



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/26/2015  
**Time:** 11:00 AM  
**Location:** 308  
**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0487 RELATING TO A STATE-FUNDED COLLEGE GRANT PROGRAM.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a state-funded Aloha Grant Program, to be developed and administered by the Department of Education.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports this bill to establish the Aloha Grant Program and provide appropriations to award college tuition assistance grants to eligible public or private high school students . However, the Department requests that any appropriation for HB 487 not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget request.

Two comments:

- Clarification on eligibility may be needed for part (b) as it appears to require that individuals belong to two mutually exclusive groups: "high school students" and those that have "obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent."
- Any appropriations for this program would reduce the proportion of the Department's budget that is expended by principals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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MAILING ADDRESS

PO. Box 23404  
Honolulu  
Hawai'i 96823

February 24, 2015

Chair Luke and the Finance Committee

Re: HB 487 Relating to State-funded College Grant Program  
Testimony in Support  
Hearing on Feb. 26, 2015

Dear Rep. Luke and Committee Members:

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 487 to create a state-funded college grant program for eligible high school students, to be known as the aloha grant program. Individual grant amounts shall be not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$5,000 per recipient and may be applied annually, up to a maximum of four years. Too many students are not getting the skills they need to compete in the world because they cannot afford college tuition. If these students are willing to forgo some income to take time to be a student, we should make it as easy as possible. This bill is a good step in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel  
President

**finance8-Melanie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2015 3:12 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** santy2506@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB487 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM

**HB487**

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: Absolutely a great idea to invest in our future.

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**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015 10:35 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bp32@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB487 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM

**HB487**

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bret Polopolus-Meredith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 487, the Aloha Grant program. Lowering student loan debt should make it easier for students to remain in Hawai'i after graduation. The Aloha Grant might encourage some of Hawai'i's brightest youths to stay in the islands for their college education.

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**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2015 6:27 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** babyjean@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB487 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM

**HB487**

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronnie Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Education is a right, not a privilege and we need to support the education of all our people, not just those that can afford it. Education is becoming more and more expensive and soon only the very rich will be able to afford an education. I for one do not want to live in a society where the majority of people lack education. Mahalo, Ronnie Perry

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**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015 2:52 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** acacosta84@live.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB487 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB487**

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher Acosta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**finance8-Melanie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 10:09 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ryan\_mandado@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB487 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB487**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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**finance8-Melanie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 10:55 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** rakamosh@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB487 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB487**

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roxie Kamoshida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Thursday, February 26, 2015

Time: 11:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 308

To: House Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Re: Support of HB 487 Relating to a State-Funded College Grant Program

My name is Kristine Jan Espinoza. I am a higher education administration graduate student and proud alum of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I transferred to and completed my B.A. in Biology and Anthropology at UHM. I write in support of the intent of HB 487, which establishes a state-funded Aloha Grant Program, to be developed and administered by the Department of Education.

According to the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP), Hawai‘i ranks second to lowest (and sometimes the lowest) in providing its students state grant and aid.<sup>1</sup> Coupled with laments from legislators and local families alike about how some of Hawai‘i students leave the islands to attend other institutions of higher education, a state-funded grant program is worth investing in. Consider designing this state grant program to better **align** the state’s finance policies, **aimed** at improving educational attainment.

In addition, I offer recommendations to the current bill language, all taken from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)<sup>2</sup>:

- Consider adopting a “shared responsibility model” as the approach for determining the eligibility for this proposed state grant, as well as the amount of the grant.
  - The “shared responsibility model” is an approach to determine aid eligibility and award amounts that divides up a student’s cost of attendance among key partners including: the student, their families, the federal government, the state government, and the institution. Currently, HB 487 specifies a certain aid amount. Before deciding, it would be wise to blank out the appropriation until further discussion.
- Consider embedding demand-side incentives that promote student success.
  - Incentives encouraging students receiving state grants can help students proceed through their higher education career in a purposeful manner. For example, the renewal of a state grant may be conditioned upon “forward-looking merit criteria”

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nassgap.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.wiche.edu/pub/stateaid0414>

like the number of credits attempted and passed during the preceding academic term or year.

- Consider embedding supply-side incentives.
  - Supply-side incentives can explicitly tie together the state's investment in needy students and its interest in the successful completion of target student populations.
- Ensure that the grant program includes an expectation that standards of academic quality are maintained.

With all of this said, again, I support the intent of the HB 487.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristine Jan Espinoza  
kjespino@hawaii.edu



**LATE**

1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wil Okabe  
President  
Joan Kamila Lewis  
Vice President  
Colleen Pasco  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

RE: H.B. 487 – RELATING TO A STATE-FUNDED COLLEGE GRANT PROGRAM

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE-PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Scott Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i's 13,500 public and public charter school teachers, The Hawai'i State Teachers' Association is in **support of H.B. 487** which establishes a state-funded Aloha Grant program.

Many states have similar state funded grants and scholarships used as an incentive to attract and retain local students to attend schools in state. We believe that if Legislature is serious about investing in education, it needs to begin with supporting our students by providing available opportunities. If not, Hawaii will see a continued trend of our local students leaving Hawaii to never return.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of H.B. 487**.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 1:58 AM  
 To: FINTestimony  
 Cc: zakimik@hawaii.edu  
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB487 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM

**HB487**

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelly Zakimi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a scholarship recipient to the University of Hawaii, I am very appreciate of the opportunities scholarships provide for incoming and continuing undergraduates. Receiving a scholarship to UH was one of my biggest reasons for staying in Hawaii and attending UH. Thus, I believe the establishment of the Aloha Grant Program will provide the same motivation for local high school seniors to stay in the state. These students will go on to potentially become the state's future leaders and revenue-makers. Not only will it be beneficial for individual students, but for the state as well.

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 Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 1:58 AM  
 To: FINTestimony  
 Cc: sn35@hawaii.edu  
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB487 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM

**HB487**

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Nishihara	Associated Students of the University of Hawaii Executive Committee	Support	No

Comments: As a born-and-raised-in-Hawaii student, going away for college was the goal. Instead, because of the substantial financial I received from various scholarship donors, I decided to go to UH Manoa. Because of the scholarships, I've been blessed with the opportunity to take more classes, maintain a high GPA, and serve the student body as ASUH President. These scholarships help target the growing number of residents who do not qualify highly in financial need nor do they have gpas competitive enough for other scholarships. The power of a healthy economy comes from an educated one and these scholarships will help keep the talent here, in Hawaii.

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finance1-Kim

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Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 8:15 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: santy2506@yahoo.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB487 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM\*

**HB487**

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments:

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