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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 304A, part IV, subpart A, subdivision  
2 1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section  
3 to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4           "§304A- Community college tuition waiver. The board of  
5 regents shall waive the tuition of any person who enrolls as a  
6 student in a community college under the following conditions:

7           (1) The person is a United States citizen or an eligible  
8 non-citizen, as determined by the board;

9           (2) The person has been a resident of the State for at  
10 least twelve months prior to the time of applying for  
11 the waiver;

12           (3) The person is a graduate of a private or public high  
13 school located in the State;

14           (4) The person is admitted to and enrolled full-time in a  
15 community college;



1       (5) The person maintains satisfactory academic progress,  
2       as determined by the community college in which the  
3       person is enrolled;

4       (6) The person maintains continuous full-time enrollment  
5       at a community college, except for periods of medical  
6       or personal leave of absence, as approved by the  
7       community college that the person attends;

8       (7) The person is physically present in the State; and

9       (8) The person is under the age of twenty-six."

10       SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii shall implement  
11 section 1 of this Act as a pilot project in any county with a  
12 population of less than one hundred thousand people, beginning  
13 in the fall of 2017. In addition to the requirements set forth  
14 in section 1, and notwithstanding any conflicting requirements  
15 set forth in section 1, the board of regents shall waive the  
16 tuition of any person who enrolls as a student in a community  
17 college in a county with less than one hundred thousand people  
18 under the following conditions:

19       (1) The person completes and submits to the board of  
20       regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid;



# H.B. NO. 1613

- 1 (2) The person has been a resident of the county for at
- 2 least two years;
- 3 (3) The person attended high school for at least two
- 4 years; and
- 5 (4) The person graduated from a high school located in the
- 6 county.
- 7 (b) The board of regents shall submit a report of its
- 8 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
- 9 legislation, on the outcomes of the tuition waiver program to
- 10 the legislature not less than twenty days prior to the convening
- 11 of the regular session of 2019.

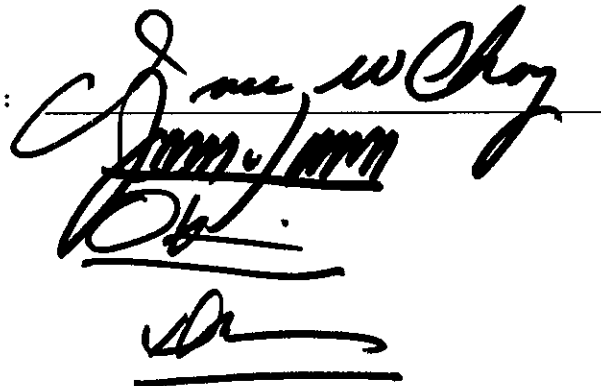
12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016;

14 provided that section 1 shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

15

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2016



# H.B. NO. 1613

**Report Title:**

Community colleges; tuition waiver

**Description:**

Grants tuition waivers to students at the community colleges who meet certain criteria. Initiates the waiver program as a pilot project in a county with a population of less than 100,000.

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





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
February 2, 2016 at 2:01pm

By  
John Morton, VP for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i

### HB 1613 – RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1613. This measure would grant tuition waivers to students at the community colleges who meet certain criteria; and initiates the waiver program as a pilot project in a county with a population of less than 100,000.

The community colleges firmly believe that cost should not be a barrier for any resident of the State of Hawai'i in attending a community college. To this end, we have adopted a goal of having 100% of the direct cost of a community college education, that is, tuition, fees, and books, be covered by scholarship or grant (not loan) funds for any student with financial need. We estimate that the current combination of Federal Pell grants, UHCC scholarships, private scholarships through the UHF and Kamehameha Schools provides all but about \$1.5M of this direct cost for our current need based students.

According to the latest census data, the only community college able to participate in this pilot project would be Kaua'i Community College. The University appreciates the concept of this pilot program. In particular, we would welcome conversations about how the funds in support of the students would be appropriated since the number of qualified students would not necessarily be known in advance. We would also welcome discussions of how the program might be taken to scale if it is successful on Kaua'i. Again, we thank you for your shared interest in making community college education available to all.

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** Sr. Aurora de la Cruz, MM <aurora.delacruz@catholiccharitieshawaii.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 1:46 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Subject:** Community College Tuition Waiver

Dear Chair Choy, Vice-Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee,

H.B. 1613, if enacted, would grant tuition waivers to eligible students at the community colleges as a pilot project to begin on Kaua'i. Access to education is at the core of economic justice and a thriving economy in Hawai'i that supports sustainable industries. While I support H.B. 1613, I have reservations regarding several provisions and urge favorable consideration of the following amendments proposed by the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights:

"§304A- Community college tuition waiver. . . .

- (1) ~~The person is a United States citizen or eligible non citizen, as determined by the board;~~
- (2) The person [~~has been~~] is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 [prior to] at the time of applying for the waiver;
- (3) ~~The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State;~~  
. . . .
- (5) The person maintains [~~satisfactory academic progress as determined by the community college in which the person is enrolled~~] cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted;  
. . . .
- (8) The person is under the age of [~~twenty-six~~] twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program;
- (9) The person completes and submits to the board of regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and accepts all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application.

I also recommend the elimination of Section 2 of the bill, which would limit tuition-free community college to counties with less than 100,000 residents. A cost analysis of the waiver program may be complex and daunting but I look to your leadership in meeting the challenge of funding by working with administrators and advocates over the next weeks.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1613.

Aloha,

Sr. Aurora de la Cruz, MM, MA  
Program Specialist II  
General Immigration Services  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII  
Clarence T.C. Ching Campus  
1822 Keeaumoku Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
(808) 527-4710 Telephone  
(808) 527-4719 Fax  
[aurora.delacruz@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:aurora.delacruz@catholiccharitieshawaii.org)  
[www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org](http://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org)  
Find us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesHI](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesHI)

All seen & heard...All safe & connected...One loving community

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 9:51 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** leotele@facehawaii.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1613 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM  
**Attachments:** HB1613 Testimony 2.1.16.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**HB1613**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Renee Leotele Togafau	FACE	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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1 February 2016

**FACE** Hawaii

[www.facehawaii.org](http://www.facehawaii.org)

**HB1613**  
**Relating to Post-Secondary Education**  
House Committee on Higher Education

Dear Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee,

Faith Action for Community Equity offers this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB1613 with amendments**. HB1613 would grant tuition waivers to eligible students enrolled at community colleges. While we support the intent of this measure, we offer the following amendments proposed by Hawaii Coalition for Immigrant Rights:

Very Rev. Walter Brownridge  
Statewide President

Patrick Zukemura  
Oahu President

Napua Amina  
Maui President

Keith Webster  
Statewide Treasurer

Rev. Piula Ala'ilima  
Oahu Representative

Karen Ginoza  
Oahu Representative

Kehaulani Filimoe'atu  
Maui Representative

Rev. Ed Gazmen  
Maui Representative

Thelma Akita-Kealoha  
Maui Representative

R. Leotele Togafau  
Executive Director

Rev. Tasha Kama  
Maui Lead Organizer

Khara Jabola-Carolus  
HCIR Lead Organizer

Rev. Stan Bain  
HCIR Organizer

"§304A- Community college tuition waiver.

(1) ~~The person is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the board;~~

(2) The person ~~[has been]~~ is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 ~~[prior to]~~ at the time of applying for the waiver;

(3) ~~The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State;~~

(5) The person maintains ~~[satisfactory academic progress as determined by the community college in which the person is enrolled]~~ cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted;

(8) The person is under the age of ~~[twenty-six]~~ twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program;

(9) The person completes and submits to the board of regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and accepts all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application.

We also recommend eliminating Section 2 of the bill which would limit the scope of tuition-free community colleges to counties with less than 100,000 residents.

Free community college is a bold concept that guarantees long-term benefits. Enacting this legislation would open the door to many of Hawai'i's residents who find themselves unemployed, or without a post-secondary education. It is estimated that by 2020, "35 percent of job openings will require at least a bachelor's degree and 30 percent will require some college or an associate's degree."<sup>1</sup> In addition to creating a stronger workforce, this bill would also help to reduce the amount of student debt that many young professionals carry with them after college.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1613. Feel free to contact FACE at [info@facehawaii.org](mailto:info@facehawaii.org).

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<sup>1</sup> See "FACT SHEET – White House Unveils America's College Promise Proposal: Tuition-Free Community College for Responsible Students" at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/09/fact-sheet-white-house-unveils-america-s-college-promise-proposal-tuitio>

January 31, 2016

Dear Chair Choy, Vice-Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha, and thank you for considering this testimony.

Approving H.B. 1613 will grant tuition waivers to eligible students at the community colleges as a pilot project to begin on Kaua'i. Educational attainment is at the heart of economic justice. A robust economy in Hawai'i that supports sustainable industries depends on a well-educated workforce. While I enthusiastically support H.B. 1613, I urge you to consider the following amendments proposed by the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights:

"§304A- Community college tuition waiver. . . .

(1) ~~The person is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the board;~~

(2) ~~The person [has been]~~ is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 [prior to] at the time of applying for the waiver;

(3) ~~The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State;~~

. . . .

(5) ~~The person maintains [satisfactory academic progress as determined by the community college in which the person is enrolled]~~ cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted;

. . . .

(8) ~~The person is under the age of [twenty-six]~~ twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program;

(9) The person completes and submits to the board of regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and accepts all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application.

I also recommend the elimination of Section 2 of the bill, which would limit tuition-free community college to counties with less than 100,000 residents. A cost analysis of the waiver program may be complex and daunting but I look to your leadership in meeting the challenge of funding by working with administrators and advocates over the next weeks. Kaua'i would be a great pilot, but other parts of our state should also benefit from this tuition waiver program.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1613.

Sincerely,

Natalie Nimmer  
Harris United Methodist Church  
Hawaii Coalition for Immigrant Rights

February 1, 2016

Dear Chair Choy, Vice-Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education,

H.B. 1613, if enacted, would grant tuition waivers to eligible students at the community colleges as a pilot project to begin on Kauai. Access to education is at the core of economic justice and a thriving economy in Hawaii that supports sustainable industries. While I support H.B. 1613, I have reservations regarding several provisions and urge favorable consideration of the following amendments proposed by the Hawaii Coalition for Immigrant Rights:

**§304A- Community college tuition waiver. . .**

(1) ~~The person is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the board;~~

(2) The person [~~has been~~] is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 [prior to] at the time of applying for the waiver;

(3) ~~The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State;~~

. . .

(5) The person maintains [~~satisfactory academic progress as determined by the community college in which the person is enrolled~~] cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted;

. . .

(8) The person is under the age of [~~twenty-six~~] twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program;

(9) The person completes and submits to the board of regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and accepts all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application.

I also recommend the elimination of Section 2 of the bill, which would limit tuition-free community college to counties with less than 100,000 residents. A cost analysis of the waiver program may be complex and daunting but I look to your leadership in meeting the challenge of funding by working with administrators and advocates over the next weeks.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1613.

Sincerely,

Deanna Espinas (cell: 228-6345)  
Hawaii Coalition for Immigrant Rights

To: Chair Isaac Choy; Vice-Chair Linda Ichiyama  
From: Khara Jabola-Carolus, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
Hrg: H. Cmtee. on Higher Education, Tues., February 2, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in Rm. 309  
Re: **Testimony in Support of H.B. 1613, Relating to Post-Secondary Education**

---

**Dear Chair Choy and Members of the Committee,**

On behalf of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights, the immigration arm of Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE), I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify. The Coalition strongly supports H.B. 1613, which would initiate a pilot project to grant tuition waivers to qualifying students at the community colleges.

The Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights is the only organization in the State that is devoted to providing systemic advocacy to advance immigrant rights. We represent newcomer youth and first-generation-in-college students. We know that immigrant youth are more likely to be poorer than their U.S.-born, non-Native Hawaiian peers. We seek to encourage full-time enrollment in community college, and state investment in students who need tuition-free college the most.

Community college is generally considered a low-cost option; however, community college students have fewer resources at their disposal than their counterparts at four-year institutions, and tuition is continually rising without wages keeping apace. For example, at Kaua'i Community College (KCC), tuition has doubled since the year 2000 and is increasing at an annual rate of 14.8 percent. Tuition is a growing hurdle to student success.

We should not divide those struggling to enter our workforce as competitive candidates into "homegrown" and "foreign," i.e., code for "deserving" and "undeserving" of access to higher education. The true sticker price of community college includes the cost of textbooks, fees, and core living expenses. The yearly cost of attendance at KCC totals \$15,620, with tuition comprising just 17 percent (\$2,736) of the actual cost of going to community college in Hawai'i. The other costs of attending community college are far more likely to prove a barrier to student success than tuition. The removal of the tuition barrier will not incentivize low-income mainland and foreign individuals to uproot to the state with the highest cost of living in the United States.

For these reasons, we submit the following amendments to H.B. 1613:

**"§304A- Community college tuition waiver. . . .**

(1) ~~The person is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the board;~~

(2) The person ~~[has been]~~ is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 ~~[prior to]~~ at the time of applying for the waiver;

(3) ~~The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State;~~

. . .

(5) The person maintains ~~[satisfactory academic progress as determined by the community college in which the person is enrolled]~~ cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted;

. . .

(8) The person is under the age of [~~twenty-six~~] twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program;

(9) The person completes and submits to the board of regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and accepts all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application;

We also ask that you strike Section 2 in its entirety, and expand the waiver program statewide such as the proposal captured in H.B 2070. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1613.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus



January 31, 2016

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Isaac W. Choy, Chair  
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education

From: **Hawaii Public Health Association**

Subject: **SUPPORT – HB1613 COMMUNITY COLLEGES; TUITION WAIVER**

Hearing: February 02, 2016 at 2:00pm at State Capitol Room 309

The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) is an association of over 600 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA support the passage of **HB1613** which grants tuition waivers to eligible students at the community colleges as a pilot project to begin on Kaua'i. Access to education is at the core of economic justice and a thriving economy in Hawaii that supports sustainable industries. Although the HPHA is in support of HB1613, there are several provisions we would like for you to consider, proposed by the Hawaii Coalition for immigrant Rights:

§304A-Community college tuition waiver:

(1) The person is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the board.

(2) The person [has been] is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 [prior to] at the time of applying for the waiver.

(3) The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State.

(5) The person maintains [satisfactory academic progress as determined



by the community college in which the person is enrolled] cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted.

(8) The person is under the age of [twenty-six] twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program.

(9) The person completes and submits to the Board of Regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid application and accepts all state and federal-aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of **HB1613**.

Respectfully submitted,

Hoce Kalkas, MPH  
HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Chair



February 1, 2016

Dear Chair Choy, Vice-Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elena Clariza. I am the Philippine Studies Librarian at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am sending you this testimony in support of H.B. 1613. H.B. 1613, if enacted, would grant tuition waivers to eligible students at the community colleges as a pilot project to begin on Kaua'i. Access to education is at the core of economic justice and a thriving economy in Hawai'i that supports sustainable industries. While I support H.B. 1613, I have reservations regarding several provisions and urge favorable consideration of the following amendments proposed by the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights:

"§304A- Community college tuition waiver. . . .

(1) ~~The person is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the board;~~

(2) The person ~~[has been]~~ is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 ~~[prior to]~~ at the time of applying for the waiver;

(3) ~~The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State;~~

. . . .

(5) The person maintains ~~[satisfactory academic progress as determined by the community college in which the person is enrolled]~~ cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted;

. . . .

(8) The person is under the age of ~~[twenty-six]~~ twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program;

(9) The person completes and submits to the board of regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and accepts all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application.

I also recommend the elimination of Section 2 of the bill, which would limit tuition-free community college to counties with less than 100,000 residents. A cost analysis of the waiver program may be complex and daunting but I look to your leadership in meeting the challenge of funding by working with administrators and advocates over the next weeks.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1613.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elena Clariza".

Elena Clariza, M.A., MLISc  
Philippine Studies Librarian  
University of Hawaii  
[elenaclariza@gmail.com](mailto:elenaclariza@gmail.com)  
c. (808)971-1178

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 12:52 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** annsfreed@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1613 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM

**HB1613**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of this measure. Hawaii is increasingly becoming a state of have's and have nots. If passed this measure would help those on the lower end of the economic scale have a way up. It is in the best interest of our state and indeed our nation, to have an educated populace and a large middle class that is made possible through good public education. Mahalo for allowing my testimony, Ann S. Freed

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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To: Hon. Isaac Choy, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education  
From: Ashley Galacgac  
Hrg: H. Cmtee. on Higher Education, Tues., February 2, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in Rm. 309  
Re: **Testimony in Support of H.B. 1613, Relating to Post-Secondary Education**

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**Dear Chair Choy and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Ashley Galacgac. I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawai'i. H.B. 1613, if enacted, would grant tuition waivers to eligible students at the community colleges as a pilot project to begin on Kaua'i. I hope this start will provide the foundation to quickly extend to all community colleges in Hawai'i. Access to education is at the core of economic justice and a thriving economy in Hawai'i that supports sustainable industries. This particular investment will have positive generational effects in improving the lives of local families. While I support H.B. 1613, I have reservations regarding several provisions and urge favorable consideration of the following amendments proposed by the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights:

**"§304A- Community college tuition waiver. . . .**

(1) ~~The person is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the board;~~

(2) The person ~~[has been]~~ is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 ~~[prior to]~~ at the time of applying for the waiver;

(3) ~~The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State;~~

. . . .

(5) The person maintains ~~[satisfactory academic progress as determined by the community college in which the person is enrolled]~~ cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted;

. . . .

(8) The person is under the age of ~~[twenty-six]~~ twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program;

(9) The person completes and submits to the board of regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and accepts all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application.

I also recommend the elimination of Section 2 of the bill, which would limit tuition-free community college to counties with less than 100,000 residents. A cost analysis of the waiver program may be complex, but I look to your leadership in meeting the challenge of funding by working with administrators and advocates over the next weeks. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1613.

Me ke aloha,  
Ashley Galacgac

## ichiyama2-Brandon

---

**From:** Noel Kent <noelk@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2016 6:21 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1613

I would like to support 1613 espacially given my experience as a forty year faculty at UH Manoa. Access to education for lower income students is both socially just and in Hawai'i's economic interest. I would provide a waiver to those 27 or younger who are residents and strike out anything about being a high school graduate. Please enact this pilot bill. Noel Kent Professor

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 11:39 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1613 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM\*

**HB1613**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 12:28 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** wctanaka@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1613 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM

### **HB1613**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this apt investment in the health and prosperity of our islands, and please maximize its impact by removing citizenship restrictions that may exclude some of our hardest-working local students, raised and invested in Hawai'i as their only home. As history has shown, society benefits when it provides higher education opportunities for all of its members, and Hawai'i deserves no less. For example, the twentieth century has often been termed the "American Century," where the United States established itself as a world leader in industry, science, music, literature, and critical thought. None of this could have happened without the massive investment in public education, and higher education, that provided millions of students with the unprecedented opportunity to develop their skills and innate powers to fully contribute to society's benefit. Engineers, scientists, doctors, writers, poets – the millions of educated individuals, including immigrants, who brought the United States its unprecedented global prestige -- could not have accomplished such an incredible feat without the benefits provided by public education. The Internet itself was developed from research conducted by a public university professor, who himself was educated by public schools. Taking the next step and allowing all of Hawai'i's students -- including, and perhaps especially, DREAMers, refugees, and other immigrant children -- to access the education they need to fully contribute to society is an investment that will benefit all of Hawai'i. Mahalo nui for your consideration of this matter!

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ichiyama2-Brandon

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 5:21 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** joyamarshall0416@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1613 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM\*

**HB1613**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 3:56 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** starmer@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1613 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM\*

**HB1613**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments:

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**LATE**

**Dear Chair Choy, Vice-Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Stephanie Cacal, a current undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and I believe that the enactment of H.B. 1613 is very important for a thriving economy in Hawaii. H.B. 1613 would provide tuition waivers to eligible students at community colleges, as a pilot project to begin on Kaua'i. Providing this waiver would give access to education for many people who face financial barriers and cannot afford the high demands of tuition. With free education, many students on Hawaii will further their education, attaining more knowledge and skills, which in the end would create better workers to build better sustainable industries for the state of Hawaii.

Although I support H.B. 1613, I do encourage the revision of the following amendments proposed by the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights:

**“§304A- Community college tuition waiver. . . .**

- (1) ~~The person is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the board;~~
- (2) The person ~~[has been]~~ is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 ~~[prior to]~~ at the time of applying for the waiver;
- (3) ~~The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State;~~
- . . .
- (5) The person maintains ~~[satisfactory academic progress as determined by the community college in which the person is enrolled]~~ cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted;
- . . .
- (8) The person is under the age of ~~[twenty-six]~~ twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program;
- (9) The person completes and submits to the board of regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and accepts all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application.

I also would suggest the elimination of Section 2 of the bill, which limits tuition-free community college to counties with less than 100,000 residents. A cost analysis of the waiver program may be complex and daunting but I look to your leadership in meeting the challenge of funding by working with administrators and advocates over the next weeks.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1613.

Aloha,

Stephanie Cacal

**LATE**

Dear Chair Choy, Voice-Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Debieh Miguel. I am first generation college student and a standing senior at the University of Hawai'i West Oahu (UHWO). Before attending the UHWO I had previously attended Leeward Community College earning my associates degree in Liberal Arts. From my previous schooling, experiences and working class family background this bill would be beneficial to students will similar circumstances.

H.B1613, if enacted it will grant tuition waivers to community college students but as a pilot you'll be using Kaua'i Community College. I believe that this bill will be a gateway to higher education and more job opportunities with the acquired degree. Also it would help those that are in need of financial funds that would support their college education. This will benefit the future of Hawai'i by sustainability and employment. I support H.B 1613 but I also recommend certain revisions that would benefit these upcoming students.

§304A- Community college tuition waiver. . . .

(1) ~~The person is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the board;~~

(2) The person ~~[has been]~~ is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 ~~[prior to]~~ at the time of applying for the waiver;

(3) ~~The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State; . . .~~

(5) The person maintains ~~[satisfactory academic progress as determined by the community college in which the person is enrolled]~~ cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted; . . .

(8) The person is under the age of ~~[twenty-six]~~ twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program;

(9) The person completes and submits to the board of regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and accepts all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application.

Thank you for you time and opportunity to testify to support H.B 1613.

Sincerely,  
Debieh Miguel

ichiyama2-Brandon

**LATE**

**From:** Jeffrey Acido <jeffrey.acido@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:40 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1613

Aloha Chair Choy and Members of the Committee,

Thank you introducing HB 1613 a bill whose time has come. I am a son of working class parents, my mother a housekeeper in a waikiki hotel and my father a janitor. More relevant, I am a community college product, having gone to Honolulu and Kapiolani Community College, and having worked at Leeward Community College, I know first hand the tremendous economic and social benefits of a community college education.

I testify today in support of this bill with the proposed amendments by the Hawaii Coalition for Immigrant Rights.

With the proposed amendments the spirit of this bill would surely help communities who are in dire need of financial respite. At the time I was attending honolulu community college, I remember my tuition to be around 500 dollars a semester—even at \$1440 now at 12 credits—I still think it is a reasonable charge. Having said that, 1440 dollars is about a month of rent for a 1 bedroom in Honolulu—and the prices are soaring higher and higher. If given the choice between living on the street for a month or forfeiting a semester—I think most of our working communities would rather have a roof over their heads.

I ask you to remove one less barrier to a higher education, one less barrier to higher wages, and one less barrier in giving our young people a chance to live out their dreams in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Jeffrey Tangonan Acido, PhD  
HB1613

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*“I believe that there will ultimately be a clash between the oppressed and those that do the oppressing. I believe that there will be a clash between those who want freedom, justice and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the systems of exploitation.” — Malcolm X*