
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Filipino
2 community has grown since the first immigrants came to Hawaii in
3 1906. According to the 2010 United States Census, people of
4 Filipino ancestry are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaii,
5 with fifteen per cent of residents identifying themselves as
6 Filipino alone and twenty-five per cent of residents identifying
7 themselves as Filipino and another race. Students of Filipino
8 ancestry are also the second largest ethnic group in the
9 department of education and represent more than half of the
10 student population at Farrington high school, Waipahu high
11 school, and Lanai high and elementary school.

12 The legislature further finds that, despite their high
13 representation in the general population and schools within the
14 department of education, students of Filipino ancestry are
15 underrepresented in the University of Hawaii system. Filipino
16 students comprise only twelve per cent of the entire University
17 of Hawaii system student population. Six per cent of the



1 community colleges faculty and two and one half per cent of the
2 University of Hawaii at Manoa faculty are of Filipino ancestry.
3 The fifteen per cent postsecondary degree rate held by Filipinos
4 is the lowest among all ethnic groups in Hawaii.

5 In 2008, the legislature adopted Senate Concurrent
6 Resolution No. 120, requesting the University of Hawaii and the
7 department of education to submit a report to the legislature on
8 a plan to develop, offer, and expand Philippine language courses
9 at public schools and University of Hawaii campuses. More than
10 twenty Filipino community and student groups supported S.C.R.
11 No. 120, in addition to the Filipino legislative caucus in the
12 house of representatives, the University of Hawaii, and the
13 department of education.

14 In response to S.C.R. No. 120, the University of Hawaii
15 submitted a report recommending the establishment of a committee
16 to consider the following tasks:

- 17 (1) Surveying Philippine language courses and courses with
18 significant Philippine or Filipino ethnic content;
- 19 (2) Identifying and supporting public schools and
20 University of Hawaii campuses interested in offering



- 1 new classes or expanding access to existing courses in
2 Ilokano and Tagalog and related areas;
- 3 (3) Incorporating appropriate language and culture in pre-
4 college and college recruitment and retention
5 activities;
- 6 (4) Offering workshops, mentoring, and other professional
7 development activities for Ilokano and Tagalog
8 language teachers;
- 9 (5) Seeking funds for student support, co-curricular
10 activities, and Philippine language courses; and
- 11 (6) Requesting advice and resources from San Diego
12 Philippine language experts, Hawaii organizations,
13 such as KNDI radio, and the Filipino Community Center,
14 and other resources.

15 The legislature further finds that the University of Hawaii
16 Pamantasan Council, with representation from Filipino students,
17 faculty, and administrators, organizes annual conferences and
18 periodic workshops on the status and aspirations of Filipinos at
19 the University of Hawaii. The Pamantasan Council was
20 established in 1987 to address:



- 1 (1) Filipino students, faculty, and staff representation
- 2 and success;
- 3 (2) Philippine and Filipino-American courses in the
- 4 curriculum;
- 5 (3) Filipinos in the department of education;
- 6 (4) Filipinos in jobs, careers, and community service; and
- 7 (5) Relations between Philippine and United States higher
- 8 education institutions.

9 Furthermore, the Pamantasan Council has the capacity to
10 engage in substantive discussions with, and reach out to,
11 community groups, private organizations, and state agencies to
12 improve the status of Filipino education at the University of
13 Hawaii and the department of education.

14 The legislature further finds that the activities proposed
15 by the different campuses require funds and positions to ensure
16 adequate faculty, student service personnel, lecturers, graduate
17 assistants, and student staff. Over the years, the Pamantasan
18 Council has identified priority activities to increase access
19 and diversity by supporting annual conferences, workshops,
20 curriculum development, exchange programs, internships, neighbor



1 island travel, library material, distance education units, and
2 community partnerships.

3 Increased coordination, additional resources, and expansion
4 of Philippine studies, Philippine language courses, and content
5 on the Filipino-American experience in the University of Hawaii
6 system and the department of education will increase academic
7 interest, student success, and graduation among Filipino
8 students.

9 The legislature further finds that support from the
10 Filipino community will increase the representation of Filipino
11 students and professionals in the education, health, legal,
12 business, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
13 fields. In particular, the Pamantasan Council will provide
14 insight to University of Hawaii administrators and other policy
15 makers on programs and policies related to Filipino courses and
16 students.

17 The purpose of this Act, therefore, is to provide
18 additional resources to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan
19 Council to help the State and the University of Hawaii meet
20 strategic goals for access and diversity.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
5 2016-2017 to fund four full-time positions (4.0 FTE) for the
6 system-wide Pamantasan Council, including instructional faculty,
7 student personnel, and graduate assistantships.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
9 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.



Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Appropriation; Hawaii Pamantasan Council

Description:

Appropriates general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including on programs and policies related to Filipino courses and students.
(HB843 HD1)

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