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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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




# H.B. NO. 7224




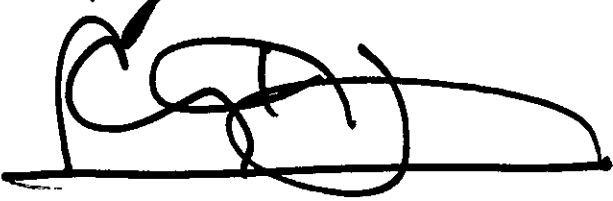
1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to fund  
 4 four full-time equivalent positions (4.0 FTE) for the system-  
 5 wide Pamantasan Council, including instructional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

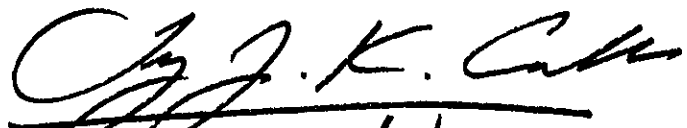
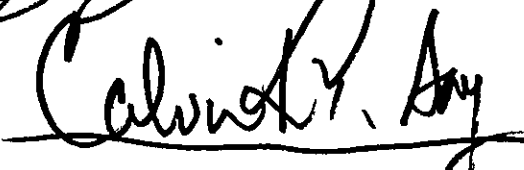
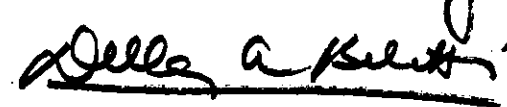

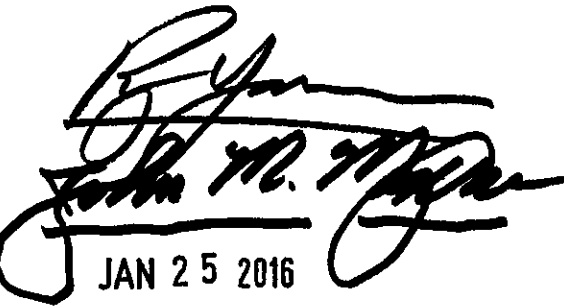
7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
 8 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

10

INTRODUCED BY: 



# H.B. NO. 2224

**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Appropriation; Hawaii Pamantasan Council

**Description:**

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

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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pamantasan Executive Council

DATE: February 2, 2016

TO: House Committee on Higher Education  
Chair Choy  
Vice Chair Ichiyama

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

**RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2224  
Hearing date: Thursday, February 4, 2016, 2:00pm**

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 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, 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 Libarios, Sr., Counseling and Advising, Leeward Community College  
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



House Committee on Higher Education  
February 4, 2016, 2p.m., Conference Room 309



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224**

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. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

From: Charlene Cuaresma, 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 Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and 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, Principal Investigator, AANCART Hawai'i

# Filipino American Citizens League

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

House Committee on Higher Education  
February 4, 2016, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224**

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. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola  
From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and 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



## 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](mailto:namihonolulu@yahoo.com)

Bea Ramos-Razon, RN,  
FACDONA  
President

Tessie Oculito, RN  
Vice President

D Jun Obaldo, RN, BSN  
Corresponding Secretary

Au Curameng, RN, CM  
Recording Secretary

Margie A. Berueda, RN, CM  
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Assistant Treasurer

Bong Curameng, CCHT  
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Erlinda Ferrer, RN, BSN

Estrella Guevarra, RN

Delmar Magno, RN, C

Edel Matias, RN, CM

Brenda Monegas, RN

Gail Pantaleon, RN

Oscar Querido, RN

Violeta Sadural, RN, BSN

Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

House Committee on Higher Education  
February 4, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

### TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224

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. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, President, NAMI

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and 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.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 1:35 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** rouel.velasco@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2224 on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM

**HB2224**

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rouel Velasco	Sariling Gawa Youth Council and National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)	Comments Only	No

Comments: 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 Filipijno 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 experience 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 Filipinos 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 Filipjno ancestry as well as professional staff and faculty members may continue to thrive in higher education through . I support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Council.

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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House Committee on Higher Education  
February 4, 2016, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224**

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. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

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

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and 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

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:20 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jeffrey.acido@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2224 on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM

### **HB2224**

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey Tangonan Acido	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha HED Committee: It's been a long journey in fighting for this bill but I remain steadfast in the fruition of this dream. I support fully this bill, the time has come for resources to the Pamanatasan community, an organization that until now functions on volunteerism--the effects have been more than amazing for students of filipino ancestry. I urge you to pass this bill and ensure that the funding reaches the community. mahalo for your dedicated service to the young people of this state, Jeff

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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RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
Hearing date: February 4, 2016, Conference Room 307, 2:00 pm

Supporting Testimony for HB2224  
Committee on Higher Education & the Arts

To Honorable Chair Rep. Choy, Rep. Ichiyama and Members of the Committee

I am an Administrative Professional Technical staff at the University of Hawaii at Manoa working in student affairs. I am grateful and proud to be involved in Pamantasan and am writing in strong support of HB2224, which would provide resources for the system-wide Pamantasan Council.

Pamantasan has played an integral part in bringing together Filipino faculty, staff and students to address issues of representation for Filipinos across the spectrum of higher education. Filipinos are the second largest ethnic groups in the State of Hawaii, yet the number of Filipinos students enrolled, as well as faculty and staff employed within the UH System are underrepresented. The Pamantasan Council strives to address this issue along with the retention and success of Filipinos system-wide.

As University of Hawaii alumni, I greatly benefited from Filipino language programs and Filipino student groups that Pamantasan promotes and supports. When I became a new staff at the University seven years ago, Pamantasan was one of the first projects I was encouraged to be involved in. I was grateful for the opportunity to connect and build relationships with other Filipino professionals. It was also encouraging knowing that Filipino students have a platform to express their needs, network with potential mentors, and share their educational successes and retention stories.

Funding for Pamantasan would help ensure the continued successes of our students in higher education. Thank you to the legislature for introducing this bill to provide your support for diversity resources in higher education.

Jennifer Pagala Barnett



## **Testimony - HB 2224: Relating to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council**

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

I am a Board member of the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii, a Board member of the Filipino Community Center, Inc. and, for the past 27 years, a student affairs professional at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. As the director of the Office of Multicultural Student Services, formerly known as Operation Manong, I have witnessed -- first-hand and over nearly three decades -- the University's efforts to address and improve the educational opportunities and success of underserved populations.

Hawaii's Filipino population, in particular, has benefited from the University's efforts, with the result being an increasing number of Filipinos in education, business, politics, medical services and vocational trades. Without a doubt, the University of Hawaii system has provided opportunities for Hawaii's Filipino population to actively participate in creating our present-day Hawaii community.

However, these noble efforts by the University of Hawaii have not always been well supported or prioritized by campus administrations. Across the system, activities and efforts to help students have often struggled to maintain their existence and/or efficacy. Administrative enthusiasm and support for these efforts often diminishes following news releases or seed funding. Because the few staff members at each campus who plan and conduct these activities are often overburdened, they are rarely able to coordinate effectively with their peers at other campuses.

Since 1987 the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council has strived to enhance the Filipino experience in higher education by bringing together Filipino faculty, staff and students. The Pamantasan Council addresses issues of Filipino student representation as well as their retention, however, in a state where Filipinos comprise nearly a majority of its population, Filipinos remain underrepresented in the University of Hawaii system, especially in the faculty and staff ranks. Increased support to the Pamantasan Council will allow increased coordination between and advocacy for activities and programs

promoting recruitment, retention and success of Hawaii's Filipino students, faculty and staff.

Improving the educational experience of minority or underserved students has always benefited the educational experience of all students. This benefit occurs not only in creating a more diverse and vibrant educational environment, but also in improved advising, increased academic options and improved campus climate.

The Filipino community in Hawaii is, on any measure, a diverse one. It is not one community, but many communities. This multiplicity presents to Hawaii and, specifically, the University of Hawaii a challenge not only to address the communities' needs, but also to capture their potential. This can only happen when the University of Hawaii prioritizes the recruitment and retention of the Filipino communities' students but also study of the Filipino communities themselves. Increasing the support of the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council and its efforts is a significant step in the right direction.

I thank the House for introducing HB 2224 and allowing my testimony for its support.

Clement Bautista

Board Member, Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii

Board Member, Filipino Community Center, Inc.

Director, UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services

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

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

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

House Committee on Higher Education  
February 4, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224**

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. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Cliff Tsuji, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

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

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and 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

February 2, 2016

**Testimony**

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

To whom it may concern,

As a Filipino who graduated from Leeward Community College, 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,

  
Niki Libarios, Ph.D.

2/2/2016

Testimony

HB 843: 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 843 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 843 and hope this bill will give Filipino students and faculty the opportunity to thrive in higher education by providing resources to the Pamantasan Council.

Pua Palmeira

Date: February 03, 2016

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

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 currently work 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](mailto:fallejo@hawaii.edu).

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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

**LATE**

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 2:00pm

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

### HB 2224 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of HB 2224, 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 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 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.

**LATE**

Testimony

HB 2224 Pamantasan: Relating to the University of Hawaii

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 appropriate 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

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 Hawaii 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. As a student going into the university, I was very nervous because I did not see many Filipinos on campus. I felt like I did not belong and that I was taking on too much as a college student. I also thought that I was only going to college to get a degree. As I went through my college career, I met Amefil Agbayani and she said something that has been one of my life passions to pass on - "You are not just going to college to get your degree. You are setting the pathway for younger generations of Filipinos to also come to college. You can be a role model to other Filipinos." The Filipino community in the University of Hawaii has been supportive of many efforts to empower young Filipino student leaders. Joining Filipino clubs and getting involved has completely enhanced my college experience, culminating in helping to coordinate a Pamantasan conference. This was the biggest leadership role that I have ever taken and I am very glad that these opportunities were given to me. My conversations with young Filipino students revolve around this experience in hopes that they can also have the same meaningful experience that I had. Most of my limited knowledge of my ethnic heritage came from programs at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. 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.

Katrina Abes

**LATE**

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
February 4, 2016, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224**

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

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong,  
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Clift Tsuji,  
Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola  
From: Marie Antonette Anamong Ramos

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and Committee Members:

My name is Marie Antonette Anamong Ramos. As someone who has greatly benefited from the efforts of the Pamantasan Council, I write to you in strong support of this bill.

I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) with a bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies and a minor in Filipino Language and Culture. Prior to attending the university, I received an associate's degree in Liberal Arts from Leeward Community College (LCC). Currently, I hold the position of outreach and training coordinator at the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project in Washington, DC.

I recognize I would not be where I am today were it not for the opportunities presented to me during my time at both UHM and LCC. The knowledge, care, guidance, and sense of purpose imparted to me by faculty and staff continues to be a driving force in my lifelong choice to give back and serve our community – in local, national, international and cross-cultural spheres.

I have also witnessed the positive impact Pamantasan has had and continues to have among my peers. By providing access to much needed resources, Pamantasan significantly enhances the experience of Filipino students. The Pamantasan Council emphasizes the value of attaining higher education with the understanding that doing so elevates not just the individual but the entire community as well. Thus, I truly believe the State of Hawai'i will greatly benefit with the passing of this bill.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to offer my testimony in strong support of HB2224.

Sincerely,

Marie Antonette Anamong Ramos

**LATE**

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

**LATE**

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello. My name is Noelani Pasion-Callueng and I am writing to you in support of passing HB 2224 Pamantasan. Both sides of my family come from the Philippines and if it were not for the migration of my grandparents to the US all those years ago, I would not be here and who I am today. During my childhood I was barely immersed in my ethnic background.

All that started to change after I enrolled in a few classes at UHM. I am also a current student and have seen the beautiful expansion of the younger generation get to know our history and native tongue that has been learned from classes in the respective fields of Ethnic Studies, Indo-Pacific Languages and most especially the Ilokano program. Although moving to Hawaii during my teenage years gave me an opportunity to be around my culture more it was directly through these classes at UHM that I gained an appreciation of my ethnic background. If I had not taken these classes, I would still be naïve and not very educated about my ethnic background since I was moreso raised as an American.

Please give the same opportunity I had to those, especially of Filipino ancestry, to learn and love the Filipino community even more than they might already do. It is only through funding that our educators are able to be kept to pass on their knowledge to the next generation. As a minority population, I believe that it is vital for bills such as HB 2224 to be passed to keep the younger generations grounded in their roots so that in turn they can not only give back to their community but be influential leaders in their respective fields while also integrating ethnic traditions. Without HB 2224 being passed, there is less hope that the knowledge and understanding of our Filipino history will remain. Please don't allow that to happen.

Thank you for your time and consideration on my stance on HB 2224.

Best Regards,

Noelani Pasion-Callueng

**LATE**

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
February 4, 2016, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224**

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

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola  
From: Edward Kevin Faller, Financial Officer, C2S2

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and Committee Members:

My name is Kevin Faller and I stand before you today in support of HB 2224. I stand before you today to express the importance of the sacred space created by the Pamantasan Conference. However by giving this space the adjective of sacred, I do not intend to discount any other space as the education system has already discounted my immigrant ancestors since 1906.

I stand before you because I support the Pamantasan Council and its promotion of a space of academic prosperity that transforms into a vehicle for Filipino students to interact with Filipino leaders. This results in a lifetime relationship of mentors and mentees for social justice. I stand before you today because one of my Filipino colleagues once shared that the only line his father stands in are unemployment lines. I stand before you because the same forces that created this line his father stood in are gifts linked from academic injustice. These are the many untold details that are shameful to unbury but necessary to relive. Details allow us to live curiously and righteously. The authority is in our detail and our power is in the authority to share our details.

As a product of diasporic parents from the Philippines I stand in front of you to express the importance of the HB2444 and the hopeful youths that will benefit from this bill being passed.

Thank you,  
Edward Kevin Faller

**LATE**

Testimony

HB 2224

Chair Choy and members of the House Committee on Higher Education

My name is Debieh Miguel. I am a proud Filipina and the only daughter of migrants from the Philippines. Being the first generation college student within my family currently attending the University of Hawaii West Oahu and previously coming from Leeward Community College. The same institution where I have taken Filipino studies courses and also previously employed under a federally funded program called Sulong Aral in the mission to recruit, retain and transfer students of Filipino ancestry to four year institutions. Being part of that program has given me the opportunity to be with my community and help students that are similar to my predicament. It was only through my college career where I began to understand, value, and honor my Filipino heritage.

But before my time in the University of Hawaii system I was once wishing to be someone else, someone not of the same background and culture. Growing up I didn't believe that a person like me – a Filipina, coming from parents of working multiple jobs as housekeepers, cleaners, farmers and landscapers, attending public school education with teachings of the American culture, and no background on my own culture besides the stereotypes—could successfully graduate from a University that doesn't not have high rates of Filipino graduates. It gave me no hope in entering higher education.

My time in the University system has been the only time where I have learned about my heritage and I want other students like myself that can



experience, learn and be rooted with their cultural identity. The Pamantasan Council will allow students to have access and address the underrepresentation and retention issues.

With that said, I stand today in full support of H.B 2224. Thank you Chair Choy and members of the House Committee on Higher Education for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Debieh Miguel

**LATE**

Aloha, my name is Stephanie Cacal, I write to you in support of HB 2224. HB 2224 provides resources for the system-wide Pamantasan Council which represents and brings together Filipino students like myself, faculty and administrators. In a state where Filipinos are the second largest racial group and make up a majority of the immigrant population, Filipinos are still underrepresented, especially in the University of Hawaii system. Pamantasan addresses these issues of representation as well as retention of Filipino students.

As the daughter of migrants from Ilocos Norte and Nueva Ecija, Philippines who never attended college, I am proud to say that I am a current first generation undergraduate student of University of Hawai'i at Mānoa majoring in Public Health and Minor in Filipino. I am one of the twelve percent of Filipinos in the university. I am pursuing these degrees not only for myself, but for my parents who did not go to college because they're too busy trying to keep myself and the family both here and in the Philippines alive. I'm also doing this for my community who believes that they cannot achieve a higher degree because of what everyone else thinks of us. I am doing this for my ancestors who were not even allowed here in the university and yet here I am. However, it was very difficult for me to even get to the University system, especially without a Filipino adult to in my household, secondary education, and community who understood the struggles and could help me.

As I work through my experiences in higher education at UHM, I have found and learned to take pride in my Filipino heritage to the point where I even decided to minor in it. UHM provides courses in the Filipino Language and Literature Department, and Indo-Pacific Languages Department that has allowed me to flourish as a scholar. It is here where I formed meaningful relationships with colleagues and faculty who have provided the love and guidance in my academic, personal, and career goals.

As a student in the Filipino program, I have experienced how courses about Filipino history, language, and culture have created a sense of support that I think I really needed at UHM and what other Filipinos need. This sense of support has also been provided by the UHM Office of Multicultural Services and Student Equity Excellence and Diversity.

HB 2224 would allow the annual Pamantasan conferences to coordinate systemwide activities to support Filipina/os in the UH System. Pamantasan allows for access and resources in higher education will be the way to increase the representation of Filipino professionals to contribute to the productivity and diversity of our Hawai'i. HB gives us the ability to envision a Hawai'i to uplift our community together.

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

# Filipinos for Affirmative Action

**LATE**

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224 House Committee on Higher Education

February 4, 2016, 2:00 pm  
Hawai`i State Legislature  
Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 309

**To:** Honorable Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair  
Honorable Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice-Chair  
Honorable Representative Committee on Higher Education:  
Rep. Henry Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong,  
Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin Say, Rep.  
Roy Takumi, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Andria Tupola

**From:** Agnes Malate, MEd  
armalate@yahoo.com

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in strong support of House Bill 2224 to fund four full-time positions for the system-wide Pamantasan Council, including instructional faculty, student personnel, and graduate assistantships. I am a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action and a Faculty Specialist at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa (UHM). I have devoted my career to increasing diversity in higher education and the health field and I am currently pursuing a PhD in Educational Foundations at the UHM.

The Council was established in 1987 to address the recommendations of the University of Hawai`i (UH) Task Force on Filipinos that was organized by the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the time, Anthony Marsella, to "review the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawaii and to make recommendations to increase their numbers and improve the academic success and careers of Filipinos and the quality of education for all students at the University." The immediate reason was to address the long-standing need of the Filipino community to have greater and equitable access to higher education in the state. The Council is committed to addressing the representation and success of Filipino faculty, staff and students throughout the UH System, and ensuring that Philippine Studies and Filipino-American curriculum and research are supported.

As a young professional who had just joined the staff at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo, I was excited to be part of the planning committee for the first system-wide Pamantasan conference that included students, staff and faculty. For the first time, there was a unified effort to understand and address the needs of Filipinos in education and the workforce. I returned to Oahu and worked at the UH School of Medicine's Imi Ho`ola Program that helped disadvantaged and underrepresented students prepare academically for the rigors of medical school and provided social support for transition into graduate school. I was encouraged to see that the Pamantasan Council's efforts and response of the UH administration resulted in tuition waivers for Filipino graduate students and undergraduate students, as well as Samoans and other disadvantaged individuals. Unfortunately, these resources have diminished rather than increase.

According to the UH Institutional and Research Office Filipino students enrolled in the UH Community Colleges is 16.5% but are only 8.8% at UHM (10.6% undergraduates and 4.2% graduates). These figures are far lower than Filipino students' public school enrollment (22.2%). Examining selected majors, 8.2% of Filipinos are in education, 1.9% in law, and 4% in medicine. The only major that Filipinos have consistently been well represented is nursing (23.6%). (<https://www.hawaii.edu/institutionalresearch/home.action>). It is the most popular major that Filipino females are encouraged to pursue. In large part due to the high percentage of Filipino nurses in the workforce and access to them via a network of family and friends, a career in nursing has been a proven career path. For many Filipinos who are first-generation college students they lack role models, support systems, and university services to help them successfully navigate the higher education setting.

As the second largest ethnic group in Hawai`i, it is critical that attention be given to the challenges faced by this population and funding be provided to support the efforts of the University of Hawai`i. I am grateful to the Committee for strengthening the University of Hawai`i's and the Pamantasan Council's ability to respond to the growing needs of the second largest ethnic group in the State and urge you to pass HB 2224.

*Although I am an employee of UHM, this testimony reflects my personal position and is not the official position of the University of Hawai`i.*

**LATE**

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong,  
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Clift Tsuji,  
Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola  
From: Ashley Galacgac  
Hearing: Committee on Higher Education  
February 4, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in Rm. 309

**Re: Testimony in Support of H.B. 2224, 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 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