

# HB1703 HD2

## Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Report Title: University of Hawaii at Manoa; Students; Mental Health Services; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Appropriates moneys for the University of Hawaii to hire psychologists and case managers to provide student mental health services. (HB1703 HD2)

Companion: SB2767

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA/CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): CHOY (Introduced by request of another party)



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

By  
Dr. Lori Ideta  
Vice Chancellor for Students  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 1703 HD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts, thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is in complete support of this measure that establishes three (3) full-time psychologists and one (1) full-time case manager at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

As you are well aware, college students are facing greater and more complex challenges in their personal and academic lives. Presenting issues amongst our students include anxiety, stress management, and suicidal ideations. We work hard to attend to all of our students. Our current team of psychologists, psychiatrists, and interns do an amazing job with limited resources.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa currently has 6.5 faculty positions, 1 temporary faculty position, 3 post-doc therapists, 3 doctoral Interns, and 2 doctoral practicum trainees. As the total number of students serviced each year increases, in the 2014-15 school year, the University has serviced approximately 1,300 students for close to 8,000 hours of therapy. The number of times students have sought services range from one intake appointment to over 30 individual therapy appointments. In the Fall 2015 semester, 559 intake appointments were scheduled, 296 emergency Blue Line appointments were scheduled, and 2591 therapy appointments were scheduled. On average, there are 32 hours each week dedicated to intakes, 40 hours of emergency Blue Line, and over 160 psychotherapy appointments available to undergraduate and graduate students.

However, the waitlist, which is for non-urgent clients, had 67 students on the list as of November 12, 2015, with an average number of days on the list being 7.17 days. As of February 01, 2016, 33 students are on the waitlist with an average numbers of days on the list is 16.06 days.

The demand for mental health services have increased across the country. According to data from the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment Fall 2014 Reference Group with in the last 12 months, 54% felt

overwhelming anxiety, 32.6% felt so depressed that it was difficult to function, and 8.1% seriously considered suicide. This data increased in the Spring 2015 Reference Group, with 56.9% felt overwhelming anxiety, 34.5% felt so depressed it was difficult to function, and 8.9% seriously considered suicide.

Any efforts to increase services to our students would be very much appreciated. These new positions will help to alleviate the current heavy workload on our therapists and increase our abilities to reach out to the campus through proactive educational efforts. Your investment in the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa will have a long lasting impact and will create a legacy of those who supported the students of higher education in our state.

We support the intent of this legislation provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Budget.

Thank you for your consideration.



**Graduate Student Organization  
University of Hawai`i at Mānoa**

Hemenway Hall 212 • 2445 Campus Road • Honolulu, HI 96822

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 224

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi

**Re: Support for HB 1703, HD2 – Relating to the University of Hawaii**

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Jonathan Dial, and I am writing on behalf and as the President of the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa (UHM) Graduate Student Organization (GSO), which represents the approximately 5,000 graduate students at the UHM campus.

I am writing in strong support of HB 1703, HD2 which appropriates moneys for UHM to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

Whether as an undergraduate or graduate student, the pursuit of higher education is a demanding and highly stressful endeavour. As in any organization, it is vital that the psychological and emotional needs of the individuals within it are met in order for maximum productivity to be achieved. Students especially are in a vulnerable situation, as they may be far from support networks, away from home for the first time, and subject to strong social, financial, and academic pressures. As such, it is imperative that the University be able to provide adequate mental and psychological support services to all its students. Currently, the Counseling and Student Development Center at UHM is understaffed and unable to meet the needs of those who need help. For these reasons, we strongly support HB 1703, HD2.

If you have any questions, I am able to provide further clarification on our stance on this matter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Dial  
UH Mānoa Graduate Student Organization, President



# ASUH

Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i

YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Time: 1:30 PM

Place: Conference Room 224

**Re: Support of HB 1703 Relating to the University of Hawai'i**

My name is Kelly Zakimi and I currently serve as the President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH), the Mānoa undergraduate student government representing roughly 14,000 full-time undergraduates. Today, I am writing on behalf of the ASUH in strong support of HB 1703, which appropriates funds to hire psychologists and case managers to provide student mental health services.

On March 9, 2016, the ASUH Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 21-16: In Support of Increased Mental Health Services at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The "Be It Resolved" statements of the Resolution, which outlines the conclusions of the ASUH, are as follows:

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the ASUH believes that hiring more positions at the CSDC offers a tangible step toward prioritizing the mental and emotional well-being of UHM students; and,

*BE IT RESOLVED*, the ASUH is confident that the advancement of mental health services will generate a positive impact on academic success and retention for individuals seeking counseling, as demonstrated in national surveys; and,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, the ASUH supports HB 1703 and SB 2767 and appreciates the Hawai'i State Legislature's efforts to meet the holistic needs of college students and protect the integrity of the UHM community; and,

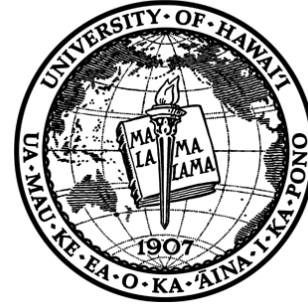
BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, the ASUH humbly requests the Hawai'i State Legislature to incorporate appropriations listed in HB 1703 and SB 2767 in the 2016 Session Budget to help ensure the permanency of the additional CSDC positions.

Please support HB 1703 and stand with students at UH Mānoa in supporting increased student mental health services. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Zakimi, ASUH President  
Email Address: [zakimik@hawaii.edu](mailto:zakimik@hawaii.edu)

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016  
Time: 1:30 PM  
Place: Conference Room 224



**Re: IN SUPPORT OF HB 1703 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

As the University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus – comprised of two delegates from each campus’ student government – we represent roughly 55,000 students in the University of Hawai‘i System, the only public institution of higher education in the state. The Caucus submits its testimony in strong support of HB 1703, which provides appropriated funds psychologists and case managers to provide student mental health services. We also humbly request that the number of positions (three full-time psychologists and one full-time case manager) be reinstated in the bill.

As HB 1703 states, mental health is a growing national concern. According to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health 2015 Annual Report, college students are reporting increasing levels of distress and in particular, three types of self-reported distress have demonstrated consistent growth over the past five years: depression, anxiety, and social anxiety. This increase in self-reported distress parallels the increase in students requesting counseling services across the U.S. In Hawai‘i, this rings true as well. Many are waitlisted because our campus counseling centers are not able to meet the increasing demand of services. This is potentially dangerous for those waitlisted individuals and for those around them, as the same 2015 Report suggests that students seeking services are more likely to endorse “threat to self” indicators. More direct and timely assistance is pivotal.

The Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC) at UH Mānoa is severely understaffed, with the number of specialists being significantly less than the national guidelines. However, this understaffing is not solely detrimental to Mānoa students, as it harms students across the UH System as well. When needed, the CSDC lends its specialists and services to other campuses. As the Student Caucus representing students across all ten campuses, we respectfully request that the new psychologists and case managers also extend their help to other campuses when necessary. Thus, passing HB 1703 will provide more sufficient resources for students beyond the Mānoa campus.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Once again, the University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus strongly supports HB 1703.

Sincerely,  
Melinda Alles  
UH Student Caucus Chair

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [NuWayveUnl@gmail.com](mailto:NuWayveUnl@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1703 on Mar 22, 2016 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2016 6:31:41 PM

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**HB1703**

Submitted on: 3/18/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 22, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Terrell Trice	NuWayve Unlimited	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 6:57 PM  
**To:** HEA Testimony  
**Cc:** alyssa.simbahon@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1703 on Mar 22, 2016 13:30PM\*

**HB1703**

Submitted on: 3/19/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 22, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alyssa Simbahon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 6:58 PM  
**To:** HEA Testimony  
**Cc:** grantrt@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1703 on Mar 22, 2016 13:30PM\*

**HB1703**

Submitted on: 3/19/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 22, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Grant Takara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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# Kevin Wilson

Individual College Student

Testimony HB 1703 HD2

✉Email: [kwilson808@gmail.com](mailto:kwilson808@gmail.com)

☎Telephone: (808) 227-0029

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Tuesday, March 22, 2016

To: Senator Taniguchi, Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

From: Kevin Wilson

Re: HB 1703, HD2-RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

Position: Support

Good afternoon Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts. My name is Kevin Wilson, a current student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Leeward Community College (LCC) alumni. I write in support of HB 1703 Relating to the University of Hawaii.

The main office for personal counseling services is the Counseling & Student Development Center (CSDC). CSDC is a division under the Office of Student Affairs. Two benefits of the CSDC is location and access to services.

The CSDC is located in the heart of campus at the Queen Liliuokalani Center for Student Services (QLC). QLC is the main building where the offices of student services is under one roof. CSDC can work with other offices to help a student reach their academic and personal goals.

A benefit for UHM students is access to services. Personal counseling and emergency services do not require health insurance. In a time of need, the office is available to UHM students. CSDC does charge for certain services such as psychological assessments and psychiatric services.

The CSDC is a great tool for students to utilize on their higher education journey. As a past client of the CSDC, I benefited from the services offered. This bill will address the issue of students on a waitlist. Going forward, this bill will set the foundation for the CSDC to accommodate more students as enrollment increases.

Thank you,  
Kevin Wilson

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mryan603@hawaii.edu](mailto:mryan603@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1703 on Mar 22, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2016 11:52:50 AM

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**HB1703**

Submitted on: 3/21/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 22, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill to help students in need of emotional support at UH. Life as a student can be extremely difficult in today's day and age, and these people need your compassion and empathy in this matter. Thank you and aloha!

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To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Time: 1:30 PM

Place: Conference Room 224

Re: Support of HB 1703 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Todd Simeroth and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing in strong support of HB 1703, which appropriates funding for psychologist and case manager positions to provide students mental health services. Previously, this bill reasonably proposed funding for three psychologist positions and one case manager, which, although still below national guidelines, would provide a significant positive impact for our community.

Over the last three years that I have studied here, I have encountered among many of my peers a common state of struggle with the various difficulties brought on by our often-confining environment. I have unfortunately seen this culminate into experiences of seclusion, overwhelming, and desperation. It is not an element unique to those residing in student housing, nor to those without family nearby, nor to those of any particular study or demographic.

I have had friends leave the university because they could not overcome these feelings. I have seen several peers in student leadership positions resign because they could not manage the growing stresses of the expectations put upon us. I have personally met individuals adversely affected by the incidents of our peers resorting to gruesome self-harm, as recently as within the past few weeks.

It is clear that there is an ongoing and pressing need for additional mental health services at our campus. Students who need professional psychological help should not have to wait days or weeks to receive counseling, or simply be left to manage their own conflicts to detrimental ends. The funding for the positions sought by HB 1703 can help resolve these hardships and protect the integrity of our community, and that is why I strongly support HB 1703.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Simeroth  
simeroth@hawaii.edu  
808.366.5469