
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. (a) The legislature finds that poor mental
2 health is a growing national concern for college students.
3 College counseling centers are increasingly understaffed.
4 According to a 2011 Government Relations Update by the American
5 Psychological Association:

6 (1) Since the mid-1990's, there has been a noticeable
7 increase in the number of students seeking help for
8 serious mental health problems;

9 (2) Based on a 2010 survey by American College Health
10 Association, over forty-five per cent of students
11 reported feeling hopeless, and over thirty per cent of
12 students reported feeling so depressed that it was
13 difficult to function;

14 (3) Depression and anxiety are consistently the most
15 common mental health disorders treated at college
16 counseling centers;



1 (4) The numbers of students struggling with eating
2 disorders, substance abuse, and self injury have
3 increased; and

4 (5) Because of the growing need for services, over
5 seventy-six per cent of college counseling directors
6 reported that they reduced the number of visits for
7 non-crisis patients to cope with the increasing
8 overall number of clients.

9 (b) The legislature further finds that at the University
10 of Hawaii at Manoa:

11 (1) College is a ripe environment for certain disorders to
12 manifest;

13 (2) The average enrollment is twenty thousand students;

14 (3) There are only seven and one-half tenured track
15 psychologist positions (7.5 FTE), even though the
16 national guideline is one licensed psychologist for
17 every one thousand to one thousand five hundred
18 students;

19 (4) The non-urgent waitlist for individual psychotherapy
20 services at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's
21 counseling and student development center begins by



H.B. NO. 1703

1 September of each year, and at peak times, a wait for
2 an initial intake appointment can range from five days
3 to two and a half weeks; and

4 (5) The counseling and student development center is
5 losing staff as a result of uncompetitive pay, since
6 staff members are leaving to work in private practice;
7 and

8 (6) There is a need for a case manager to help with
9 consistent follow-ups for student mental health
10 clients.

11 (c) The purpose of this Act is to advance students' mental
12 health treatment by appropriating moneys to:

13 (1) Establish three full-time psychologist positions (3.0
14 FTE); and

15 (2) Establish one case full-time case manager position
16 (1.0 FTE);

17 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
21 University of Hawaii at Manoa to hire three full-time equivalent



H.B. NO. 1703

1 psychologists (3.0 FTE) to provide student mental health
2 services.

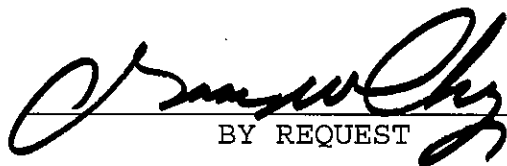
3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
4 Hawaii at Manoa for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
8 University of Hawaii at Manoa to hire one full-time equivalent
9 case manager (1.0 FTE) to provide student mental health
10 services.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
12 Hawaii at Manoa for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.
14

INTRODUCED BY:


BY REQUEST

JAN 21 2016



H.B. NO. 1703

Report Title:

University of Hawaii at Manoa; Students; Mental Health Services; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for the University of Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

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



Ciara Kahahane
P.O. Box 11862
Honolulu, HI 96822

Aloha,

I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I began my education in Fall 2012, and I am now a senior. In my second semester of college, I became extremely depressed, even dangerously so. It was through the Counseling and Student Development Center on campus that I was first diagnosed with depressive disorder and received counseling. In my junior year, I helped to found a student organization on campus called NAMI On Campus, which is dedicated to providing education and support for mental health issues in the campus community.

I would like to submit testimony in full support of HB 1703. Though the counseling center was instrumental to my recovery, it was clear to me that their services could have been improved by a larger staff and better funding. At times, it took me weeks to see a therapist or psychiatrist, even though I had serious problems. In fact, it was so difficult to get help through the CSDC that I eventually sought therapy from private practitioners.

The CSDC is an incredibly important resource on campus. It currently operates with far less than the number of counselors recommended by the national standard. College is a difficult time for many students, and the stress involved with pursuing a higher education can lead to extreme emotional distress. These students need to be able to get help when they need it – that means *when they need it*, not two weeks after they need it, once they filter through the enormous waiting list at the counseling center.

Thank you, and I appreciate your consideration. I am sure that you will make a decision on this bill that considers the future health, safety, and wellbeing of Hawai'i's students.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,
Ciara Kahahane
Executive Director, NAMI On Campus at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



Date: February 2nd, 2016
Time: 2:00PM
Place: Conference Room 309

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

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

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

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, which seeks to appropriate moneys for the University of Hawaii 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.

If you have any questions, I am willing and able to provide further clarification on our stance on this matter.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Dial
UH Mānoa Graduate Student Organization, President

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 12:08 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: mrbui1993@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1703 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM*

HB1703

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Bui	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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To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

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

My name is Jessica Chen and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am writing in strong support of HB 1703, which appropriates funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

As a pre-medical student, I have seen many of my peers overstressed and tired due to hours of studying and panicking. As you well know, getting into medical school is no easy task. Many of my friends panic over whether or not to pursue medicine. I have seen students who ultimately give up after failing an exam. I have seen friends who resort to poor life choices to relieve the stress.

I have been in those shoes. I have panicked after getting a C on my math exam. I have cried because I felt like I wasn't good enough. I have stressed because I know that grades are important when applying to medical school. Regardless of the major, I firmly believe that students should have the opportunity to speak to someone in a comfortable environment. It is not easy dealing with these struggles alone.

I strongly support HB 1703 for the students who need professional psychological help. The bill's funding for positions to provide mental health services can resolve mental health issues on campus. No student should have to resort to dealing with mental health problems on their own.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Chen
jwchen@hawaii.edu
808-541-7234

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

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

My name is Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am writing in strong support of HB 1703, which appropriates funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

UH Manoa's Counseling and Student Development center is located in our Queen Liliuokalani Center for Student Services Building. I have a part time job in this building, and during my work experience, I noticed that counseling on campus is a service seemingly difficult to receive, especially when there are time sensitive external factors. In addition to students who are in need of consistent counseling, there is also a population of students who are required to make appointments with our counselors at our Counseling and Student Development center. I noticed that those who are required to make appointments with a counselor are unable to get counseling as soon as they are required to for their well being. There were times I've heard that the soonest available appointments were weeks to a month later when some students are required to meet with a counselor by a particular deadline (for cases when a student needs to complete counseling before getting a hold placed on their UH account for example) or even when students all of a sudden discover news that has impacted them and are in need of remedial counseling to speak with someone. With this lack of availability in counseling, it can negatively impact how soon a student is in need of counseling, which can lead into a backlog of events that students need to take care of after counseling.

From this student standpoint, it is obvious that there is a need for more assistance (in terms of getting more readily available counselors) in our Counseling and Student Development center. An increase in availability for counseling by funding more psychologists to work at our counseling center will help decrease this long wait that students have been facing and open up appointments earlier, and open up appointments for more students. I look forward to this positive change, as it will bring a peace of mind to myself and friends of those need or are seeking counseling on campus. I strongly support HB 1703 and its intention to fund more additions to our student mental health services in order to help improve the overall well-being of our students.

Respectfully submitted,

Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz
jl dc2@hawaii.edu
808.594.8942

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

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

My name is David B. Enriquez and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am writing in strong support of HB 1703, which appropriates funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

As a recent high school graduate, the transition to attending university is filled with stories. These stories from either your siblings or from several friends, contain the extreme emotional highs and lows one can feel throughout college. As my colleagues and I have listened, we realized that it was inevitable for all of us to experience these extreme low emotional states. Our most recent trial dealing with our first round of exams hit us all hard. These experiences ranged from, comforting one another through phones, or some of my friends just staring off into space.

Yet, this problem permeates to various demographics to the point that there is a subtle gloom amongst campus during these trying times. There are several peers who do push through, however, others are tormented by self-seclusion. To have at the very least an avenue to voice these concerns would be a great help. However, with the lack of adequate services and awareness at UH Manoa, these services cannot be utilized to the best of their abilities.

In order to serve such a huge student population, the funding for the positions, I support the funding for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services through HB 1703.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Enriquez
davidbe@hawaii.edu
808.389.1531

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 1:24 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: maggieh@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1703 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM*

HB1703

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maggie Hinshaw	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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I was a person who allowed herself to be defined by her grades starting in high school and lasted throughout college. In high school, I was a 4.0 student who always put school first. This changed in college. The pressure from my parents consistently saying that you need to get good grades for a good future and from my peers who were doing way better than me pushed me into depression. My tests, no matter how hard I studied, could never get higher than a C. My grade point average was a 2.8 in my freshman year. This was the first time I ever got a C and I let that define the person I was. I felt like I could amount to nothing and I had no future because I had a few bad grades. I used to cry myself to sleep and soon enough, I got worse. I even convinced myself I was okay. In front of my friends and family, I always faked a smile or a laughter. No one knew the pain I went through and experienced during my first few years of college. Finally, I met someone who helped me through it all, but it wasn't the Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC). I didn't even know this resource on campus existed throughout my freshmen year. I didn't learn about it until one of my friends told me that he started taking a therapist. I don't want anyone to experience the feelings I was forced into. I was never taught how to deal with stress, depression, or anything in High School and College was the same. The CSDC could help with the increasing problem of mental health issues in the college population and could increase programs that could be offered to our college students.

Miana L abrador

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 HB1703 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM*

HB1703

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Brandon

From: Susan Schultz <sschultz@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 9:17 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of HB 1703

I am a Professor at UHM, as well as head of the Compassion Hui, which includes over 50 faculty, staff, and students from English, JABSOM, Public Health, CTAHR, Math, History, and many other departments. We advocate for better mental health awareness on our campus.

There is a mental health crisis nation-wide among college students. There is also one at UHM. Increasingly, I find that my students are suffering from depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, as well as severe family problems, including grief over dying parents and grandparents. I refer them to the counseling center, even though I know the center is over-worked. Because it's over-worked, the CDSC absolutely needs more counselors, as well as a case manager.

As head of the Compassion Hui, I hear stories from all over campus to the same effect. I have also done a lot of research on other institutions facing similar issues. We are not alone.

I strongly favor passages of HB 1703. I would be there in person to say so, but I teach at that hour.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Schultz

Susan M. Schultz
Professor of English
University of Hawai`i-Mānoa
Editor, Tinfish Press

tinfishpress.com
<http://tinfisheditor.blogspot.com>

Memory Cards: Traherne Series
<http://www.essaypress.org/ep-39/>

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

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 funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

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 senses 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 week.

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

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

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

My name is Grant Takara 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 funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

My testimony comes from personal experience. As a Regent Scholar and Mechanical Engineering student running two small businesses, the stress associated with such endeavors can have a detrimental impact on mental health, an aspect of well-being I had been taking for granted until my junior year in college.

While coping with anxiety and depression during the spring of 2015 I sought help from the counseling center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. There I found resources that fit my needs, but an extreme shortage of it. The wait time to see a counselor was estimated to be six weeks. I was fortunate to be financially well off enough to see an outside psychologist referred to me by the counseling center but not everyone else is as well off as I am.

Providing help in regards to mental health is a growing field and one gaining social acceptance. In the time since getting help I have learned how to manage stress and anxiety and pursue more meaningful work that contributes to the community. In short, seeking such professional expertise has allowed me to not only perform with higher potential but also become a role model for those who are also coping with the same health issues.

It is evident that there is an ongoing and urgent need for additional mental health services at our campus. Students who need professional psychological help should not have to wait 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 alleviate these hardships and protect the integrity of our community, and that is why I strongly support HB 1703.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Takara

grantrt@hawaii.edu
808.739.2366

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

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

My name is Madisyn Uekawa and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am writing in strong support of HB1703, which appropriates funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

A college campus, above all else, should thrive as an environment which supports and accommodates student needs. Mental health services plays a particularly large role in the well-being of students, and it highly impacts the course of their academic career and dictates their overall quality of life. It is essential that there be a resourceful center, adequate in quantity and excellent in quality, available to students on campus. I myself have tried to access the Counseling and Student Development Center when a distressful mental health related issue arose in our on-campus apartment last year. Unfortunately, the wait to get help was longer than I had expected it to be. No student should have to endure such a wait as help should be given as needed.

Again, I wholly support HB1703 and all that it can do for student needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Madisyn Uekawa
muekawa@hawaii.edu
(808) 990-0456

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

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

My name is Kelly Zakimi and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am also currently serving as the President of the ASUH, the Mānoa undergraduate student government. Today, I am writing personal testimony in strong support of HB 1703, which appropriates funds for three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

Mental health is becoming a national concern as the number of students seeking services at counseling centers is growing at a rapid rate. According to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health 2015 Annual Report, the average growth in number of students seeking services at counseling centers (+29.6%) was more than five times the growth rate of institutional enrollment (+5.6%). The Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC) at Mānoa has also felt the effects of the growing levels of students requesting mental health services. Although the CSDC does the best with what it has, many students are placed on the waitlist because the Center does not have the capacity to meet the influx of requests. With more staff, the CSDC can do more outreach and better serve undergraduates and graduates students alike.

When assessing the college experience, most look at academics or extra-curricular activities. These areas are wonderful and much needed, but the mental and emotional well-being of students often gets overlooked. By appropriating funds for our severely understaffed Counseling and Student Development Center, this bill takes tangible steps forward in prioritizing the mental health of students. 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
Email Address: zakimik@hawaii.edu



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

LATE

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

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

HB 1703 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, 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.

LATE

TESTIMONY BY Robert V. Cooney
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Higher Education
HOUSE Bill NO. 1703

I wish to express my strong support for this bill to provide much needed support for counseling services at UH Manoa. There is an epidemic of depression and anxiety at college campuses across the nation that too many times results in tragic consequences for vulnerable students. The availability of trained professionals to help students through periods of stress associated with the many changes in their lives and the inherent challenges of academic courses can be the determining factor in student success or failure. The evidence is clear that UH Manoa is woefully understaffed with respect to staff counselors. This results in excessive wait times for students in need and an inability of staff to reach out to students that may be reluctant to utilize the services. We all want our children to excel in their studies, but more importantly, we want them to survive and mature. When I was a graduate student two of my classmates, including my officemate, committed suicide. It is a devastating experience for those around them and anything we can do to reduce such a toll is money well spent. I urge you to pass HB 1703 in support of our children and their future.

Sincerely,



Robert V. Cooney, PhD
Professor, Dept. of Public Health Sciences
Chair, Manoa Faculty Senate

ichiyama2-Brandon

LATE

From: Katherine Kirk <californiak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 4:47 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 1703

Aloha,

I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Honolulu. I am writing in support of HB 1703. It would be great to have a larger staff to meet the mental health needs of UH students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Katherine Kirk, MFT

ichiyama2-Brandon

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 4:38 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: unheelim@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1703 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM*

HB1703

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Unhee Lim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ichiyama2-Brandon

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 2:06 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: kiekio.matteson@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1703 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM

HB1703

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
C K Matteson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Representative Choy and fellow committee members, I am writing to ask you to ensure the support and passage of HB1703, which will appropriate "moneys for the University of Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services." The UH mental health services system is overburdened, and students in crisis are currently placed on waiting lists for essential consultation and psychological support. It is clear from the many terrible and tragic instances of self-harm and harm to others on university campuses elsewhere that mental health among young people is a vital concern. Ensuring that students get the help they need in a timely fashion is a wise investment, because it helps identify and avoid more severe problems later on. Thank you for your support. CK Matteson

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

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:53 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: bp32@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1703 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM*

HB1703

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bret Polopolus-Meredith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:41 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: waimeavalleygirl@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1703 on Feb 2, 2016 14:01PM

HB1703

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
Bonnyjean Manini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB 1703. It is a definitely a need for our student population. Thank you.

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

LATE

From: Marguerite Butler <mbutler808@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 11:43 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB1703

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representative Choy and other members of the Higher Education Committee,

I am submitting personal testimony in support of HB1703.

I am a faculty member in the Biology department and interact with many undergraduate and graduate students each year. I am also the Vice Chair of the Manoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and we have been looking at the issue of Student deaths (suicides), student stress and whether our counseling services are adequate to meet demand.

We have found that there is a large unmet need, that the staffing of our counseling center is not adequate to meet the demand, and indeed that our staffing level is at about half of the minimum staffing recommended by standards of the profession given the size of our student body.

Furthermore, as a campus we do not even know how many suicides occur each year although it is certainly underreported.

Please support the funding of additional counselors and case managers for UHM. I believe from the discussions we've had the number of additional staff required is 6 to meet minimum recommended levels for our student body size.

Thank you,
Marguerite Butler

Dr. Marguerite A. Butler
Associate Professor

Department of Biology
2538 McCarthy Mall, Edmondson Hall 216
Honolulu, HI 96822

Office: 808-956-4713
Dept: 808-956-8617
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<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~mbutler>

LATE

Jade Sunouchi
1212 Punahou Street, Apt. 1808
Honolulu, HI 96826

February 2, 2016

Representative Isaac W. Choy
Chair, Higher Education
c/o hedtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: H.B. No. 1703

Report Title: University of Hawaii at Manoa; Students; Mental Health Services;

Appropriation Description: Appropriates moneys for the University of Hawaii to hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental health services.

Dear Rep. Choy:

Thank you for introducing House Bill No. 1703 for hearing on February 2, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. I respectfully regret not having submitted this testimony 24 hours prior to the hearing and am unable to attend said hearing.

After reviewing H.B. No. 1703, I support all parts of this bill and sincerely hopes it passes.

As a current UH West Oahu faculty member and graduate of UH Manoa, I advocate, as part of The Compassion Hui, for expanded professional, confidential, and affordable mental health and counseling services at UH Manoa that meet the needs of our students.

My interest in this initiative stems from having earned my B.A. and M.A. in English at UH Manoa while receiving regular counseling and psychiatry services at UH Manoa's Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC). If I had not received regular, at times weekly, counseling and psychiatry services, I would not have been well enough to successfully complete college and graduate school. Without the CSDC's services, I would not have had the professional support I needed to manage my chronic depression and anxiety.

Representative Isaac W. Choy

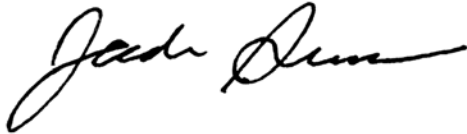
February 2, 2016

Page 2

Given UH Manoa's 18,000+ student population, it is urgent that UH Manoa receive additional funding and professional resources to address this growing demand for mental health services and counseling on campus that is proportionate to their student population. In times of crisis, students should not have to wait more than five business days for an appointment.

I applaud your efforts and thank you again for your time to introduce and hear this necessary bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jade Sunouchi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jade Sunouchi
Lecturer, UH West Oahu