
7 requirements.

8 § -5 Hawaii justice league revolving fund. (a) There
9 is established in the treasury of the State the Hawaii justice
10 league revolving fund, which shall be administered by the
11 University of Hawaii William S. Richardson school of law, and
12 into which shall be deposited:

- 13 (1) Any funds appropriated by the legislature for the
14 Hawaii justice league program;
- 15 (2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and
16 private persons;
- 17 (3) Reimbursements of loan repayments under the Hawaii
18 justice league loan repayment assistance program;
- 19 (4) Proceeds of the operations of the Hawaii justice
20 league program; and
- 21 (5) Interest earned or accrued on moneys deposited into
22 the fund.



1 (b) The University of Hawaii William S. Richardson school
2 of law may expend moneys from the fund for the purposes of this
3 chapter, including the operational expenses of the Hawaii
4 justice league program."

5 SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii William S. Richardson
6 school of law shall implement the Hawaii justice league program
7 no later than June 30, 2015.

8 The dean of the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson
9 school of law shall report to the legislature on the status of
10 the Hawaii justice league program no later than twenty days
11 prior to the convening of each regular session beginning with
12 the regular session of 2016.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
16 deposit into the Hawaii justice league revolving fund.

17 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii justice
18 league revolving fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof
19 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the purposes
20 of establishing and administering the Hawaii justice league
21 program.



H.B. NO. 2182

1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
2 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

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

4

INTRODUCED BY: *Karl Rhoads*
 Raymond
 Allen A. Beletti

JAN 21 2014

H.B. NO. 2182

Report Title:

Hawaii Justice League; Loan Repayment; Public Interest; Access to Justice; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii justice league program to provide loan repayments on behalf of eligible lawyers that pursue public interest work in Hawaii. Provides for loan repayments by the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson school of law. Creates the Hawaii justice league revolving fund.

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



TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2182

February 4, 2014

RELATING TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE

House Bill No. 2182 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. House Bill No. 2182 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 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, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed revolving fund will be self-sustaining.



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

Jill M. Hasegawa
Vice Chair

HAWAII ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Commissioners:

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

Sen. Clayton Hee
Hon. Ronald Ibarra
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Derek Kobayashi
Mary Anne Magnier
Patricia McManaman

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

February 3, 2014

To: Representative Isaac W. Choy
Chair, House Committee on Higher Education

Re: House Committee on Higher Education
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2014
Hearing Time: 2:01 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 Choy and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

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.

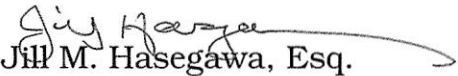
The Commission was created in response to the 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal needs and Barriers of Low- and Moderate-Income People of Hawaii (2007 Assessment), which found that four out of five low income Hawaii residents do not have their legal needs met and that legal service providers are only able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


Jill M. Hasegawa, Esq.
Vice-Chair
Hawaii Access to Justice Commission

To: Chair Choy, Vice-Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee

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

Date: February 2, 2014

Hrg: House Committee on Higher Education; Tues., February, 4 2014 at 2:01 p.m., Rm 309

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

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Filipino Law Students Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law, I stand in strong support of House Bill 2182 and its companion measure Senate Bill 2255. In December 2013, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor observed that, "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. 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. While some may 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.

Malaho for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2182 and for your dedicated service.

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

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2182

House Committee on Higher Education
Honorable Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice-Chair
February 4, 2014

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am testifying on behalf of the William S. Richardson School of Law Student Bar Association.

Purpose: HB2182 and companion bill SB2255 would increase access to justice in underserved communities and facilitate motivated young attorneys to practice public interest legal work (i.e. government, nonprofit, and low-income private practice) in Hawai'i.

"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." - Article I, Section 8 of the Hawai'i State Constitution

The Problem:

- In 2007, the Access to Justice Hui (comprised of representatives from several legal organizations) found that **only 1 in 5 low- and moderate-income Hawai'i residents have their legal needs met.**
- Currently, legal service providers are only able to help **1-in-3 who contact them for assistance**, and many who need legal services are discouraged from even seeking help.
- Significant barriers prevent thousands of people from getting the assistance they need: the **high cost** of legal services, **language** and **cultural** barriers, **lack of knowledge** regarding available services, and difficulty in accessing those providing service.
- Our state constitution affirms that all Hawai'i residents should have equal access to effective, high-quality legal services, irrespective of socio-economic status. The state is failing on its mandate.
- Due to the lack of affordable legal assistance, many local families face **month- to year-long delays** and overwhelming bureaucratic hurdles in court and administrative processes.
- The few organizations working in underserved communities face steep economic challenges; and many students interested in this work are herded into taking higher paying jobs as associates in private firms by the pressures of student loan payments and Hawaii's exorbitant cost of living.

· So, not only do the underserved face the normal barriers to justice, but they also have difficulty obtaining aid from the very organizations established exclusively for their benefit.

The Solution:

· This bill seeks to increase the access to legal services in Hawai‘i by providing a loan repayment program for selected attorneys who practice public interest law in underserved communities.

· The bill would establish a Hawai‘i Justice League fund, administered by the William S. Richardson School of Law, which selects awardees from qualified applicants serving in public interest and makes student loan payments for awardees for up to five years or a to-be-determined dollar amount, as long as the awardee continues to serve in a pre-approved area of law and meets all other program requirements.

· Following the recommendations of the Hawai‘i Supreme Court of implementing initiatives to enhance recruitment and retention of attorneys in nonprofit legal service providers, this bill seeks to provide greater access to justice by making it possible for those already interested in serving our vulnerable communities with some the relief they need to do so.

· This legislature enacted similar statutes to establish programs, which have already increased access to critical medical services in underserved communities. The same can be accomplished for legal services with the passage of **the Hawai‘i Justice League Act of 2014, HB2182/SB2255**. I strongly urge you to support this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

From: Fawn Jade Koopman
Staff Attorney, Domestic Violence Action Center
Chair, Advocates for Public Interest Law at William S. Richardson School of Law

Re: Testimony in support of H.B. 2182
Relating to Access to Justice

Hearing: Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 2:10PM
State Capitol, Room 309

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2182, relating to Access to Justice. I am a staff attorney at the Domestic Violence Action Center (“DVAC”) and serve as the Community Board Chair for Advocates for Public Interest Law at William S. Richardson School of Law. I graduated from UH law school in May 2012.

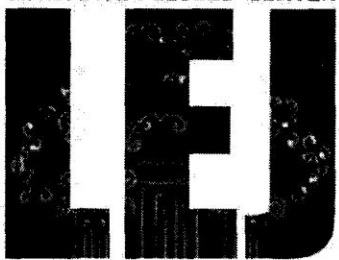
My law school debt amounts to approximately \$175,000. In order to continue working as a public interest attorney I obtained part-time employment to supplement my salary and to assist in the monthly payment of my outstanding loans. The “‘no-frills’ subsistence level lifestyle’ referred to in the bill is an understatement. I can barely make ends meet.

There is no question that our community needs more law school graduates who are willing to practice in public interest law. As many non-profit legal agencies will report, there are growing waitlists and only a handful of attorneys to provide services to hundreds of individuals and families. We need to make lower paid public interest careers more viable to our graduates by alleviating the financial burden of loan repayment. This legislation, if passed, will not only encourage more attorneys to pursue a career in public interest law but it will change the lives of the attorneys who have dedicated their careers to access to justice. I often hear young graduates say they would work in public interest law but for the needs of their families, or their law school debts. It is an unfortunate reality, but one that could be transformed by this legislation.

For these reasons I respectfully urge the Committee to pass H.B. 2182.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Fawn Jade Koopman



Sherry Broder, Esq.
David Derauf, M.D.
Naomi C. Fujimoto, Esq.
Patrick Gardner, Esq.
John H. Johnson
Nathan Nelson, Esq.
David J. Reber, Esq.

Victor Geminiani, Esq.

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 2182 Relating to Access to Justice
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Scheduled for Hearing Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 2:01 PM, Room 329

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.

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 stated 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.

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 10:30 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: zanero91@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Zane	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The practice supporting Access to Justice for low income families is an important matter. Many are not encouraged to enter this field of law because of the comparative low income and the need of debts. It is important to encourage students and recent graduates who practice the law to help represent clients that cannot usually afford their services. To make more efficient the system of the law and public representation in legal situations, it is in the interest of the state to pass this bill and encourage more support, time, and energy of students of the law to the practice of justice for low income people. Assisting student debts for those who work in the public benefit for low income clients would be of great value to the state.

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ichiyama2-Fern

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To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ronman63@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:20PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:20PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald D. Rodriguez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: makana.paris@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:20PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:20PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Makana Paris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: etelagi@hawaii.edu
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HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:20PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janelle Etelagi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: HEDtestimony
Cc: thomas.michener@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:20PM

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:20PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Michener	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Richardson student and a future attorney, this bill would make my decision to pursue public-interest work much easier. Many people come to law school with hopes of "making a difference." But, as the realities of post-graduation become clear, job choices are made based on financial needs. Few can afford to work in public-interest positions while paying both undergrad and law school loans. For most, the job market dictates taking the highest paying job one can find and too often those jobs are not in the field of public-interest. I sincerely hope this bill is carefully considered and passed and enacted as soon as possible.

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To: HEDtestimony
Cc: knakoa@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:20PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:20PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawika Nakoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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January 30, 2014

TO: Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair House Higher Education Committee
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Representative Henry J. C. Aquino
Representative Karen Awana
Representative Faye P. Hanohano
Representative Takashi Ohno
Representative Calvin K. Y. Say
Representative K. Mark Takai
Representative Roy M. Takumi
Representative Roy M. Takumi
Representative Richard Lee Fale
Representative Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

February 4, 2014 2:01 Conference Room 309

FROM: Stephanie W. Batzer, MSW, JD Candidate

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

Representative Choy, Chair; Representative Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and members of the House Higher Education Committee, 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. Four 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.

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 10:01 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: pohainuuhiwa@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pohai	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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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 10:10 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: caxe@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caitlin Axe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 10:10 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: uchida.jc@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Christen M. Uchida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 10:34 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: brow@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Brow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This initiative represents a noble cause which would help our local community tremendously in terms of legal access, and I whole-heartedly support it.

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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 10:40 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: aglae@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aglae Van den Bergh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 11:02 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: louiselafi@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louise Togiai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 1:10 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: sfgp@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Saisamoa Grey Price	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 1:25 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ltuan@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tuan la	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 5:51 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: rachelfg@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 7:52 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: HSCSW2014@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Khara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 11:20 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: fdemapan@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frances Demapan	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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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 11:52 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: DaveMorris@my.hpu.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM

HB2182

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Morris	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill will improve access to justice by creating incentives for newly minted lawyers, buried under student debt, to forgo the high paying GOOD "Get Out Of Debt" jobs and pursuing careers serving those who often need legal services most. I support this bill.

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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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 10:52 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: mnakata@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Nakata	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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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 12:56 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ezlchirpz@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lezlie Kiaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 8:33 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: sandyn70@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Nakoa	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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ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2014 7:55 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM

HB2182

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Given the income disparity between public and private sector law careers, law school graduates must be encouraged to pursue public interest law.

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TESTIMONY OF BRIDGETTE BLANCH 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

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

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 Bridgette Blanch and I am a community resident of Aiea, 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.

I know these issues first hand because I have been adversely affected by the lack of legal resources. I was diagnosed with lung cancer three years ago and life has been difficult trying to support myself as well as my family. I was forced to quit my job to take care of my health. I also am a single parent of a beautiful and bright 16 year-old girl. She has great hopes to attend college. I never established paternity for my daughter because I could not afford to hire an attorney to represent our family in the legal proceedings. My daughter is of Native Hawaiian ancestry through her father's side. Unfortunately, I do not have the resources to send her to college. However, there are several Native Hawaiian scholarships that she could have access to if I could amend her birth certificate to show her ancestry. In order for me to do that, I need to have legal representation. Again, we cannot afford it. What that means is my daughter will be cut off from those very important educational resources based on technicality.

The other issue we are facing is in our public housing division. Drug use is rampant where I live. I have told the public housing authority many times about the drug use and they refuse to do anything about it. In the meantime, my daughter and I live in fear not knowing what to expect when we come home. With drug use, there is an increased risk of crime and violence. If we had access to lawyer, he/she could guide us in knowing our basic rights under public housing and how to navigate the system to ensure a safe neighborhood. That is why I am supporting these bills because there is a huge need in our community for more public interest lawyers, especially for people like me who have fixed incomes. **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,

Catherine Blanch, 99-165 Kohomua St. No. 10F, Aiea, HI 96701, Phone: (808) 384-2118

TESTIMONY OF KAU'I 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

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

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 Kau'i 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.

These bills are important because my community needs help. Help includes support in various ways: a divorce from an abusive spouse, protection of their property rights against quiet title actions by corporations, protection against bullying by state agencies, filling out Social Security paperwork, etc.

Recently, my cousin was bullied by the state's Child Protective Services. It was unfortunate because she is a good mother to her two little girls, active within her community and ambitious. She is 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 two to three days 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 competent 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. Because of stories like this, I strongly support these bills.

SB 2255 and **HB 2182** will encourage more lawyers to work in the public interest arena to ensure citizens 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,

Kau'i Pratt, 45-411 Akimala St., Kāne'ohe, HI 96744

TESTIMONY OF MS. SHARLETTE L. K. POE, JR. 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
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
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 Ms. Sharlette L. K. Poe, Jr. and I am a community resident of Waianae, 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,

Ms. Sharlette L. K. Poe, Jr.
85-1191 Kane'aki Street
Wai'anae, HI 96792
sharpoe@gmail.com

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 9:21 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: phildureza@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*

HB2182

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phil Dureza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

H.B. 2182

Relating to Access to Justice

House Committee on Higher Education

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice-Chair

Hearing on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 2:01 p.m.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of the intent and purpose of H.B. 2182, which establishes a loan repayment program at the William S. Richardson School of Law for attorneys who pursue public interest work. I am an associate professor at the Law School 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 William S. Richardson School of Law, and an attorney who practiced for many years in the public interest sector representing Native Hawaiian clients.

I understand that the Hawai‘i Justice League proposed by H.B. 2182 is modeled after a similar program, the Hawai‘i Health Corps Program, created in 2012 by the Legislature and housed at the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the School of Nursing. 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. Similarly, there is a great unmet need for good, affordable, legal advice and representation in neighbor-island and rural communities.

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.

The program established in H.B. 2182 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. I also note that some amendments may be necessary for the smooth administration of the program and to ensure that it is consistent with the federal loan repayment system. I commend the Legislature for considering H.B. 2182 and urge the Committee to pass it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.

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

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

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,
Veronica Pratt
45-735 Wainana St
Kaneohe, HI 96744
vpratt@jwii.com

TESTIMONY OF Nicole Solatorio 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

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

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 Nicole Solatorio and I am a community resident of Waianae, 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,
Nicole Solatorio
89-118 Pililaau Avenue
Waianae, HI 96792
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

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

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

ichiyama2-Fern

From: Pamela Luv <tusassy4u_80@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 1:57 PM
To: HEDtestimony; JDLEtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2255 & HB2182

TESTIMONY OF Pamela E. Gallagher 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
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
JDLEtestimony@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 Pamela E. Gallagher AKA Pamela Chan 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 2004, my parental rights were terminated through coercion (in my opinion my daughter was legally stolen). My ex-boyfriend T-Jay wanted to offer some support to our family. Therefore, he started to research and engage in discussions looking into possible options of legal support. He did most of the meetings with the attorney. Even though we were on rocky terms, I remember him saying to me "I'll do whatever it takes to get some sort of rights." I admit I was wrong for signing the papers without reading them with the first attorney he had. The paper work was too complex for my understanding.

At the time, I trusted my Ex and I thought the attorney was there to legally terminate the rights of my daughter's biological father and we, T-Jay and I, would implement a co-guardianship/caregiver agreement to support my daughter. I honestly thought I was signing papers for the attorney to get the hospital records for my daughter. They went to court where T.Jay and his private attorney said it was continued. I remember T- Jay making a remark

that the judge wanted to talk to me, I NEVER GOT TO TALK to the Judge. My Ex had a land lord named Derk whom recommend an excellent adoption lawyer (because the first lawyer, adoption was not his specialty). The second attorney met with my Ex alone and NEVER once called me and/or met with me (had she met with me she would have KNOWN I WOULD HAVE NEVER GIVEN MY DAUGHTER UP). The judge NEVER called, I NEVER received anything in the mail. I would ask T-Jay how the case was going and he would always tell me it was continued. I remember I would ask him when do I get to talk to the judge? (AGAIN THINKING THIS TO WAS to TERMINATE THE RIGHTS OF MY DAUGHTER'S BIOLOGICAL FATHER and IMPLEMENT A CO-GUARDIANSHIP RELATIONSHIP) I NEVER ONCE SPOKE TO THE JUDGE. Apparently, there appears to have been some sort of bias because the attorney who handled ours was the same attorney who handled the judge's adoption proceedings. Later, T.Jay and I had an argument and then he told me my PARENTAL RIGHTS had been TERMINATED. I was in complete DISBELIEF that this could happen in America. I went to try and get the transcripts because I wanted to see what was said. They told me I had to come back because it was a juvenile case. The judge refused to allow me to review the transcripts. I would've fought it if I had any money. I also did not know any attorney who would believe me. I literally had to mourn the loss of my child even though she was still living. He could not take away the fact that I was still her mother, but I no longer was able to go off island or her IEP's (she is a special needs and/or former Felix child). I lost all rights to be able to get my daughter the best help.

This left me with a HORRIBLE IMAGE of HAWAII'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM, that with enough money you can literally steal someone's child legally. The damage is done and emotionally shattered me. I still would like to see that no parent ever has to go through that again. With sufficient support in place through public interest lawyering, parents like me can understand what is being asked of us at all times. My hope is that as a parent with fundamental rights that all parents will be included in proceedings related to the well-being of their child. The family court judge should have included me in the discussion at times so that he could be reaffirmed that I understood the terms of the proceedings. Unfortunately, it did not happen that way. Instead, our case moved forward without my input. I hope and pray NO ONE ever has to go through the amount of heart ache and emotional turmoil that the Hawaii Judicial System has caused me. I hope this can help at least one person, parent, and/or an attorney to do more research on a case. This issue of losing my parental rights would have been solved if I had a public interest lawyer to help me understand the system and the process. It would have also helped for a public interest lawyer to be able to review the legal documentation. I needed someone who had content knowledge of the law in order to help me understand what I was getting myself into.

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,
Pamela E Gallagher
140 Puuhale Road
Honolulu, Hi 96819

Tusassy4u_80@yahoo.com

808 3712301

**Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.
Martin Luther King, Jr.**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2182

LATE

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

**House Committee on Higher Education:
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair**

Cassie Bagay
Co-President

Mari Fujimoto
Co-President

Mike Dunford
First Amendment Coordinator

David Klaponski
Forms Director

Christina Simpson
Curriculum Coordinator

Courtney Takara
Public Relations Coordinator

Nikki Yamauchi
Secretary

February 4, 2014

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, and thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in favor of passage of this bill.

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 4:10 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: cakalam@nhlchi.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*



HB2182

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camille Kalama	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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Student Bar Association
William S. Richardson School of Law
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2182

House Committee on Higher Education

Hon. Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair
Hon. Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice-Chair

February 4, 2014

LATE

Aloha Chair and Honorable committee members,

My name is Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and I am the Chair 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 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.

February 3, 2014

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



Dear Chair Isaac Choy, Vice-Chair Linda Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Shae Kamaka'ala and 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.

As a law student, it was also rewarding to work with community clients on these kinds of environmental and cultural issues. 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. We fully recognize 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. It would be great to experience this not only on a clinical level, but be able to hone our skills by making a career out of public interest work. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shae Kamaka'ala".

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

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 5:11 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: megan.moniz@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*



HB2182

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Moniz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TESTIMONY OF LAURIE TAKENO 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

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

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

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

LATE

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 Laurie Takneo 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.

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.

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,
Laurie Takeno
dunntakeno@gmail.com

ichiyama2-Fern

From: Raine Arndt <rainearndt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:08 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY OF RAINE M.A. ARNDT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2255 & HB2182

TESTIMONY OF RAINE M.A. ARNDT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2255 & HB2182



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

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

HEDtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

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:

I am a licensed clinical social worker that has worked 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 **SB 2255** and **HB 2182** related to Access to Justice.

As a professional social worker entering the field of law, my hope is meld the 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.

However, facing an extremely high cost of education and surmounting student loans presents a significant challenge in making the decision to pursue my passion for public interest work due to the lower salaries expected in this field of law.

It is for this reason that I personally support **SB 2255 and HB 2182** as a way to increase more lawyers in the area of public interest, and I urge you to 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 / rainerndt@gmail.com

808-218-8947

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 6:35 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: shardem@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*



HB2182

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharde	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

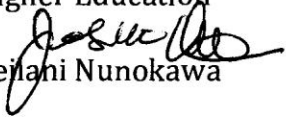
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February 4, 2014

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Chair Choy and the Members of the Committee
on Higher Education

FROM: 
Jill Leifani Nunokawa

RE: HB 2182: Relating to Access to Justice
Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 2:01 pm
Conference Room 309

I am writing a strong letter of support for HB 2182, which establishes the Hawaii justice league program to provide loan repayments on behalf of eligible lawyers that pursue public interest work in Hawaii.

I am currently the University of Hawaii at Manoa Civil Rights Specialist, President of the William Shaw Richardson School of Law Alumni Association, member of the Judiciary's Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts, and longtime community activist. Today, I speak in my own individual capacity in support.

Hawaii has evolved into a global community and has new challenges on how we exist and develop in the 21st century. How will we meet these challenges in general and how will we address social justice and access to justice in the Courts?

I am a proud public school graduate from K-12, college and law school and my total tuition was less than the cost of one semester at a private grade school. This allowed me to work for the state as a law clerk, deputy public defender and civil rights specialist. I worked on Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Oahu, and Hawaii island. Notwithstanding this fact, when I worked on Oahu, my father would take me to lunch on Fridays and insist I order many entrees to take home because he knew I went from pay check to pay check. Low salaries and little raise are the norm for public interest jobs. This provides little or no incentive to enter and remain in this much needed area of law. This phenomenon has skyrocketed with tuition increases.

Additionally, my Title IX work for the last 20 years would not have been possible if I had overwhelming student loans. I would have been in the private sector or working a second job. This provides an example of the difficulties that our law students face today. These difficulties manifest in the growing gap between those whose legal needs are met and those that remain unmet. The burden to our State is seen and felt everywhere from the prison system, homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, suicides, and overall civic and community apathy.

The time is now to address the growing disparity and despair in our State. This is one of the tangible and effective ways to remedy the burden on our communities. I urge you to pass House Bill 2182.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2182

LATE

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

**House Committee on Higher Education:
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair**

Cassie Bagay
Co-President

Mari Fujimoto
Co-President

Mike Dunford
First Amendment Coordinator

David Klaponski
Forms Director

Christina Simpson
Curriculum Coordinator

Courtney Takara
Public Relations Coordinator

Nikki Yamauchi
Secretary

February 4, 2014

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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, and thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in favor of passage of this bill.

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 4:10 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: cakalam@nhlchi.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*



HB2182

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camille Kalama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2182

House Committee on Higher Education

Hon. Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair
Hon. Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice-Chair

February 4, 2014

LATE

Aloha Chair and Honorable committee members,

My name is Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and I am the Chair 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 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.

February 3, 2014

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



Dear Chair Isaac Choy, Vice-Chair Linda Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Shae Kamaka'ala and 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.

As a law student, it was also rewarding to work with community clients on these kinds of environmental and cultural issues. 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. We fully recognize 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. It would be great to experience this not only on a clinical level, but be able to hone our skills by making a career out of public interest work. 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

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 5:11 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: megan.moniz@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*



HB2182

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Moniz	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 LAURIE TAKENO 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
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
To: Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Gilbert Kahele and Members of the Senate Committee on High Education
Hearing Date: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 10:00a, Room 016

LATE

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 Laurie Takneo 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.

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.

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,
Laurie Takeno
dunntakeno@gmail.com

ichiyama2-Fern

From: Raine Arndt <rainearndt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:08 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY OF RAINE M.A. ARNDT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2255 & HB2182

TESTIMONY OF RAINE M.A. ARNDT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2255 & HB2182



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

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

HEDtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

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:

I am a licensed clinical social worker that has worked 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 **SB 2255** and **HB 2182** related to Access to Justice.

As a professional social worker entering the field of law, my hope is meld the 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.

However, facing an extremely high cost of education and surmounting student loans presents a significant challenge in making the decision to pursue my passion for public interest work due to the lower salaries expected in this field of law.

It is for this reason that I personally support **SB 2255 and HB 2182** as a way to increase more lawyers in the area of public interest, and I urge you to 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 / rainerndt@gmail.com

808-218-8947

ichiyama2-Fern

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 6:35 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: shardem@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2182 on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM*



HB2182

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2014 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharde	Individual	Support	Yes

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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