

**SB2255**

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY**

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR AND EDUCATION  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2255

February 4, 2014

RELATING TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Senate Bill No. 2255 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. Senate Bill No. 2255 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 Senate Bill No. 2255, 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  
R. Elton Johnson, III  
Jean Johnson  
Tracy Jones

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

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

February 2, 2014

To: Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2014  
Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.

Testimony in **Support** of SB 2255, portion relating to loan repayment assistance for attorneys who pursue public interest work through non-profit legal service providers

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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 SB 2255, 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

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2255**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:  
Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**

**Senate Committee on Higher Education:  
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair**

**February 4, 2014**

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
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](mailto:hedtestimony@capitolhawaii.gov)

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

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

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

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

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

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

My name is 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 Pililau Avenue  
Waianae, HI 96792  
[nicoles@inpeace.org](mailto:nicoles@inpeace.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [bjtcjtsoup@aol.com](mailto:bjtcjtsoup@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 03, 2014 12:44:49 PM

---

**SB2255**

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for JDL/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bobby-John Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support this bill because it provides opportunities and support for students wanting to apply to law school that normally would not, due to the high debt they may incur. It also promotes students coming out of law school to work in the public interest. The debt students incur creates a need to work for higher paying firms straight out of graduation to simply pay back their loans. That trend is noticeable in the legal community with many of our graduates first going to work for firms, finding they don't like that work environment, and then moving on to work for other sectors later. This bill would be beneficial for the public interest sector to have the input of more young minds and it would benefit new graduates by having a means to pay off their debt while serving their community.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [cbagay89@gmail.com](mailto:cbagay89@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, February 03, 2014 1:10:34 PM

---

**SB2255**

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for JDL/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cassandra Bagay	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**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](mailto:HEDtestimony@capitolhawaii.gov)

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

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

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

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

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

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

My name is 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 who recommended an excellent adoption lawyer to look for options of co-guardianship (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 BECAUSE HE NEVER CAME. Apparently, there appears to have been some sort of bias

because the attorney who handled our case 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 96813

Tusassy4u\_80@yahoo.com

808 3712301

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rawlinsk@hawaii.edu](mailto:rawlinsk@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 03, 2014 1:45:05 PM

---

**SB2255**

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for JDL/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
KEANI RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ	William S. Richardson School of Law Student Bar Association	Support	Yes

Comments: My written testimony will be submitted by this evening.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [cakalam@nhlchi.org](mailto:cakalam@nhlchi.org)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, February 03, 2014 4:10:05 PM

---

**SB2255**

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for JDL/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

February 3, 2014

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

Dear Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Maile Shimabukuro, members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, and Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Gilbert Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

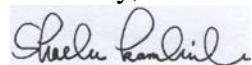
My name is **Required parameters are missing or incorrect.** and I am writing on behalf of Ho'āla 'Āina Kūpono (Ho'āla), a non-profit organization based in Kahana, Ko'olauloa, O'ahu. Ho'āla would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide **comments in support of SB 2255, "Relating to 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 SB2255 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. SB2255 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 SB2255.

Sincerely,



**Required parameters are missing or incorrect.**  
Secretary, Ho'āla 'Āina Kūpono



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [megan.moniz@gmail.com](mailto:megan.moniz@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, February 03, 2014 5:10:16 PM

---

**SB2255**

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for JDL/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

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

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

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

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

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

**Hearing Date: 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 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](mailto:dunntakeno@gmail.com)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [csiu@hawaii.edu](mailto:csiu@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, February 03, 2014 7:28:13 PM

---

**SB2255**

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for JDL/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
christina simpson	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## **SB 2255 Relating to Access to Justice**

Chairperson Hee, Vice Chairperson Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my **strong support for SB 2255**, Relating to Access to Justice.

As a third-year student of the William S. Richardson School of Law, I have seen first-hand the devotion of my fellow colleagues toward public service careers. A strong majority of my peers are civic minded, interested in the employment of their skills toward the betterment of their community. And while I don't claim to represent all of Richardson's diverse student body, it is my absolute belief that SB 2255 would provide a means for many to realistically pursue their professional desires. More importantly, it provides a means for thousands of Hawaii's citizens to access quality, needed legal assistance in keeping with our nation's highest ideals.

Under the current state of student debt realities, many of Richardson's most talented and capable alumni have been funneled toward private, large-firm law. For some, this path has been a life goal. For others, it amounts to practical necessity, one of few available means to pay off what would otherwise prove crippling financial obligation. The merit of SB 2255, I believe, lies in its ability to provide an alternate avenue for the latter group while simultaneously benefitting our community in the process.

The fact is that Hawaii's citizens – thousands each year – suffer for want of legal assistance. This is for reason that we simply don't have the capacity to meet need. We lack this capacity, in large part, because graduates of the state's sole law school are shouldered with tens of thousands of dollars in debt, the price paid for quality education. In what's swiftly becoming a calcified consciousness, students are choosing repayment over passion, turning away from what drove them toward Richardson to begin with: the desire to serve.

With support from this legislative body, we can foster an economic climate that invests in Hawaii, her citizens and workforce. We can use the vehicle of SB 2255 to drive uniquely positioned minds toward applying aid to those most fundamentally in need. To support this bill is to support the realization of constitutional guarantees. I would ask you to pass SB 2255 and I thank you for your time and consideration.

With sincerity and aloha,

Rj Brown  
Third-Year law student  
William S. Richardson School of Law

**From:** [Raine Arndt](mailto:Raine.Arndt@capitolhawaii.gov)  
**To:** [hedtestimony@capitolhawaii.gov](mailto:hedtestimony@capitolhawaii.gov); [JDLTestimony](mailto:JDLTestimony@capitolhawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY OF RAINE M.A. ARNDT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2255 & HB2182  
**Date:** Monday, February 03, 2014 10:05:43 PM

---

## 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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](mailto:raine@hawaii.edu) / [rainerndt@gmail.com](mailto:rainerndt@gmail.com)

808-218-8947

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

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2255**

Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Higher Education

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Biran Taniguchi, Chair

February 4, 2014

Aloha Chairs 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 SB2255.

Mahalo.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [shardem@hawaii.edu](mailto:shardem@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2255 on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 04, 2014 6:36:38 AM

---

**SB2255**

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for JDL/HRE on Feb 4, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sharde	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)