



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

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

HB 2224 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of HB 2224 HD1, which would provide resources for the system wide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. The word "Pamantasan" is a Filipino word meaning "higher education". The Pamantasan Council, established in 1987, is open to all students, administrators, faculty and staff from the various UH campuses.

The Pamantasan Council addresses issues of representation, curriculum and research, partnerships with public schools, universities in the Philippines and other states, workforce development and community services. The Council holds annual and periodic workshops to identify priority issues and needs consistent with the University's commitment to access and diversity. On April 1, 2016, UH Maui College campus will be the host campus for the annual conference. Even with limited resources, the Pamantasan Council has successfully supported University initiatives including the Maui College exchange agreement with Philippine Universities, the Leeward Community College Sulong Aral federal transfer project, and the recent hiring of a UH Hilo Philippine Studies faculty member.

The Pamantasan Council needs resources to implement (a) recommendations of the 2008 SCR 120 report to the Legislature regarding Philippine language courses, teacher training and certification; and (b) Pamantasan conference recommendations such as developing courses for articulation between community colleges and 4-year campuses. With additional funding and positions, UH and the Pamantasan Council can provide necessary expertise and energy to increase the University's national leadership in Philippine Studies (UH Mānoa and Leeward CC are leaders in offering academic programs). In addition the appropriated funds will be used to support on-going recruitment and retention efforts (federal programs such as GEAR UP at Waipahu high school) to increase the number and success of Filipinos at each campus, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs, faculty, staff and administrators. Also, the funds will expand the curricular content on Philippine language, Philippine Studies and Filipino American Hawai'i ethnic studies, which at this time are very limited or not available at the various campuses.

HB 2224 HD1 includes information on recent census, UH and DOE data on Filipinos (second largest group in the state and the department of education) and their under-representation among college graduates, and current UH students, staff and faculty.

The University thanks the Legislature for introducing this bill and for its continuing support for access and diversity.

The University supports the intent of HB 2224 HD1 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

E-mail: namihonolulu@yahoo.com

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House Finance Committee
March 2, 2016, 11 a.m., Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224 HD1

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

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair; & Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee Members

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, President, NAMI

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and House Finance Committee Members:

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to submit our strong support for this bill. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service.

As a registered voter in District 32, Salt Lake, and as community research partners and mentors with University of Hawai'i Filipino students who are first to go to college in their family, low income, and under-represented in higher education, NAMI and I have seen firsthand, the successful track record of student achievement. Funding for the UH Pamantasan Council will ensure there is a statewide infrastructure to foster Filipino youth leadership that will more than return our investment today for a thriving professional work force tomorrow to benefit all of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to encourage this bill's passage.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.



March 2, 2016, 11am

TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Amy Agbayani, Co-chair Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights

RE: HB 2224, hd2 Relating to the University of Hawai`i

Although I am a Manoa faculty member, I do not represent the UH official testimony. I am representing a community organization, the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights. HF CR supports policies, programs and individuals who are committed to equal rights, access and non-discrimination.

HF CR supports hb2224 hd2 which provides funds and positions for the UH Pamantasan Council, a council with representatives from each of the ten campuses. Council activities over the decades helps University programs and initiatives to expand courses on Philippine language, on the Filipino experience in Hawai'i; initiatives to increase transfer to undergraduate and graduate programs, improve the bachelor's and professional degree graduation rates of Filipinos, the largest underrepresented group at UH. With staffing, the Council will be more effective in meeting its access objectives, supporting UH's efforts to meet its graduation and workforce development goals, increase campus diversity and inclusion. The Filipino students, their families and the community seek access to higher education. We respectfully request your support of hb2224 UH Pamantasan Council.



House Finance Committee
March 2, 2016, 11 a.m., Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224 HD1

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To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair; & Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, Principal Investigator
Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training
University of Hawai`i
Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity
2600 Campu Rd. QLCSS Rm. 414
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto, and House Finance Committee Members:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Principal Investigator for the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART), which is a Community Network Program of the National Cancer Institute. AANCART was established to address cancer disparities among Asian Americans through research, education, training, and advocacy. I am happy to submit strong support for this bill.

Funding for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity is important for leadership development of our Filipino students. AANCART is helping to build the capacity of Filipino community leaders, especially students, to become effective public health stakeholders. Given all the scientific and medical advances in health care, Filipinos have a persistent and disproportionate burden of lower cancer screenings, and higher rates of cancer detected at late stages, resulting in higher cancer death rates. The annual Pamantasan Conference provides a professional showcase for students, faculty, staff and community leaders to add to the body of knowledge from multi-disciplinary fields to foster informed, critical thinking and civically engaged leaders.

The UH Pamantasan Council provides an infrastructure that has a broad and deep statewide reach that will produce competent leaders and good stewards on every island for the benefit of all of Hawai`i.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to offer strong support for you to advance student excellence and equity in Hawai`i's institutions of higher learning.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

House Finance Committee
March 2, 2016, 11 a.m., Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224 HD1

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

To: Chair Sylvia Luke & Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto
House Finance Committee Members

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto, and House Finance Committee Members:

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of this bill. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

The achievements and contributions of Filipinos in Hawai'i since 1906 have been well documented. But as we enter upon the 108th year of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Filipinos still have a long way to go to attain parity in society.

Our Coalition is concerned about the disproportionate number of Filipino students who are under-achieving and struggling in our public schools and state colleges and university. What are the root causes of this? Filipinos are under-represented in executive positions, and over-represented in low-paying entry level positions with no job security in the visitor, service, food, and agricultural industries. This segment of Filipinos in Hawai'i's workforce can never afford the cost of middle class comforts and stability for themselves and their families because of income inequality, no matter how many part-time jobs they squeeze into 24 hours, often, at the expense of not seeing their children.

That is why we taxpayers should be investing in, not divesting from education for our Filipino students in the University of Hawai'i statewide system to ensure that Hawai'i produces leadership, scholarship and stewardship that will transform our struggling students in low achieving schools to civic-minded, productive leaders in our communities and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill and speak up on behalf of our next generation of Filipino youth. Because of our sheer numbers, the second largest group in Hawai'i, Filipinos can contribute positively and significantly to benefit our island state.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

House Finance Committee

March 2, 2016, 11 a.m., Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224 HD1

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

To: Chair Sylvia Luke & Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto
House Finance Committee Members

From: Davelyn Quijano, President
Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii
c/o 91-241 Kaukolu Place, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto and House Finance Committee Members:

I strongly support HB 2224. I am speaking as a private citizen. My name is Davelyn Quijano, president of the Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii. Our alumni association was established in 1995 and has grown to 60 members in Hawaii. I also serve as the secretary of the Anak ti Sinait of Hawai'i (Children of Sinait). Our alumni association prides itself in volunteerism both in Hawai'i and the Philippines, where we perpetuate our culture, join in disaster relief efforts, finance medical missions to the Philippines, foster good health through outreach programs to our Filipino community, empower our youth through scholarship programs, offer aid to deceased members and their beneficiaries, and engage network opportunities to contribute successfully to Hawaii's economy through entrepreneurship.

I support this bill as a mother who was born in Ilocos Sur, Philippines and whose children were born and raised in Hawai'i. I see the importance and feel the urgency that many parents like me share. We want our children to succeed in school, be prepared for careers, and become civically and responsibly engaged in community life. Too many of our young people are locked into hard and unstable lives for yet another generation. By supporting the UH Pamantasan Council, there will be increased access for first generation college students in our Filipino community to more adeptly navigate their way onto those critical pathways of higher education. Lessons learned can be tailored to ensure the success and strengthening of other communities, as well. Investment in the UH Pamantasan Council promises to yield high, measurable returns on our taxpayers' investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my full support of this bill.

Warmest regards,

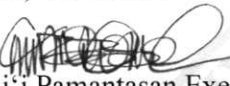
Davelyn Quijano

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pamantasan Executive Council

DATE: February 29, 2016

TO: Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

FROM: Christine Quemuel 
University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Executive Council

RE: **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2224, HD1**
Hearing date: Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 11:00am

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Higher Education hearing in strong support of HB 2224, HD 1 relating to the University of Hawai'i, to provide resources for the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai'i, the largest immigrant group, and the largest Asian ancestry group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education.

The Pamantasan Executive Council is the UH systemwide organization concerned with the status of Filipinos on all UH campuses throughout the state. The Council was established in 1987 to address the representation and success of Filipinos on campus and to ensure that Filipino American and Philippine courses are represented in the curriculum. The Executive Council is also charged with issues concerning Filipinos in the Department of Education, Filipinos in the work force, and international relations between colleges in Hawai'i and the Philippines. The Pamantasan Council currently has no budget and is a volunteer organization comprised of University of Hawai'i students, staff, faculty, and administrators who are committed to access and diversity issues.

Funding for Pamantasan positions and projects will ensure that the state champions educational equity and diversity in higher education. We thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for their continued commitment to diversity to ensure that underrepresented communities in Hawai'i are supported. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support HB 2224 HD 1, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

Pamantasan Council members:

Amy Agbayani, Director, Student & Community Diversity Partnerships, UH Mānoa
Aurelio Agcaoili, Ilokano Languages and Literatures, UH Mānoa
Patricio Abinales, Director, Center for Philippine Studies, UH Mānoa
Erica Balbag-Gerard, Academic Counselor, Honolulu Community College
Jason Cifra, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Hawai'i Community College
Leon Florendo, Counselor, Leeward Community College, Waianae Campus
Rodney Jubilado, Philippine Studies, UH Hilo
Roderick Labrador, Ethnic Studies, UH Mānoa
Ernest Niki Libarios, Jr., Academic Advisor College of Education, UH Mānoa
Raymund Liongson, Philippine Studies, Leeward Community College
Pua Palmeira, Counselor, Kaua'i Community College
Christine Quemuel, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity, UH Mānoa
Marnelli Ulep, Business Capstone Coordinator, UH West O'ahu

My name is Rouel Garingo Velasco. I write to you in support of HB2224. As the son of migrants from Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur, Philippines, I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) for both of my bachelor's and master's degrees. My family first lived in Kalihi and later settled in Ma'ili of Wai'anae, where I grew up. Wai'anae is a predominantly Native Hawaiian community, followed by a strong Filipino population. After graduation from high school, not many graduates pursued a higher education; many went to work or joined the military. It seemed that access to higher education for young people from my community was not as promoted as in other communities. Out of a graduating class of 400, 11 of us attended UHM. It is truly a privilege for me to attend UHM and I would like to share that opportunity with others. My college journey at UHM was one that was filled with personal empowerment through appreciation for my Filipino heritage. Courses in Ilokano Language, Filipino Language as well as History courses allowed me to learn more about my Filipino heritage, Philippine languages, struggles and successes. This learning experience gave me a full sense and deeper appreciation for who I am as a Local Filipino. The in-and-out of the classroom experiences with other students of Filipino ancestry as well as staff and faculty, allowed me to connect to the culture in a meaningful and purposeful way. The Filipino community on the UHM campus allowed me to feel belonged, not marginalized; given me the connections and confidence to get involved in campus-wide student involvement and leadership opportunities. All these experiences combined allowed me to shape my academic, personal and career goals. In addition, as a student, I benefitted from the support and services provided from the UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services, where they assisted students from disadvantaged communities and underrepresented groups. This office fostered a safe and welcoming space for Filipino students as a gateway to other services on the UHM campus. As a student, I participated in Pamantasan Conferences where I connected with other students, staff and faculty across the UH System. This gathering formed a pipeline of support for students matriculating from the community colleges to the university. I also had the opportunity as an undergraduate student to coordinate the Pamantasan conference. This was truly a transformative learning experience. Since moving to UH West O'ahu, very little is available to support and understand the concerns facing students of Filipino ancestry. It is my hope that UHWO students of Filipino ancestry have access to Philippine-related language and history courses as well as the opportunity to attend Pamantasan conferences to further expand their appreciation for their Filipino heritage and be a part of the growing Filipino community within the UH system. As a student affairs professional at the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, I see the growing need for such courses and programs to be available as students of Filipino ancestry comprise the second largest student population behind Native Hawaiian. No formal programs currently exist. This bill, HB 2224, will give an opportunity to the students at UH West Oahu and other UH campuses the opportunity to further explore and affirm their Filipino identity, meanwhile, making connections with other students and professional staff culminating in achieving their academic, personal and career goals. I thank the House for introducing HB 2224 and hope that through its passage, students of Filipino ancestry as well as professional staff and faculty members may continue to thrive in higher education through graduation. I support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Council.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:45 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jeffrey.acido@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2224 on Mar 2, 2016 11:00AM

HB2224

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for FIN on Mar 2, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Acido	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Luke and committee members, Thank you for giving us an opportunity to feel of what it means to be a working class Filipino student living in Hawaii. I grew up in Kalihi, attended all public schools, from elementary school all the way to the University of Hawaii at Manoa—from my 1st grade class to my PhD program I remember not having any Filipino teacher or professor. For 20 years I have been attending school in Hawaii I have never had a Filipino teacher (outside of taking Filipino languages). One could say that for 20 years that I have been socialized into believing that Filipinos do not exist or not capable of being teachers—or are not capable of doing anything else outside of cleaning your backyards, cleaning our hotels, cleaning your dishes, and cleaning your cars. No wonder I grew up ashamed of being myself, ashamed of being brown, ashamed of my culture, ashamed of my language, and most of all ashamed of my parents! So for nearly nearly 20 years of my public education and 27 years of my life I wanted to be everything else besides Filipino. I wanted to be a Japanese teacher as most of my teachers have been, I wanted to be a Chinese businessman because most business I knew growing up where Chinese owned, I wanted to be Hawaiian because I wanted speak Hawaiian and I wanted to be White because White folks was everything and owned everything. You have at this moment an opportunity to carve an affirmative and progressive path for our young Filipinos. I ask you to be bold not only in passing this bill but getting it funded. I'd like to share that in 85 years since the college of education at UH-Manoa opened that currently we only have 3 Filipino tenured instructional faculty out of 212 faculty members of the college. With your help, perhaps, we can have 4 Filipino faculty by 86th year of the college of education. This one step will affect generations to come! mahalo for your courage, Jeffrey Tangonan Acido

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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HB 2224: Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto and members of the House Committee on Finance

I am a proud Filipina, University of Hawaii at Manoa alumni and currently work as a faculty specialist in student affairs. I write in **strong support** of HB 2224 which would provide resources for the system-wide Pamantasan Council.

Since 1987, Pamantasan has strived to enhance the Filipino experience in higher education by bringing together Filipino faculty and students. In a state where Filipinos make up a majority of the immigrant population, Filipinos are underrepresented in the University of Hawai'i system. Pamantasan addresses issues of representation as well as retention of Filipino students.

I have personally benefited from the camaraderie Pamantasan has built as a student and as faculty. The Filipino community in the University of Hawaii has been supportive of many efforts to empower young Filipino student leaders. Most of my limited knowledge of my ethnic heritage came from programs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. For this I am eternally grateful.

I thank the House for introducing HB 2224 and hope that through its passage, Filipino students and faculty can continue to thrive in higher education. I support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Council.

Leslie D. Cabingabang, MSW
Waipahu, HI

Date: March 01, 2016

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the Committee on Finance

From: Sabrina Fallejo Uganiza

Re: Testimony In Support of HB 2224
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

I am a proud Filipina, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa current graduate student, alumni, and employee at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I write in strong support of HB 2224 which would provide funding and resources for the UH system-wide Pamantasan Executive Council.

Since 1987, Pamantasan has strived to enhance the Filipina/o experience in higher education by bringing together Filipina/o faculty, staff, and students. In a state where Filipinas/os comprise a majority of the immigrant population, Filipinas/os are heavily underrepresented in the University of Hawai'i system. Pamantasan not only creates a positive place for Filipina/o students, it also addresses issues of diversity, representation, attrition, and retention of Filipina/o students.

The Filipino community in the University of Hawai'i system has been incredibly supportive of many efforts to empower Filipina/o student leaders. Most of my limited knowledge of my ethnic heritage came from programs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. For this, I am eternally grateful and proud to be Filipina.

I thank the House for introducing HB 2224 and hope that through its passage, Filipina/o students faculty, and staff can continue to thrive in higher education. I strongly support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Executive Council.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at fallejo@hawaii.edu.

Again, thank you very much for your time and consideration.

House Finance Committee
March 2, 2016 11 a.m., Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224 HD1

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

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair; & Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee Members

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen
c/o 860 Halekauwila Street #2506, Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto and House Finance Committee Members:

My name is Jean Jeremiah. I am speaking as a private citizen. I am proud to submit my full support of this bill. I served as past President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council, where many of our Filipino cultural events aimed to raise scholarship funds for deserving Filipino youth to pursue their education and career aspirations.

I support this bill because strengthening the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council is a strategic way to bolster Filipino student leadership development throughout the UH system. The model of student engagement to address education disparities is a brilliant opportunity not to be passed up. The UH Pamantasan Conference gives rise to student-led education initiatives to understand and address the quandary of higher enrollment of Filipinos in our State's community colleges, but lower transfer rates and lower enrollment rates for Filipinos to seek and complete advanced degrees at our State's flagship UH-Manoa campus. Research shows that the more education our students receive today, the healthier, more prosperous, and the greater civic engagement there is for our communities tomorrow.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill. It will have a positive impact to provide student affairs services that will increase access to a good education and career opportunities for underserved and underrepresented Filipino students that will benefit all of Hawai'i.

Very Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair and Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members: Rep. Romy M. Cachola, Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti, Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen,
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi,
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Rep. Jo Jordan,
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Rep. Feki Pouha
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Rep. Gene Ward
From: Ashley Galacgac
Hearing: Committee on Finance
March 2, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 308

Re: Testimony in Support of H.B. 2224, HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai‘i

My name is Ashley Marie Ancheta Galacgac. My home is Kalihi. I have resided in Salt Lake, Waipahu, Ewa Beach, and currently reside in Aiea. I write to you in support of HB 2224. I am the proud daughter of migrants from Ilocos Norte, Philippines. I am also a proud graduate of University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I am the collection of dreams of my mother, ancestors, and community. It is my duty and calling to honor these dreams by fighting for justice and equity that allows my community to move forward.

Even if I have moved several times, I did not have to move schools each time. I have had the opportunity to attend private schools all of my life until the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I was raised by my single mother, who worked as a housekeeper until she was injured in a car accident. When the tourism industry saw my mother just as a laborer or worker, she became classified as “disabled” bodied. In my eyes, my mother was always fully able to take care of her three children. She would tell us that even if we do not have money, study hard.

My mom gathered her strength and with humility, she went to the financial aid office to help find scholarships and work-study to attend Punahou School. I had no Filipino teachers or administrators. Walking from my on-campus job, I would pass by the groundskeepers and janitors waiting to start their day. They were my aunties and uncles who saw me. Their smiles made me feel like that I did belong in this place. That was the best affirmation that I do belong.

Affirmation is the spirit that HB 2224 represents. In my higher education experience, Pamantasan gave me the support to see myself beyond being just a student. It was made meaningful because it is where I took classes to learn my language and history. It is where mentors held my hand and reminded me to be proud of who I am and represent. Pamantasan gathered my teachers, colleagues, peers, and youth of my community for necessary recruitment and retention of our community in higher education. The bill would ensure that Filipinos are represented in classes, curriculum, faculty, and administration. We carry wisdom and gifts—wealth of our people. This wealth includes our languages, our histories of struggle, our resilience, our commitment to our families, and our commitment to bettering the world. This is not just for Filipinos, but for the justice and equity of other communities of Hawai‘i. These are the details of just one person impacted by this bill.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to express my support of HB 2224.

In the spirit of love,
Ashley Marie Ancheta Galacgac

February 29, 2016

Testimony

HB 2224: Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

Committee on Finance
Sylvia Luke, Chair
Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Luke and Vice Chair Nishimoto,

As a Filipino graduate Leeward Community College and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH Mānoa), and as a current faculty member at UH Mānoa, I strongly write in support of HB 2224 that will provide resources to support the University of Hawai'i system wide Pamantasan Council.

According to the 2010 Census, Filipinos are now the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i at roughly a quarter of the population. However, Filipinos continue to underachieve in higher education and remain among the lower socioeconomic groups in Hawai'i. In the UH system, Filipinos are well represented in the community colleges, yet remain underrepresented at the university levels, particularly at UH Hilo and UH Manoa (the flagship campus of the system).

With higher education as key means to social mobility, this condition is of grave concern.

The Pamantasan Council serves to explore these and other issues related to Filipinos in the UH system with the primary goal of supporting the higher education progression of Filipino students. However, the Council operates with virtually no budget and only volunteer students, faculty, staff, and administrators in the UH system who are committed to issues of higher education access and diversity. Funding for the Pamantasan Council will help to ensure its organizational structure, provide stability, and strengthen the efforts in achieving its goals.

Both as a student and as a faculty member, I have personally benefited from the work, support, and networking I have received from the Pamantasan Council.

Filipinos have a rich and valuable history in Hawai'i and those with the desire and capacity to succeed in higher education need to be supported.

With their ever growing numbers in our community, all of Hawai'i will benefit through the work of the Pamantasan Council to improve the condition of Filipinos in Hawai'i public higher education.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,
Ernest "Niki" Libarios Jr., Ph.D.

Christopher D. Yanuaria
954A Alewa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:00 pm

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 309

RE: SB 2224 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

Aloha Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Christopher D. Yanuaria, a proud Filipino and alumni of the University of Hawai`i at Manoa. I am currently working at the University as a junior faculty specialist under the Prevention Awareness Understanding (PAU) Program. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2224.**

I was born and raised in Kahului, Maui where many of its residence identify as Filipinos. Higher education is very important in the Filipino culture. Since I was young, my parents who were migrants from the Philippines emphasized the importance of education because they wanted to ensure a better life for my sister and I. In Hawai`i, the high living and tuition cost made it difficult for my family to get by—not to mention the many unique barriers migrant families face. I have watched both of my parents work long hours and juggle multiple jobs to make sure my sister and I had everything we need. I have realized how blessed I am to have studied in college, and my hope is that other Filipinos can have the same opportunity.

It was concerning for me to learn that in Hawai`i despite the high representation of Filipinos in the general population and schools within the department of education; students of Filipino ancestry were underrepresented in the University of Hawai`i system.

The goal of the Pamantasan Council is to help promote access and diversity on the University level by addressing unique challenges faced by Filipino families in Hawai`i. The Pamantasan Council also helps to empower students by teaching and celebrating the rich Filipino culture and heritage, which have been found to improve Filipino enrollment and retention.

SB 2224 is not just good for Filipinos, but it is good for all of us who call Hawai`i home.
I urge you to please support SB 2224.

Mahalo,

Christopher D. Yanuaria, MSW
Respondent Advocate
PAU Violence Program
University of Hawai`i at Manoa

March 1, 2016

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair & Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance:
Representative Cachola, Representative Cullen, Representative DeCoite, Representative Johanson, Representative Jordan, Representative Keohokalole, Representative Kobayashi, Representative LoPresti, Representative Lowen, Representative Onishi, Representative Tokioka, Representative Yamashita, Representative Pouha, Representative Ward

From: Marnelli Joy Basilio Ulep, Capstone Coordinator
Business Administration Division, University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu

Aloha, my name is Marnelli Joy Basilio Ulep and I am writing in support of HB2224, relating to funding for positions for the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students. Other minority groups have greatly benefitted from having full time positions, even offices, supporting access and diversity, such as Hawaiians. As two-time alumni of UH Mānoa and now staff at the West O'ahu campus, I have been able to work with the Pamantasan Council each year since 2007, first as a student and now colleague. I consider myself lucky to have been able to work with some of my colleagues who have encouraged me to work in higher education and support Filipinos.

Since 1987, Filipinos faculty, staff, and students across the UH system have worked together to support one another in establishing partnerships and networks to facilitate access and diversity at our respective campuses. But work has generally been limited to our specific scope of duties within our departments and campuses. HB 2224 would allow for specific positions to focus on access initiatives for Filipinos and integrate efforts across departments and campuses.

As a graduate of the UH Mānoa College of Education, my Masters in Education in Educational Administration – Higher Education final paper topic was a personal reflection of Filipino American College Student Success in Hawai'i and the impact of programs like the Pamantasan Council on my education and personal success. Here is an excerpt from my recommendations:

“As Filipinos continue to strive for better opportunities and increased success through higher education, the University of Hawai'i campuses should strive to provide support for Filipino American students at each campus.

The presence and availability of institutional agents at the different campuses, specifically Filipino American faculty, staff, and administrators, also increase the possibility of persistence for Filipino American students at the respective campuses. In turn, also encouraging the availability of opportunities on campuses to explore culture and identity, students are allowed to develop a sense of belonging and ownership of their education and campus. Additional resources and support for cultural integrity programs, such as language courses or the Pamantasan Council, can help influence students by increasing their social capital and exposing them to a space and environment to discuss concerns affecting their academic journey.

Another recommendation is to recognize the presence of Filipino American student populations and their experiences. Discussions considering factors affecting student success for Filipino American populations across each campus can allow student support to respond to the needs of the student. Such discussions should include potential and willing institutional agents can utilize the frameworks and considerations presented by Nadal and Museus and Quaye. Recognition by non-Filipino American faculty, administrators, and staff, is also significant, as percentages of representation of Filipino faculty, administrators, and staff are disparate across the UH system. Being able to easily identify and institutional agents across campuses can be influential for Filipino American students as myself who do not come from communities with existing models of Filipino Americans in higher education.

Filipino American college students have distinct, significant experiences, and can greatly contribute to institutions of higher education. Dialogue concerning the persistence and success of Filipino Americans utilizing the frameworks and considerations presented should identify the needs and opportunities for faculty, administrators, and staff to positively impact students' education experience.”

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of Filipino students in their pursuit of higher education and the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council.

3/1/2016

Testimony

HB 2224: Relating to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council

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

I'm writing this testimony in support of HB 2224 which would provide resources for the system-wide Pamantasan Council.

The word Pamantasan in Filipino means higher education and the UH system as well as the State of Hawaii has a large population of Filipinos. Many families of this population have been in Hawaii since the plantation days and have supported Hawaii in labor and commerce. In the University system this group is underrepresented and the Pamantasan Council will work to address issues of representation as well as retention of Filipino students. I believe it is important that we the people of Hawaii support the "Higher Education" needs of the Filipino population in Hawaii.

I have Filipino ancestry and didn't know anything about my heritage until I started attending the Pamantasan Conferences. As a faculty person working for the UH system I would hope we can support the Pamantasan Council so others can learn about the Filipino culture and the role this group played in making Hawaii what it is today.

I thank the House for introducing HB 2224 and hope this bill will give Filipino students and faculty the opportunity to thrive in higher education by providing resources to the Pamantasan Council.