

SB 2906

LATE

Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Report Title: University of Hawaii; Appropriation; Student Employees (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to pay student employees at new or expanded worksites on each campus.

Companion: [HB1953](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: HRE, WAM

Introducer(s): TANIGUCHI, KIM

Brenden L.J. Burk
Chairperson of the 101st ASUH Senate Committee on Finance
University of Hawaii at Manoa – Student Legislative Fellow
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Testimony of the 101st ASUH Committee on Finance
IN SUPPORT OF S.B. NO. 2906, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 06, 2014

Honorable Chairperson Taniguchi, Vice-Chairperson Kahele, and respected members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Brenden Burk, and I submit to you my testimony in strong support of S.B. NO. 2906. I testify in my capacity as the Chairperson of the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii 101st Senate Committee on Finance, as the inaugural Student Legislative Fellow, and most importantly as a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

In addition to the leadership positions and titles that I hold, I am fortunate to have secured campus employment during my time at the University of Hawaii. Currently I work as a Senior Student Assistant and Fiscal Assistant for the Department of Psychology, and have been with my office for more than two years.

The expansion of student employment opportunities throughout the University of Hawaii system is a critical factor of student retention, and student enrichment. Many students throughout the University of Hawaii system find themselves in a position of needing to work to support their personal and educational endeavors, while needing to sacrifice time to attend daytime courses. Student employment is an opportunity that allows for both.

With a starting minimum wage higher than outside employment, as well as the flexibility to work around students robust and dynamic schedules, student employment opportunities recognize that student employees are students first, and employees second. As a student employee myself, I am free from the anxieties of having to decide between work or school, or whether or not I will need someone to cover my shift. There is not a fear that I could lose my job because I have classes to attend or other educational pursuits to tend to.

I know of countless peers who also retain student employment positions, and share in my belief that without the convenience of a campus job, they would need to face the harsh reality of needing to weigh work instead of school. Student employment opportunities also have professional and social development characteristics as well. For many students, a campus job is their first real form of employment, and it is an excellent stepping-stone in helping students to prepare for the professional workplace beyond graduation. It is a lesson in workplace ethics, professionalism, social interaction, commitment, and professional responsibility.

Of course it is not possible to provide a campus job to every student that enrolls, and certain students may be in positions that are exceptional and cannot be accommodated by a campus job. However; any initiative by the legislature to expand on the accessibility of student employment opportunities is well received and certainly appreciated. An investment in student employment opportunities is an investment in the future of our students, and the future of Hawaii.

I voice my strong support of this measure.

From: [kathy.hanson](#)
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Subject: Please accept this testimony
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:31:08 PM

TO: Committee on Higher Education
Senator Brian Taniguchi Chair
Senator Gil Kahele Vice-Chair

FROM: Kathy Hanson

RE: Testimony Supporting SB 2906, Relating to University of Hawai'i
Thurs. Feb 6, 2014 2:45 p.m. Conference Room 414

Aloha,

My name is Kathy Hanson and I am a full time student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am testifying **in support of SB 2906** which provides funds to the University of Hawai'i Campuses for on-campus student employment.

I am currently in my junior year pursuing my degree in Social Work and work part time through the Bridge to Hope program on campus. I am a single mother of three children including my youngest daughter who has medical and learning disabilities. I am also a survivor of domestic violence and in 2011 I began the process of registering for college to obtain a college degree.

Upon returning to school, I actively searched but was unable to find an off-campus job that would be flexible with my school schedule. My academic councilor suggested that I apply for student employment on campus at Windward Community College, where I was attending. I was told that because WCC was a small campus most of the student employment jobs were already filled, however there was an available position under the Bridge to Hope program on campus in TRIO Student Support Services, but I had to meet the specific eligibility of receiving TANF, which I do.

This job at TRIO helped me financially, emotionally and professionally. I thrived in the work environment that supported my educational goals. Student Employment on campus made it possible for me to work and pursue my educational goals as well as the opportunity to meet and work with professionals that have inspired and supported my efforts. As a direct result of this support and opportunity I have been able to obtain a 4.0 GPA, won several prestigious scholarships and I am currently the sole provider of my household. I am a woman of purpose and drive today and I so very grateful to have the opportunity to have employment on campus.

Please, please consider supporting student employment opportunities as it truly makes the dream of obtaining a college degree an obtainable goal to achieve. I benefitted greatly from my campus employment, but I know that the funding I had access to with Bridge to Hope is not available to others.

I highly support this bill and I ask for your strong consideration.

Kathy Hanson
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TO: Committee on Higher Education
Senator Brian Taniguchi Chair
Senator Gil Kahele Vice-Chair

FROM: Teresa Bill tbill808@gmail.com

RE: Testimony **Supporting SB 2906**,
Relating to University of Hawai'i Student Employment
Thurs. Feb 6, 2014
2:45 p.m. Conference Room 414

I am Teresa Bill, testifying in support of SB 2906 which provides funds to all the University of Hawai'i Campuses for on-campus student employment.

As the coordinator of a program (UH Bridge to Hope) which provides welfare participating students academic support in addition to on-campus student employment, I see firsthand the benefit that students gain from on-campus employment as well as the need for additional student employment funding for the general student population.

On campus student employment enhances students' engagement with academic offices, and helps students to keep academics as a priority. Campus employers take into account students' school schedules and will never ask students to choose between their part-time job and attending class or finishing a final assignment; as often happens with private sector employers.

When students work on campus their work environment supports college success, their peers and mentors are also college-focused and prioritize academic success. Students working on campus also get to know campus much more, including the resources available to them – rather than rushing to & from the parking lot to get to their job after classes.

Community colleges in particular lack funds for on-campus employment. This bill would address that need. Bridge to Hope student employees are quite popular not only because they're good student employees, but because Bridge to Hope funds their wages. Unfortunately, our program's funding and eligibility requirements are quite limited, so the general student population doesn't not have this same on-campus employment opportunity.

It is my experience, running a program offering on-campus employment to approximately 100 students across the 10 UH campuses, that student gain the most from on-campus employment. They gain experience, skills, confidence and access to mentors. Many more UH students would benefit greatly from the passage of SB 2906, please fund this bill.

Thank You for the opportunity to share my testimony.



Teresa Bill