



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: aakao@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 26, 2014 10:35AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 7:40:22 PM

SB2255

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Akao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: spratt@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 26, 2014 10:35AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 8:33:01 AM

SB2255

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaui Pratt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chairs and Members of the Hawaii Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to express my emphatic support for **SB 2255**, which would create a student loan repayment program (LRAP) for law students who take jobs in the public interest, in an effort to improve access to justice for underrepresented communities, here in Hawaii.

I am a 43 year old, second year law student, who has worked most of my adult life in non-profit, human services agencies. In Kona, my home district, on the Big Island, I have been an advocate for impoverished individuals and families. I decided to come to law school because there is a problem of insufficient access to justice for many disadvantaged members of our community, and I want to be a part of the solution. When I graduate, I am committed to go back to the Big Island to serve the under-served people of Kona.

I hope you recognize that the LRAP is not as much an incentive for new lawyers to go into public interest law, as it is a commitment from our state to ensure that everyone in Hawaii has access to quality legal representation and lawyers who won't, out of necessity, choose higher paying employment over their commitment to serve the community.

Please support **SB 2255**.

Sincerely,

Laura Cushman

J.D. Candidate, Class of 2015

William S. Richardson School of Law



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mkyching@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 27, 2014 09:10AM*
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 8:31:40 AM

SB2255

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ronman63@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 26, 2014 10:35AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 11:51:53 PM

SB2255

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:35AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sfgp@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 26, 2014 10:35AM
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 10:55:28 AM

SB2255

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:35AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: I want to do public interest work once i graduate from law school and this will really help me and many of us who plan to do public interest work

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: shaelene@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 26, 2014 10:35AM
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 8:35:31 AM

SB2255

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shaelene Kamakaala	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In strong support of SB2255 as it provides reciprocal relationships between our communities and our public interest attorneys.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: fawnjade712@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 27, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 11:25:24 AM

SB2255

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fawn Jade Koopman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2255, 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 S.B. 2255

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jmchmiel@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 27, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 9:06:10 AM

SB2255

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justine Chmielewski	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB2255/HB2182

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S.B. 2255, S.D. 1

Relating to Access to Justice

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair

Decision Making on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, at 10:35 a.m.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of S.B. 2255, S.D. 1, 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.

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 S.B. 2255, S.D. 1, serves two important purposes: first, it helps to relieve the debt of hard-working and dedicated young men and women who seek to serve the community; and second, it is a means to provide access to the legal system – indeed, to provide justice – to our citizens. Although I understand that there may be some concerns about the how the Law School would administer the loan repayment program, I commend the Legislature for considering S.B. 2255, S.D. 1, and urge the Committee to pass it.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to provide this testimony..



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rsa@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 27, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014 9:25:23 PM

SB2255

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: As a paralegal student at Kapiolani Community College I understand the expense incurred by those who successfully complete a program of study in law and successfully graduate. Barring no expense, these now practicing lawyers are to be commended for their focus and perseverance resulting in their privilege of owning a license to practice law. As an employee of the Hawaii State Judiciary, I witness a portion of these law school graduates perform in the capacity of law clerk for the many Judges in the court system. I feel that compensation should be allowed for those who service the low income population. These attorneys respond to a growing need for legal services by a public whose income is inadequate. Please afford these practicing attorneys the assistance most welcomed to sustain a level of living until better adept at making market level income.

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