



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
February 5, 2015 at 2:00pm

by  
Risa Dickson  
Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Hawai'i

### HB 555 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the committee:

House Bill 555 requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program at the UH Mānoa, UH Hilo, or UH West O'ahu that graduates less than ten graduates per year for three consecutive years be abolished, with an exception for programs that are self-sustaining.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) strongly opposes HB 555 that sets an arbitrary number in statute for elimination of programs with small numbers of graduates. Academic programs in higher education do not stand alone but are designed to interlock and build upon each other to provide what college graduates should know and be able to do. A program in English, for example, not only offers a range of courses for students who major in English, it also provides required English courses for students in all majors. A mathematics program may produce few mathematics degrees but has a critical role in serving students in all undergraduate programs and majors who must meet a mathematics requirement to complete their own degrees. In fields such as engineering a full complement of courses in math is essential although students receive degrees not in math, but in another program. Thus, a single indicator, number of graduates in a degree-granting program, is insufficient to justify program existence or measure program productivity.

The *University of Hawai'i Strategic Directions, 2015-21* outlines four strategic directions including a commitment to a High Performance Mission-Driven System. The UH Board of Regents is currently reviewing all degree programs from associates to doctoral degrees with a low number of graduates. Annual reporting has been instituted. Actions and analysis are focused on increasing enrollment and examining the reasons for low average degrees awarded. UH administration is currently working on a policy that will include reviewing low degree programs annually, setting benchmarks, time frames and conditions under which termination would be initiated. In addition, in February 2014 the Mānoa campus has already developed a policy of identifying and reviewing programs with small number of graduates as a regular part of the external program review process.

The University respectfully recommends that its review process continue to be developed with annual reporting, and that this measure be held.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:07 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** rakamosh@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Roxie Kamoshida     | ASUH and CTAHR      | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: My constituents and I are in strong opposition to this bill (HB555) and recommend that this bill not be passed through the Committee on Higher Education. The passing of this bill would jeopardize UH accreditation should these programs/majors be cut.

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**ASUH**  
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i  
YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**Stephen Nishihara**  
Office of the President  
Associated Students of the University of Hawaii

**February 04, 2015**

Rep. Issac W. Choy  
Chairperson  
Committee on Higher Education  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 404  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Aloha Chairperson Choy and Members,

I am writing this testimony on behalf of the Office of the President of ASUH and as a concerned member of the community. I am in opposition of HB 555 which requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished after three consecutive years of this type of "low" enrollment.

While I am aware of the current financial situation affecting the UH system, abolishing undergraduate degree programs through state law is not the proper budgetary solution.

The following programs and majors would be at risk of being cut under the language of HB 555 because of low enrollment:

Pacific Islands Studies, Russian, Ethnobotany, Molecular Biosciences, Classics, Medical Technology, Geology, Meteorology, German, Biological Engineering, Philippine Lang & Lit, Plant & Environmental Protection Sciences, Botany, Physics, Computer Engineering, Molecular Cell Bio, French, Dance, and Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences

Abolishing these programs will hinder future undergraduate students from gaining knowledge in a field they are passionate about. Everyone who pursues a degree of higher education wants something different out of their experience and limiting these options to students is not only detrimental to the students themselves, but also to society as a whole.

I recommend that this bill not be passed through the Committee on Higher Education.

Sincerely,

**Stephen Nishihara**  
B.S. Mechanical Engineering '15 Candidate  
College of Engineering | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Date: February 4, 2015  
Time: 2:00PM  
Place: Conference Room 309

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

Re: Opposition to HB 555 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Aloha Honorable Chairperson Choy and the respective members of the House Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Alycia Kiyabu, and I am the current President of the Campus Center Board (CCB) at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UH Manoa). I write this testimony in strong opposition of HB555, in which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduate less than 10 graduates per year.

Chartered by the Board of Regents in 1971, CCB serves as the governing authority of the Campus Center Complex, which includes the programs and services housed in the Hemenway Hall, Warrior Recreation Center and the Campus Center buildings. CCB has a responsibility in serving its constituency - students, faculty, staff, and alumni - by ensuring multifaceted resources are available, whether it be via activities and programming, or in policies that govern the Campus Center Complex.

By abolishing the over 30 majors listed, UH Manoa runs the risk of losing accreditation. UHM is the flagship research campus of the UH system, meaning that many students, both local and non-local, seek UH Manoa for the varying degrees of opportunity and diverse range of studies. The proposed list of majors to be abolished, contribute to UHM's mission of encouraging diversity and global awareness. The majors listed for abolishment contribute to the creation of a wholesome, civically and socially engaged student.

I stand in opposition to HB555, and firmly believe that the abolishment of the listed majors will negatively impact the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community, who contribute to the pursuit of higher education at the fine institution that is UH Manoa.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony in regards to HB555.

Alyica Kiyabu  
President, Campus Center Board  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa



Ethnobiology Society at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa  
3190 Maile Way, Room 101  
Honolulu, HI 96822

February 4, 2015

Honorable Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and the Distinguished Representatives on the Committee on Higher Education of the Twenty-Eighth Legislature,

The *Ethnobiology Society*, a registered independent organization representing over 175 students at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and an incorporated non-profit organization in the State of Hawaii, hereby submits our **opposition** to *House Bill 555*, pertaining to the elimination of undergrad degree programs that graduate ten (10) students or less per academic year.

The passage of *HB555* threatens to undermine the autonomy of our organization. Since 2012, our organization has hosted over \$30,000 worth of grant-in-aid funded projects in conjunction with the Botany Department (a program threatened to be cut under existing language in section 2, Chapter 304A), allowing hundreds of students to gain valuable interaction and hands-on experience from local practitioners and internationally recognized scientists. Loss of the Botany department would cause our organization to lose its identity and greatly hinder our ability to provide quality experiences for the students at the University. Our organization feels that budgetary shortfalls should be addressed in a way that will least impact the educational and professional experience of the students we serve.

We again reiterate our strong **opposition** to *HB555* and ask that you vote **NO** on this bill.

Respectfully yours,

Dane Gonsalves  
The Ethnobiology Society at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
RIO Representative

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:45 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** makahababy@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sara Perry          | UH Student Caucus   | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I recognize and respect the purpose and aim of this Bill in that it hopes to save our campus money, which is fiscally responsible. I am fully in support of all fiscally responsible measures for the University, which oftentimes spends beyond its means. Yet, this proposed Bill will have larger consequences than just the scope of a few small programs. Cutting degree programs like this will very likely put our accreditation status in jeopardy. An unaccredited University, or one whose accreditation is in a turbulent status, means that our graduates (ALL of them, regardless of major) may wind up with a degree not worth the paper it is printed on. Secondly, programs that do graduate small numbers of students are often those who add much needed character and diversity to a college curriculum. These small programs can draw students from all over the world to our campuses. Thus, rather than cutting these programs all together, I find it would be more beneficial to perhaps combine them with other small programs, cut or reassign faculty, or broaden their scope to include a more encompassing degree path. Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony, Sara E. Perry UH Student Caucus, Chair

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House Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, February 5, 2015  
2:00 p.m.

**HB 555, Relating to the University of Hawaii.**

Dear Chairman Choy and Committee Members:

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly opposes the adoption of this measure. The measure is imprecise in its application and definition of undergraduate degree granting programs. As a result, there can be unintended consequences regarding blanket elimination of program that would undermine undergraduate education.

Further, the measure asserts legislative micro-management into the University of Hawaii and its undergraduate education efforts on three campuses. The decisions on viability of program is more appropriately addressed within the University of Hawaii academic community under the auspices of the UH Board of Regents.

UHPA urges the Committee to defer this measure.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristeen Hanselman".

Kristeen Hanselman  
Associate Executive Director

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY**

1017 Palm Drive • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928  
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 • Facsimile: (808) 593-2160  
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**MAILING ADDRESS**

PO. Box 23404  
Honolulu  
Hawai'i 96823

February 3, 2015

Chair Rep. Isaac Choy and Higher Education Committee Members

Re: HB 555 Relating to the University of Hawaii  
Hearing on February 5, 2015

Dear Rep. Choy and Members of the Committee:

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

We oppose HB 555 as it is unnecessary legislative interference with the University of Hawaii. The University and its regents should decide what programs should be kept. This bill would target some of the University's smaller programs without giving due regard to their actual importance. Being the premier center of learning in the Pacific, the University is the steward of important knowledge and other resources, such as many Pacific Island languages, that are unique in higher education. This bill threatens programs such as these that, if lost, could threaten the University's accreditation. Therefore we kindly ask for your serious scrutiny of this bill and its possible effect on the University.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel  
President





# HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER TESTIMONY

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Presented by Jim Shon, Director  
Hawai'i Educational Policy Center  
February 5, 2015

## COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair

Thursday February 5, 2015 2:00 pm, Room 309

## RE HB 555 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

### HEPC OPPOSES THE CURRENT DRAFT

The purpose of this bill is to promote economic self-sufficiency of specific University programs, and eliminate those that are less self-sufficient. It's "marker" for high cost and low demand programs are undergraduate majors with fewer than ten students.

HEPC respectfully suggests that the current draft does not meet this goal. Here are some reasons why:

1. There is no cost per se for a department or program allowing a student to "major" in a unique or emerging area if the existing undergraduate and or graduate faculty is already in place, teaching full time, and can provide the necessary courses and support for an emerging or declining area of study. Many faculty teach both graduate and undergraduate courses.
2. Many undergraduate majors take courses from a number of departments and units, and thus focusing on the program in which a major is offered may not be relevant to cost.
3. Some areas of learning and research do not require a large number of students to make a contribution to the field. This can be the case of cutting edge research, or programs that focus on understanding different cultures or nations. I have personally benefitted from a Korean history program in the 1970s in which the actual number of fellow students, both undergraduate and graduate, was small. Yet Korean studies, and the construction of a Korean Studies building, was and is important in asserting UH as an important player in East Asian studies. The number of students enrolled in Korean language classes at the time was also very small.
4. Some specific majors are part of a cluster of major and minors that go together. To major in Korean history meant you also needed to take courses in Chinese and Japanese history, and Korean language, not to mention historiography. I also took courses in Sociology, and audited a UH Law school course on Constitutional Law to better understand the differences between traditional East Asian law and western approaches.

### HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER

1776 University Avenue, Castle Memorial Hall 133 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Dr. Jim Shon, Director Phone (808) 282-1509 • [jshon@hawaii.edu](mailto:jshon@hawaii.edu)

<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/hepc/>

5. Programs that need to offer a unique course often seek to hire a lecturer for that course. Some rely heavily on lecturers for core courses. The School of Social Work comes to mind. As a former music major at another university, it was common for most students to receive private lessons from musicians who were not regular faculty. To the extent that departments and programs utilize the non-full time instructor option, the imagined cost of a low enrollment major may be insignificant.
6. There is value in the ability of UH to offer the largest number of major options to better serve a changing and diverse population. When a young student suddenly discovers a new passion and seeks to declare a major, it could be discouraging to learn there is a law on the books prohibiting it.
7. For emerging science and STEM programs in particular, there may be great advantage to students who can graduate with a finely tuned and focused major in an emergent field. Emerging fields (I'm thinking of cloning?) might well be limited to a smaller number of highly motivated students for a number of years. This bill could, hypothetically, work against the ability of UH to be on the cutting edge of both undergraduate and graduate research.
8. All due respect, the Legislature is really not the best arena for determining courses and majors. This is why we have a Board of Regents.

Nevertheless, there may be instances in which student interest and demand are so small, and the cost of maintaining tenured faculty with a comparatively low work load so costly, that reassessment of some programs is prudent and justified.

HEPC suggests that providing important cost, enrollment, and faculty workload data, preferably on its web page, as well as a periodic review for the BOR, would be of value to track the costs of both the emerging and diminishing programs. Perhaps a resolution would be an appropriate first step. HEPC would be willing to assist in gathering UH input for such a resolution if requested.

**HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER**

1776 University Avenue, Castle Memorial Hall 133 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Dr. Jim Shon, Director Phone (808) 282-1509 • [jshon@hawaii.edu](mailto:jshon@hawaii.edu)

<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/hepc/>

# Testimony in Opposition to HB 555

Submitted online February 4, 2015

From: Tiffany Bovino Agostini  
tagostini@swca.com

To: Committee on Higher Education  
Hearing on HB 555 at 2pm, Feb. 5, 2015  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

I graduated from the UH Manoa Botany Department with a master's degree in 2011. This degree has undoubtedly helped me to excel in my career at SWCA Environmental Consultants' Honolulu Office, where I work as a project manager and botanist. It is extremely concerning to me that HB 555 might potentially abolish the Botany Department.

Although the Botany Department at UH Manoa may be small compared to other programs, it is invaluable to the State of Hawai'i. Our archipelago is home to many rare and federally listed plants (i.e., species listed as endangered and threatened under the Endangered Species Act). Not only do the state and federal governments have legal obligations to protect and perpetuate these rare Hawaiian plants under various laws, but educating individuals locally to understand and maintain our flora helps boost our local economy (both large and small businesses), benefits our environment, and preserves Hawaiian culture and lifestyle. The UH Manoa Botany Department is essential to ensuring these aspects of our state continue.

Without a Botany department in Hawai'i, the number of capable botanists within our state will plummet. It is already difficult to find skilled botanists with local knowledge of Hawaiian plants. Individuals educated on the mainland do not have the familiarity and resources to conduct botanical research, conserve our rare species, or navigate complex legal issues related to Hawaiian plants. Many students interested in this field would likely seek education outside of the state because the main benefit of attending the Botany Department at UH Manoa is to gain first-hand knowledge in the field and develop crucial relationships. I certainly would not have attend UH if a Botany Department did not exist, and would likely no longer be living in the state. The State of Hawai'i cannot afford to lose botanists that boost our economy, ensure compliance with federal and state laws, and conserve our unique plants and natural areas.

I urge you to please reconsider any legislation that would threaten the existence of the Botany Department at UH Manoa.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Bovino Agostini

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:25 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** na2012@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| N Andreyka          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

### Comments:

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### **HB555: Bad for STEM and Hawaii's Future**

The foundational UH Manoa undergraduate programs in Plant & Environmental Projection Sciences and Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences support crucial State needs in areas such as local food security and renewable energy resources. Those in Botany and Ethnobotany address the ecology and conservation of Hawaii's native floral as well as the adaptation of Pacific island communities to climate change. Programs in Geology & Geophysics support issues of growing importance related to the State's water resources, natural hazards, and impacts of sea level rise on coastal lands. The program in Physics supports basic skills needed by a huge diversity of fields in science, technology, and engineering.

Alarmingly however, these are among nearly a quarter of the undergraduate programs at UH Manoa that could be abolished if the fiscally expedient, catch-all policy represented by HB555 is enacted. The above programs having attracted relatively small numbers of student clients for a variety of reasons, among them being the struggles of Hawaii's K-12, STEM education as well as the comparatively small job market related to these technical, yet disproportionately valuable fields. In contrast, many programs in the arts and humanities support a huge customer base and would clearly not be impacted.

The State Legislature and the University of Hawaii is too wise to allow today's fiscal crises to be the sole driver in deciding the academic priorities of UH, which will affect generations to come. Clearly UH is compelled by law to balance its books, but the Legislature should not incapacitate the strategic planning process and impose exactly how it should be done.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 8:46 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** hanabay17@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Beate Arendale      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am opposed to the proposed bill HB 555 because not allowing students to learn certain foreign languages at UH Manoa would put the United States of America at a disadvantage in the global market. I am fluent in German and because of my knowledge of this second language I was able to work at various prestigious companies in Munich, Germany. Businesses are willing to train employees in the skills needed to perform the job, however the businesses will not invest in training potential employees in a language. Germany has one of the strongest economies in the world, therefore students who are planning to work in the fields of math and science need to study German to stay competitive with the world markets. This same line of reasoning can also be applied to the other languages listed on the bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further questions. Respectfully, Beate Arendale

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:55 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** islahvt@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| islah Arends        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

### Comments:

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My name is Ronia Auelua and I am a Pacific Islands Studies major at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am writing in strong opposition to HB 555 that, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduates less than 10 graduates per year.

I am American Samoan born but a California resident. I chose to study in Hawai'i because there is little to no degree granting Pacific Studies programs in California. Hawai'i holds the largest Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander population in the United States and it is growing. As an islander who grew up in the diaspora, I didn't have access to Pacific history in any nearby educational institutions. I felt robbed as a student not being able to access Pacific history until I transferred to University of Hawaii's Center for Pacific Islands Studies program.

It is also one of few programs we have nation-wide. Located between the continent and the Pacific region, Hawaii is the connection between the homelands and the diaspora. The need for programs like Pacific Islands Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Languages are vital in understanding the history and the people of Hawaii. As a state, and a part of the vast Pacific region, we should make sure that the stories of Hawaii and the Pacific are preserved through the protection of programs like Pacific Islands Studies, Ethnic Studies, and language departments.

For the survival of our history and the understanding of communities in Hawai'i, I oppose bill HB555.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronja Auelua  
rauelua@hawaii.edu  
760-265-1913



## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:27 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** arienneb123@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arienne Baker       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: As a current student at the University of Hawaii, I stand in firm opposition to this bill. I am not pursuing a major that would be affected by this legislation but I disagree with its intent. Majors that graduate less than 10 students a year are still important subjects that produce academics who involve themselves later in important fields. There are far more appropriate ways to cut costs at the school. A university's job, first and foremost, is to prioritize education. If programs need to be cut to sustain the university then programs irrelevant to education should be defunded first, regardless of how few students are pursuing these majors. Please consider opposing this bill as it harms education and sets a poor precedent for how the state prioritizes educational pursuits.

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# Testimony in Opposition to HB 555

Submitted online February 4, 2015

From: Ane Bakutis  
PO Box 698  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
[bakutis@hawaii.edu](mailto:bakutis@hawaii.edu)

To: Committee on Higher Education  
Hearing on HB 555 at 2pm, Feb. 5, 2015  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

This troubling legislation was brought to my attention this morning and I felt obligated to speak out as an independent concerned citizen in strong opposition to it. While there are numerous important undergraduate degree granting programs that would likely be abolished by this ill-advised legislation, I would like to specifically use the UH Manoa Botany Department as an example of why this bill should be permanently shelved.

I am a local girl from Wai'anae, Oahu. I graduated from UH at Manoa with a bachelor's degree in Botany in 1999 and a Master of Science in Botany in 2005. It is extremely concerning to me that HB 555 might potentially abolish the very botany department that I attended due to it having a modest undergraduate program. I gained an invaluable education in the natural history of the Hawaiian Islands in the Botany department, including the incredibly high rates of endangerment of our unique flora. After graduation in 1999, it was my education in botany at UH Manoa that helped earn me a job at Volcanoes National Park, specializing in Hawaii's unique flora. And since 2005 upon graduation with my Masters of Science in Botany, I have been employed as a Botanist for the Plant Extinction Prevention Program (a State and Federally funded program) on Oahu and then on Molokai, saving Hawaii's rarest plant species from the brink of extinction. Without my education at UH in the Botany department, I would not have these amazing opportunities to save Hawaii's unique environment that Hawaii is famous for.

It is true that the undergraduate botany program at UH may be small at this time, but its importance cannot be overstated. I'm sure I don't need to remind you that our State government has legal obligations to protect and perpetuate indigenous plants, of which 90% occur nowhere else on Earth. Without a Botany department in our state, how will we educate stewards of these resources? In addition to myself, there are many other people employed in our State government and associated conservation organizations across Hawaii that received their degrees from the UH Botany department. In addition to the department's graduates and their roles in local government and environmental groups, the research done on Hawaiian plants by faculty and graduate students of the Botany department helps further our understanding of the native flora and continues to enhance our ability to

protect it, while bringing in tremendous amounts of grant monies (including generous overhead costs for UH administration) and international academic acclaim to the University.

At this time there are approximately 400 Threatened and Endangered (T and E) plant species in Hawaii, officially listed by Federal and State law. When it comes to native plants we are facing an extinction crisis in this state, with very limited resources to address it. It is already difficult to even find skilled applicants familiar with the local flora to fill the limited staff positions dedicated to plant conservation in Hawaii, but if the UH Botany department were eliminated by the arbitrary requirements of this unnecessary bill the situation would become much worse. All local hiring agencies looking for someone with a botany degree (i.e. University positions, DLNR, watershed partnerships, DOD, private environmental consultants) would be forced to turn to the US continent for an applicant pool, and any requirements for local knowledge would no longer be possible without a recognized local botany degree program.

I urge you to please reconsider any legislation that would threaten this indispensable asset at the University. Although I understand that UH may be facing a dire financial situation, we should be looking for ways to address it that do not undermine degree programs which are so vital to the protection and perpetuation of Hawaii's natural resources. In these troubled times, faced with threats in the State from invasive species, climate change, increasing wildfires and food insecurity, we should be looking for ways to strengthen the UH Botany department and the absolutely necessary training and research that it provides to assure our continued existence in these fragile island ecosystems we call home.

Sincerely,

Ane Bakutis

To: House Committee on Higher Education  
Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair  
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Re: Opposition to HB 555 Relating to the University of Hawaii

My name is Vanessa Barsness and I am a graduate of the French program and a current Graduate Assistant at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I must state how discouraging and sad HB 555 is to those who have been so deeply touched by their education here in the French department and how strongly I oppose the Bill. I chose not to take the well-worn and beaten path that so many choose to take here at University of Hawaii at Manoa and by doing so I have reaped the innumerable benefits of becoming unique in not only my studies, but in my thoughts as well. Learning another language has been crucial in expanding my understanding of other cultures, religions and thought processes, which are vital to the globalized world we live in today.

By taking away these 33 programs, almost one-fourth of the programs offered here at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, you are taking away the freedom of choice that a public institution of education must offer their students. These programs were not created by chance and they are essential to create progressive thinkers for our society. To quote the beloved poet Robert Frost "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—/I took the one less traveled by,/And that has made all the difference."

Respectfully submitted,  
Vanessa Barsness  
[vmb@hawaii.edu](mailto:vmb@hawaii.edu)

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:20 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** april.alohadreamteam@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b>    | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| April Kamilah Bautista | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: As UH Manoa alumna, I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill. Being of Filipino ancestry, I have benefited from some of the proposed programs to be cut such as Ethnic Studies, Pacific Island studies and language programs. I value these classes and attribute these classes to my personal and professional success. - April Bautista

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 7:41 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** chrisbeaule@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christine Beaulé    | Individual          | Oppose                    | Yes                       |

Comments: This bill is alarmingly shortsighted and shows a fundamental misunderstanding of the intellectual and educational contributions of some of the programs that would be eliminated under this measure. The contributions of small programs such as German and Russian to the student body of UH Manoa cannot be wholly measured by the numbers of degrees granted. The strategic importance of Germany, for example, to the global economy, is growing. Having students, especially people associated with the military (who have a strong presence there), who are competent in that language and culture is important. But many of those students might take enough classes to achieve a respectable level of fluency, combining those critical language skills with a degree in economics or engineering. Similarly, language and cultural competency in Russian or Filipino gives our graduates a critical edge in business as in the military. How prepared would we have been to enter a war in Iraq had we no competent Iraqi speakers in our society? Moreover, the financial savings that would be accrued from eliminating the very small number of faculty positions in such programs (who without exception earn far less than their colleagues in the social and natural sciences, let alone the professional schools!) represents a drop in the bucket of the campus' financial shortfall. If the members of the Higher Education committee are serious about seeking cost savings, then why is there no bill to force research faculty to meet 50% or more of their own salary and benefit costs in their grants? This is standard at Research I universities across the country. Only at UH is undergraduate tuition used to support the six figure salaries and research startup packages of our professional school colleagues. The \$300,000 salary of one faculty member at the Cancer Center, for example, is equivalent to five tenure track faculty members in the language programs, such a measure would represent a serious attempt at financial reform, instead of this bill. HB 555 is nothing short of an attack on liberal education. Such programs usually have healthy class enrollments, while their faculties mentor students across the curriculum, serve in unpaid positions as directors of Study Abroad programs, and offer unpaid independent research and readings courses to individual undergraduates. All of that service to undergraduate education is not paid. You eliminate far more than a small program when you target such poorly paid, overworked faculty members. And you propose to eliminate our citizens' abilities to engage intelligently and respectfully with people from a sizable portion of this globally interconnected world by targeting these programs.

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:33 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** katharine.b@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katharine Beutner   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am writing to strongly oppose the passage of HB 555, which would eliminate degree programs graduating 10 or fewer students per year at UH Manoa. This is a short-sighted and ridiculous approach to cost-cutting; all it would accomplish would be to damage UH's reputation, and put our accreditation in danger. (I am an English professor at UH.) If the Legislature truly wants to improve UH, this is absolutely the wrong way to do it. If this decision went through, it would eliminate Classics, French, German and Russian. But it would also have an impact university-wide, eliminating 24% of our Bachelor's, 36% of our MA and 55% of our PhD programs. What would be left? Please reject this poorly thought-out attempt to cut costs and devote your support to measures that will actually assist UH students. Thank you for your time. Katharine Beutner

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Committee: HED

Room 309

Date/Time Thursday, Feb 5, 2015 2:00 PM

RE: HB 555 - Oppose

Aloha. My name is Coral Bielecki. I am an undergraduate the University of Hawaii, representing myself as an individual.

Witnessing and experiencing the effects of rapid environmental and cultural change in my home of Hawaii established my interest in science. My professional goal of conducting multidisciplinary scientific research for the betterment of my community was further developed through my academic and research experiences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). I intend on graduating from UHM with a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology and a B.S. in Ethnobotany (from the Botany department) with Honors in Fall of 2016. It will take me a total of five and a half years to complete my dual-degree. After which I will apply for admission into a PhD program in Botany.

HB555 as it is written would prevent future aspiring scientists like me from graduating with a Botany degree at UHM because the department graduates 9 students a year.

There are many challenges associated with being a non-traditional student from a disadvantage background. However, the invaluable support I receive at UHM in my program enables me to extend myself beyond my limitations. I not only study in a unique degree program and take advantage of fascinating graduate-level courses (as an undergraduate) in biocultural methodology and high throughput molecular techniques, but I also participate in archaeological fieldwork excavating an ancient *heiau* with indigenous collaborators at their request to learn more about the site's function. Furthermore, I am inspired my professors and mentors whom engage with me in and out of the classroom to encourage high academic achievement and passion for service. The Botany department faculty and staff are committed to their students. Likewise, I am committed to the them and the program.

HB555 threatens this unique, rigorous and supportive degree program over a standardized graduation rate requirement. The aims of this HB555 are righteous: to stop excessive costs to the State and taxpayers for unnecessary and excessive programs at UHM. However, HB555 ultimately fails its goals: narrowing the programs offered by UHM makes mainland universities more appealing to local students, reducing UHM income. Furthermore, because I am a female minority from a disadvantaged background, people like me are severely underrepresented in science careers, particularly in research. I would not be in science if it were not for the Botany department at UHM. HB555 would ensure that others like me continue to stay out of science careers. This is detrimental to students, the State, taxpayers and the country who will benefit from our education at UHM.

Clearly, I am proud to be from a university that promotes community engagement, environmental conservation and human justice. Please do not crush this shared vision through excess legislation aimed at reducing costs while not accounting for the benefits of important degree programs which on a technicality would be cut by this bill.

All my best,

Coral Bielecki

Matthew Bond  
Ph.D. Student  
Department of Botany  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Testimony of a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa graduate student  
AGAINST MEASURE # HB 555  
Before the Committee on Higher Education  
2:00 PM Thursday, February 05, 2015

I ask the Hawai'i State Legislature to oppose measure HB555, which threatens to eliminate the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Department of Botany merely because the department does not always graduate more than 10 students per year. The Department of Botany brings a wealth of social and monetary resources to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and should not be discounted because of its size.

When I graduated from Cornell University I looked at joining a variety of graduate programs. Despite the opportunity to attend universities like Yale and Columbia, my top choice was always the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Department of Botany. The researchers and professors in this department are internationally renowned and also bring in more grant money and overhead funding in one year than it takes to run the department. I am privileged to learn from these individuals and the network of illustrious botany alumni who have made and continue to make an unprecedented impact on science and the environment both in Hawai'i and around the world. Further, the selection and quality of undergraduate major programs in the Department of Botany is unmatched- I love teaching students who are so passionate and I look forward to seeing how they make the world a better place. Therefore, I urge the state legislature to oppose measure HB555.

HB555 Measure: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

To Representative Choy and Committee,

My name is Brandee Pang Brookman. I am a graduate of the University of Hawaii: Mānoa (UHM) with a BS Geology and Geophysics (GG) (1999) and BA Anthropology (2001); in addition, I have a MS Geography and a graduate certificate in Geographic Information Science (GIS) from the University of North Dakota, and am currently attending the Naval War College in the MA program. I currently work for the Department of Defense as an Analyst supporting our military troops by providing geospatial analysis (Imagery and GIS), including deploying to the Middle East and supporting Operation New Dawn (which replaced Operation Iraqi Freedom). I have been a long time supporter of academics and athletics for UHM. My parents are both alumni from UHM and we are season ticket holders for football and attend other athletic events.

As alumni to the School of Ocean, Earth Science and Technology (SOEST), I am appalled that a bill such as this would be introduced. Many degree programs are linked together in so many different ways. As a GG major, my course work required mandatory courses in Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. Many Engineering students took many of the same classes as I. Obviously, without Physics, the Geology majors, Physics majors, Astronomy majors and Engineering majors might as well go to another school. SOEST has top notch programs and brings in many dollars in grant money. While I was a student I was proud to say I came from a school (SOEST) that was ranked in the top 3 for grant money in the Nation, coming in behind MIT Woods Hole and Scripps College.

By abolishing programs with less than ten graduates a year, not only will you hurt the students, but you will hurt the University as a whole. Not providing a well-rounded list of majors, the University will have fewer students and will drive local students to attend mainland universities and discourage students from the mainland to attend UHM. Not only that, it will drive away the wonderful faculty that the University employs. Faculty will either seek other Universities or retire, taking their students (including graduate students) and their grant money with them. Many of the grants are used for research, which employ many undergraduate students and pay for the research for graduate students as well.

Degree programs are not what costs a lot of money. Firing Presidents and Athletic Coaches are what costs UH money. The University is in a dire financial position, but taking away undergraduate programs is not the answer. In fact, taking away programs is the last thing that should be done. The University needs to relook at how programs (academics and athletics) are run. We are foremost a University where academics should be our number one priority (I am in no way advocating a cut to Athletics).

Please reconsider your position on passing this bill. Not only are you hurting the University further, but you are hurting any number of the students that were considering UHM as a university choice. If this bill passes, you will see a decrease in enrollment and an outflow of faculty members finding new positions, which will hurt the courses that are being offered. I don't claim to have the answers of what the University can do to save costs, but you also need to consider how much money the University is going

to lose by abolishing programs. Another thing to consider is whether or not the University would be able to keep its accreditation if these programs go away.

Support today's kids by encouraging education and leading by example. By cutting these programs, you send a loud and clear message that education for our young adults and our kids are not important to you. Remember that today's youth will be our leaders of tomorrow. Hawaii has a hard time bring back our talented and well educated young adults. We want well educated adults here running our State, our University, and our legislature. The less diverse choices we provide, the higher the likelihood that we will be able to attract the well educated to our beautiful islands. More of our youth will attend a mainland university, and more of them won't return. Finding good leaders is difficult and today everyone is just looking at the bottom-line, me myself and I. Think about what you looked for in a University and if you would consider a University that was considering cutting a program you were interested in. We all have different interests, but don't do away with someone else's interest. If the tables were turned and you were interested in one of these programs, what would you do?

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and for giving my points consideration. I appreciate the work you do and the hard job you have to make things happen.

If you would like to further discuss any of the points I have made, you can contact me by email: [b\\_puanani@yahoo.com](mailto:b_puanani@yahoo.com) or by phone 301-787-6737(m) or 808-473-6819(w). I would be happy to talk with you.

Very Respectfully,

Brandee P. Pang Brookman

University of Hawaii Graduate (1999 and 2001)

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:26 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** mariealohalani@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marie Alohalani Brown | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: This bill is the first step towards destroying the university system. This bill is tantamount to saying we do not need a university in Hawai'i. This would seriously affect our status as an accredited institution. I oppose this bill.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:55 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** judycacal@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Judy B Cacal        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:28 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** tchamber@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| taylor              | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 4:55 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** cpaul@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM  
**Attachments:** HB 555 testimony.docx

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul M Chandler     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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## Testimony in Opposition to HB 555

Submitted online February 4, 2015

From: Dr. Marian M. Chau  
1429 Nehoa St Apt C  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
[mmchau@hawaii.edu](mailto:mmchau@hawaii.edu)

To: Committee on Higher Education  
Hearing on HB 555 at 2pm, Feb. 5, 2015  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 555, which would abolish any University of Hawai‘i departments that graduate < 10 graduates per year. While I expect this would be a mistake in many cases, I can specifically speak to what a terrible mistake it would be to abolish the Department of Botany, which averages about 9 graduates per year. I am the Seed Conservation Laboratory Manager at Lyon Arboretum, managing Hawaii’s only large-scale seed bank to conserve our native plants, including over 250 federally endangered species. I earned my PhD in Botany from UH Mānoa in 2012.

As you may know, Hawai‘i faces many challenges as the “extinction capital of the world” with many of our ecosystems at risk from invasive species and other threats, and yet we have one of the most spectacular and diverse floras in the world. We have over 1300 native plant species, 90% of which exist nowhere else in the world, about 400 of which are federally listed as threatened or endangered. It is our kuleana to protect, conserve, and responsibly manage our precious natural resources.

One of the first things we must do is educate people – especially young people – about these concerns and responsibilities. Even students who do not major in Botany but take classes in the department learn about the beauty and importance of our native flora, the challenges we face, and our responsibility to be good stewards of the ‘aina. The faculty and students in the Department of Botany conduct essential research on our plants and ecosystems, and they bring in a large amount of funding relative to the size of the department. In the US and even the world, we already face a shortage of botany departments in academic institutions. Having the Department of Botany at UH Mānoa is not only important to the discipline as a whole; it brings in tuition-paying students who cannot find this opportunity elsewhere.

Additionally, we must train our local students to do the critical work that needs to be done. Graduates of the Department of Botany have earned permanent positions in a variety of state, federal, and private agencies, including the UH System (at least 7 graduates), DLNR-DOFAW (at least 4, including our State Botanist), US Fish & Wildlife Service (at least 3), Plant Extinction Prevention Program (at least 4), Hawaii Watershed Partnerships (at least 4), National Park Service (at least 2), Oahu Army Natural Resources (at least 2), and private environmental consulting firms (at least 4). And these are only recent graduates that I can name off the top of my head! All of us do important work that can only be done by a trained botanist, which is critical to preserve and manage our ecosystems that provide clean water and air, among many other direct and indirect benefits. If we respect the ‘aina and wish to continue living here under healthy conditions, we must have botanists performing these jobs. If you abolish the Department of Botany, you will be forcing all these agencies and more to hire from the US mainland. Not only will non-local botanists be poorly trained in native plants and the issues facing Hawai‘i, you will be taking jobs away from local people, your constituents, to the detriment of our ecosystems and our local communities.

Sincerely,  
Marian Chau

My name is Tatiana Chauvet-Martin and I am a Graduate student in French Literature at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am writing in strong opposition to HB 555, which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduates less than 10 graduates per year.

While it is true that the university of Hawaii system is in a financial crisis, this is not the solution.

Not only would the programs that would be taken away with this bill, strip students of the opportunity and choices of what they want to study but it will have a ripple affect across the UH system.

Specifically, looking at UH Mānoa, if all the programs that fit under this category were taken away it would take away five language departments and leave only one European language for students to study.

Although some might not see this as an issue, as we are in the middle of the pacific, this will be an issue that will affect graduation rates because students will go study somewhere else, as in another state than ours.

Most students at UH Mānoa have to complete the Hawaiian/ Second language requirement which is a level 202 competency in a language. While some languages will stay, those languages will have too many students trying to register for the already limited class spots which will in turn lead to delayed graduation and hurt graduation rates and possibly accreditation, which leads to less research grants for the university.

Many of the programs that would be cut are what make the UH system unique. Do we really want to become an institution that promotes diversity within the student population, but not in the intellectual thought and growth? Do we want to limit the students that would be interested in attending the UH system schools, because of the limited number of programs we offer? Do we want to chase them away and lower the attendance rate?

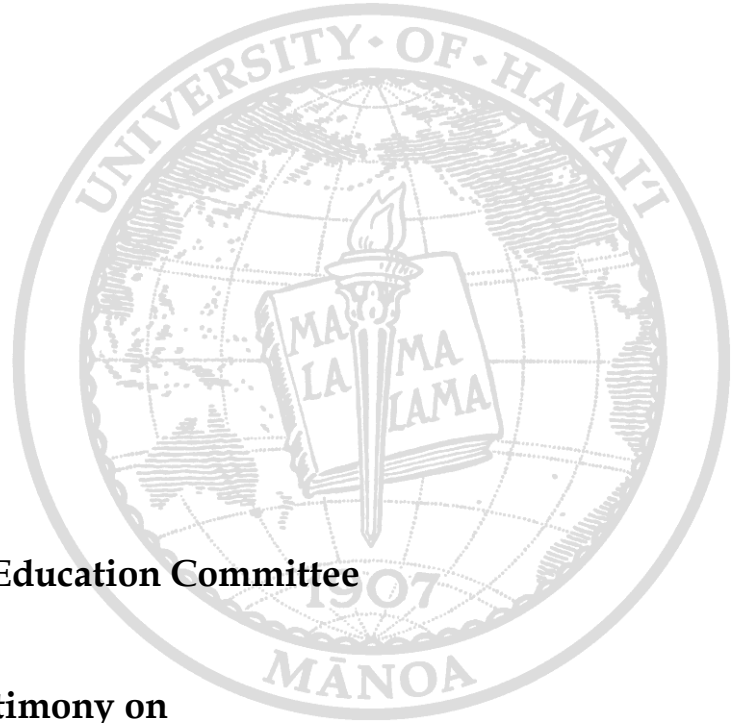
The diversity of the programs and languages UH Mānoa offers are what makes students decide to enroll there. UH Mānoa will not be the same without the entire European languages department, its staff and its students and will greatly suffer from it.

I strongly believe that the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa would loose accreditation if so many programs are cut and most importantly if the Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas department, with all the languages it covers, is not present anymore at UH Mānoa and doesn't offer its great programs to the students of the State, the Pacific and as we often see it in our classrooms, to students from all over the world.

Some of the programs offered under the LLEA department might have fewer graduates than others present on the campus but they are quality students that we might loose to other universities if these undergrad and graduate programs are not offered.

Respectfully submitted,

Tatiana Chauvet-Martin  
Marama77@gmail.com



**House Higher Education Committee**

**Testimony on  
House Bill 555**

**House Conference Room 309  
2 p.m.**

My name is Meda Chesney-Lind. I am currently a Professor and Chair of the Women's Studies Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Today, however, I am speaking as an individual.

The University is going through some very trying times, due to issues that really have little to do with the core mission of the campus, which is teaching and learning. Administrative missteps have meant that suddenly the campus is facing some tough decisions, particularly around costly initiatives like the Cancer Center and possibly the viability of the athletics program.

House Bill 555 appears to seek to solve the University of Hawaii's budget crisis by eliminating any programs that graduate less than 10 majors a year. This would have a devastating impact on the intellectual diversity of the undergraduate curriculum of the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

If the intent of this bill were to be implemented at UHM, it would eliminate four of the five programs on our campus: Classics, French, German and Russian.

But it would also have an impact university-wide, eliminating 24% of our Bachelor's, 36% of our MA and 55% of our PhD programs. What would be left?

You might suspect that I am writing this out of self interest, but that is not the case. Since receiving Departmental status and establishing it's own BA, the number of majors has grown from 14 (2007) to 85 (in Fall, 2011). This is a five fold increase. Since being given control of their own B.A. degree, Women's Studies has had 74 graduates (going for 0 in the first year to 23 during the last academic year, 2011-2012).

But our experience is instructive. New and innovative fields need time to grow and prosper. That is precisely what this initiative would stifle.

There are likely impediments to this bill because of the contents of collective bargaining agreements which mean that tenured faculty cannot be fired unless the State and the campus are facing "financial exigency" which is clearly not the case. I am, however, making an academic argument for rejecting this bill's intent. None of UHM's budget woes is due to over funded and unneeded classes and departments. We have been squeezed for years while other aspects of the University, particularly the administrative side, have grown dramatically. I urge the member of the House of Representatives to explore ways to cut the ever growing University of Hawaii administration before turning on small, vital, and intellectually important departments.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:29 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** scollins@lava.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sara L. Collins     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Aloha Representative Choy and Committee Members - I am in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 555 which proposes to abolish certain undergraduate degree-granting programs due to low enrollments. This is an extremely short-sighted measure and is NOT an acceptable way to save money, if that is the intended purpose. If funding cuts are needed, they should come from the Administration and from the Athletics program, not from core curricula in the Arts and Sciences. I also question whether the actions proposed by HB 555 are in accordance with the Land Grant status given to the University of Hawia'i and for which it receives Federal funding. I therefore respectfully request that HB 555 be HELD and not passed. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

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To: Chair of the higher Education Committee, Isaac Choy

My name is Robert Cooney and I have been a faculty member at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for 30 years. I would like to voice my strong opposition to HB 555. The arbitrary elimination of programs graduating less than 10 students per year would not achieve any significant savings to the University and would deny Hawaii students access to numerous educational opportunities, potentially forcing more of our best students to attend mainland schools resulting in additional economic harm to Hawaii and Manoa. The elimination of Physics, Math, Classics, and many language programs serves no significant purpose, except to restrict student's choice. While the need to operate the University in an efficient manner is vital, the arbitrary and capricious imposition of such mandates only serves to further demoralize faculty and students and perpetuate the downward spiral of our university. It also is a distraction from the real problem facing the university which is the existence of major research and professional units that are costly but not cost effective. The spotlight needs to be directed towards units such as JABSOM that drains resources from Manoa, yet does little to address the growing physician shortage in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Cooney, PhD

Associate Professor

Department of Public Health Sciences

University of Hawaii at Manoa

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:02 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** thcraighead410@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Trevor Craighead    | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I have seen many great talents come through the theater and dance department at the University of Hawaii. How would the university fair without the many languages offered? This measure has only a possibility of saving money. Not much would be gained, however the losses will be immense.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:32 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** sjcristobal@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>           | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shannon Cristobal   | University of Hawaii at Manoa | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:31 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** cocogisele88@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### HB555

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| chloe desmoulins | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: My name is Chloé Desmoulins and I am a Graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am writing in strong opposition to HB 555 which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduates less than 10 graduates per year. This is not a solution to the financial crisis, if anything I believe it would add to the financial crisis. This bill will strip students of the opportunity and choices of what they want to study it will have a ripple affect across the UH system and soon incoming students will turn away from UH because of less choices and less opportunities at the university. If this bill passes, specifically looking at UH Mānoa, five language departments will be stripped away and it will leave only one European language option for students to study. Students with second language requirements, and students who wish to major in a language will then have to register in the few language classes UH will have to offer. This will result in limited class spots and in turn we will see delayed graduation and graduation rates will drop reflecting very poorly the University of Hawaii at Manoa. As it will reflect poorly, accreditation will also be lost which will lead to less research grants. When I was a student in high school determining where I wanted to go to college the first thing I wanted was a school that would have opportunities and choices for me. By limiting choices we are also limiting incoming students. Respectfully submitted, Chloé Desmoulins cocogisele88@yahoo.com

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:53 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** Amd25@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alyssa Donovan      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:34 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** cecraela@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cassandra Joy Ecraela | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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## Testimony in Opposition to HB 555

Submitted online February 4, 2015

From: Daniela Elliott  
1646 Quincy Pl.  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
[ddutra@hawaii.edu](mailto:ddutra@hawaii.edu)

To: Committee on Higher Education  
Hearing on HB 555 at 2pm, Feb. 5, 2015  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

I understand that UH may be facing a dire financial situation, however this bill will only damage something the State should be protecting. This is directly related to the elimination of small UH programs that includes the Botany Department. Degree programs like this are vital to the protection and perpetuation of Hawaii's natural resources.

I graduated from UH at Manoa with Ph.D. and today I work as faculty for Leeward Community College. I teach botany and make it my job to educate students about our numerous threatened and endangered plant species. Our flora is so unique that 90% of species are only found here. Many of my students are interested in working with native plants and hope to transfer to UH Manoa to pursue degrees in Botany in the future. Without a Botany degree, how would they do that? The state needs trained botanists! They need people who care about their local environment but also needs people who are trained to work with endangered plants. It is already difficult to even find skilled applicants familiar with the local flora to fill the limited staff positions dedicated to plant conservation in Hawaii, but if the UH Botany department were eliminated the situation would become much worse. All local hiring agencies looking for someone with a botany degree would be forced to turn to the mainland for an applicant pool. Instead, we can train our future botanists in house and offer local jobs to local students.

I urge you to please reconsider any legislation that would threaten this indispensable asset at the University. In these troubled times, faced with threats in the State from invasive species, climate change, increasing wildfires and food insecurity, we should be looking for ways to strengthen the UH Botany department and the absolutely necessary training and research that it provides to assure our continued existence in these fragile island ecosystems we call home.

Sincerely,

Daniela D. Elliott

February 4, 2015  
House Committee on Higher Education

Aloha and Good Afternoon Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and committee members of the House on Higher Education. My name is Rolando Espanto and I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** *HOUSE BILL 555*.

I firmly believe that this is an “internal” issue that should be dealt with the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, rather than the State legislators. I applaud this committee of bringing this issue to attention amongst the community, even though the responsibility lays with the Board of Regents. In yesterday’s UH newspaper, *Ka Leo O Hawaii*, I agree with reservation of Representative Choy stating, “The administrators and the Board of Regents are suppose to look at these things and make a decision on eliminating these majors.”<sup>1</sup> In regards of “making a decision on eliminating these majors” I feel that the Board of Regents should focus their attention more on the academic programs of finding alternative ways to enroll more students and graduate them on a timely academic plan, instead of abolishing them in all. Being an alumni of the University of Hawaii I do not regret the decision, major, or the courses that I have taken, because Hawaii is an unique place that offers different lens, or worldviews that these programs reflect on.

Although, I fear the speculation of this dilemma that the undergraduate programs are face with, that may lead to the graduate programs is in-all not a new facet, but rather an ongoing issue that has plague the university for quite sometime. It is true that some academic programs have a higher enrollment than others. Yet, I do not see it as being negative, because there are several factors as to why students enter those fields. In all, if education is a “mean of access” towards upward mobility, securing a good paying job, or fulfilling a life-long dream, than all courses should be valid to each of his/her learning experiences and goals. Therefore, I humbly ask that this committee oppose this measure and let the University handle this issue.

Mahalo, and thank you for your time.

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A. <sup>1</sup>Alayvilla, “Bill aims to ‘abolish’ over 30 undergraduate programs at UH,” *Ka Leo O Hawaii*, February 3, 2015 ([http://www.kaleo.org/news/bill-aims-to-abolish-over-undergraduate-programs-at-uh/article\\_24b79b1e-ac28-11e4-b25f-f77ef65cea1b.html](http://www.kaleo.org/news/bill-aims-to-abolish-over-undergraduate-programs-at-uh/article_24b79b1e-ac28-11e4-b25f-f77ef65cea1b.html))

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2015

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

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

Re: Opposition to HB 555 Relating to the University of Hawaii

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 (UHM). I transferred to and completed my B.A. in Biology and Anthropology at UHM in May 2013. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 555, which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduate less than 10 graduates per year.

As an undergraduate, I served as a Mānoa Peer Advisor, a peer academic advisor, at the College of Education. With its first cohort in 2010, the Mānoa Peer Advisors is a group of students trained to help their peers navigate college.<sup>1</sup> Mānoa Peer Advisors are spread throughout the UHM campus in various colleges, schools, and offices. While the intent of HB 555 is to encourage more economic self-sufficiency of University of Hawai'i programs, abolishing undergraduate degree-granting programs is short sighted for two reasons:

- (1) Cutting programs does not necessarily cut costs. Approximately 90% of total university costs lie with personnel. The current language of HB 555 does not account for the fact that faculty members are not being retrenched. If such programs are cut, the faculty members are still under contract and will continue to teach.
- (2) Cutting programs hurts students.
  - (a) Courses offered in these departments help students graduate by fulfilling, for example, UHM Core (general education) and Graduation Requirements that cover:
    - (i) Foundations (Written Communication, Symbolic Reasoning, Global and Multicultural Perspectives)
    - (ii) Diversification (Arts, Humanities, Literatures, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences)
    - (iii) Focus (Hawaiian, Asian, & Pacific issues, Contemporary Ethical Issues, Oral Communication, and Writing Intensive)
    - (iv) Hawaiian or Second Language

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~uhmpa/index.html>

- (b) The programs offered are a part of what makes a liberal arts education important. Taken from the UHM General Education website, “The purpose of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa is to provide an environment in which both faculty and students can discover, examine, preserve and transmit the knowledge, wisdom, and values that will enrich present and future generations.”<sup>2</sup> There is a higher purpose in offering a breadth and depth of programs at our university.

Studying higher education in graduate school has further made me appreciate and understand the history of and many purposes of higher education institutions. Let us not so quickly run toward thinking of higher education as solely an economic driver, lest we lose sight of intangible benefits such as inquiry, inspiration, student development and engagement.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristine Jan Espinoza  
kjespino@hawaii.edu

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hawaii.edu/gened/about.htm>

Date: February 4, 2015

To: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & THE ARTS  
Honorable Chair Sen. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Lorraine Inouye,  
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

From: Ashley Marie Ancheta Galacgac

Subject: Opposing HB555, Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Meeting: February 5, 2015, 2:00 pm, House Conference Room 309

My name is Ashley Marie Ancheta Galacgac. My home is Kalihi. I write to you to express my strong opposition of HB555.

I am a proud graduate of the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am currently a graduate student in Educational Foundations, hoping to pursue my doctoral degree. I have received an invaluable education at UHM where I learned about myself, my community, and what I may do to contribute to improve the lives of the people of Hawai'i. With great sadness and frustration, I do not want to believe that the most meaningful classes I haven taken in my entire educational journey are programs HB555 proposes to abolish.

As an aspiring educator, I was a teaching assistant as an undergraduate and graduate student in the Ethnic Studies Department and Philippine Language and Literature Department. Faculty, staff, and my peers in these departments showed me the type of education I want to learn as a student and to teach as a teacher. Developing my own teaching praxis, I found that sharing our stories and building relationships within the classroom community allows learning and growing to extend beyond classroom and Mānoa. Being part of learning communities that begun in classes drives my passion to become a teacher who deepens engagement in course content by making learning relevant to life inside and outside of the university.

The departments mentioned above are unique to Hawai'i. It is not just about the classes, but the values and missions these departments uphold. My friends and colleagues in Pacific Island Studies have expressed similar sentiments. It is also not just about the course content these programs teach, but their significance to communities here in Hawai'i. Being able to major in language and histories of communities acknowledges their legitimacy in higher education. These programs that are proposed to be abolished that fulfills a significant portion of UHM's mission.

*Taking as its historic trust the Native Hawaiian values embedded in the concepts of kuleana, 'ohana, and ahupua'a that serve to remind us of our responsibilities to family, community, and the environment, Mānoa's hallmark is a culture of community engagement that extends far beyond the classroom to bridge theory and practice, fostering creative and critical thinking, and promoting students' intellectual growth and success as contributing members of society.*



Ethnic Studies, Ilokano, and Filipino cultural classes inspired me to be aware of the needs of the community and use my education to help create a solution. I have friends in Pacific Island Studies who have expressed similar sentiments in their program. Although these programs may not meet a quota of minimum graduates with the specific majors, there has always been students from various other disciplines who seek these classes.

It is not the quantity, but quality of education. The civic engagement of graduates, faculty, and current students of these programs continue to contribute to Hawai'i. I recognize that balancing expenditures is very difficult during financial crisis, but the value of education should not be dictated by monetary measures. These programs need to remain part of the UH system. Ethnic Studies, Pacific Island Studies, and language classes allow for weaving lived experiences to create a space for learning. These programs allow the inclusion of erased, excluded, marginalized, and devalued voices. This is my hope as a student who seeks an education that is true to her community and as an aspiring teacher who seeks to co-create, co-produce, and co-write rooted narratives of education.

I strongly urge you to oppose the passing of HB555.

Aloha,  
Ashley Marie Ancheta Galacgac

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:33 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** bgalarit@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brandon Galarita    | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am in complete opposition of this bill. As a student of UH Manoa, there are other programs/positions besides academics that should be cut completely or budget reduced greatly, i.e. certain athletic programs, most notably the football team, and administration positions.

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Date: February 4, 2015

Bill Hearing to be heard by House Committee on Higher Education (HED)

(February 5, 2015, 2:00 p.m.)

Topic: HB555- Relating to the University of Hawaii, Budget Crisis, Minimum Graduates

Dear Members of the House Committee on Higher Education,

Hello, my name is **Nicolita Marie Garces** and I am an archivist and librarian. I am also a member of Decolonial Pin@ys, which is a group of diasporic Filipin@s in Hawai'i committed to demilitarization, deoccupation, healing and creative liberation. In 2013, I wrote a master's thesis focusing on Hamilton Library meeting the information needs of University of Hawai'i students in the Ilokano Language and Literature Program, which is part of the Philippine Language and Literature Program (PLLP). PLLP is one of the undergraduate programs that will be affected if HB555 passes.

HB555 is very narrow in scope and only focuses on alleviating the university's financial crisis. The bill does not take into consideration the impact of these university programs on its students and most importantly, on the community.

As a concerned community member, I noticed that many Filipino youth are ashamed of their identity. The Ilokano Language and Literature Program continues to rectify this issue by cultivating ethnic pride and empowerment among the students taking the courses. In the early 1970s, the Program was created as a response to the issues and challenges faced by a growing Filipino community here in Hawai'i. Graduates from this program became bilingual professionals in the fields of health, legal services, education and business. Students who partook in my research indicated a strong desire to work in the community after graduation, fulfilling the Program's mission.

The Program also made huge impacts in the community by showcasing cultural programs. It also expanded Ilokano language courses to Farrington and Waipahu High School as well as Maui Community College. It is also instrumental in creating iLAING (Ilokano Language Acquisition and Immersion for the New Generation). As a second generation Ilokana American, I beam with pride that the culture and language of my ancestors will not be lost with the next generation.

I believe that the other UH programs that are being threatened under HB555 have similar impacts to their students and to the community. I strongly oppose the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

Agyamanak unay,

**Nicolita Marie Garces**

Committee: HED

Room: 309

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, Feb 5, 2015 2:00 PM

RE: HB 555 – Oppose

Aloha,

My name is Shawn and I am a Master's student in the Botany department at UH Manoa. The botany program would be one of the programs cut by this measure which would be a substantial loss not only to the school but also to the state and the country. The Botany program at Manoa is one of just a handful of botany departments left in the country. It is unique in that it allows students to work in Hawaii which has the highest rate of endemic (occurring no other place on earth) plants on the planet. We have many plants that are on the brink of extinction as well as fragile ecosystems that merit further study. The loss of the botany department would significantly reduce the research being conducted on Hawaiian plants and ecosystems. Hawaii's endangered plant life cannot afford this loss. This unique program is what brought me and many of my peers to the University of Hawaii. The department further distinguishes itself by being the only botany program in the country to offer a degree in ethnobotany which is the study of the interaction of plants and people. I understand that the budget crisis is severe and must be dealt with but this is not the appropriate way to do so. The University of Hawaii is the state's institute for higher education. Abolishing degree programs makes the university much less attractive to students looking to further their education. This would severely damage the image of the university to the public and ultimately drive down future enrollment. The budget must be balanced but cutting educational programs will only make things worse in the long run and permanently damage the University of Hawaii. Please oppose this bill for the sake of the future of both the University and the state of Hawaii.

Mahalo

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:18 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** seanwg@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sean Gershaneck     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: This is a terrible bill that will negatively affect Hawai'i. Some of these programs are world-reknown contributing to the betterment of this planet. Removal of these programs will also make UH Manoa a much less desirable school to attend and make its accreditation questionable. Furthermore this bill would abolish necessary majors in fields that we need more local and native Hawaiian students such as Botany and Geology. Please, if you truly care about Hawai'i, please don't pass this bill,

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# Testimony against H.B. NO. 555

## Committee: House of Representatives

Veronica L. Gibson, PhD Student  
Department of Botany, University of Hawai'i at Maānoa  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
vgibson@hawaii.edu

February 4, 2015

DATE: Thursday, February 05, 2015

TIME: 2:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 309, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

I am strongly opposed to the motion to abolish the Botany Department at the University of Hawai'i at Maānoa, due to the fact that we graduate about nine undergraduate students a year and this bill proposes that we must graduate 10. In all departments at the university graduation rates are typically more than 4 years, this means that the university gets tuition money for additional semesters from these students, so financially this should not pose a problem to the university. As a graduate student my research is expected to bring in considerable research money to the department. My advisor, Dr. Celia Smith, brings in considerable research money and overhead funds to the department and the university, as do the rest of the botany professors. In fact, this research money and overhead is enough to pay the department salaries and running expenses. In other words, the department is financially self-sustainable and it is not only unfair, but doesn't make any sense financially to abolish us due to the financial burden on the rest of the university. Our department houses nationally and internationally renowned researchers who enhance the reputation of the university and the state. Also, our graduates enter important state positions that require knowledge of Hawai'i's unique ecosystems and flora, including State Botanist positions within the division

of aquatic resources, and positions within Papahnaumokukea Marine National Monument.

A motion to abolish the Botany Department is a motion to stop higher education that focuses on our unique flora and ecosystems here in Hawai'i. During times of sea level rise and potential climate change, we should be increasing the study of how to conserve and protect our island ecosystems. Hawai'i is home to more endangered species than anywhere else in the world. The people of Hawai'i rely on the natural beauty of our islands and our oceans to bring tourists and revenue. We rely on our oceans for their fisheries and healthy coral reef ecosystems. Even the surfing industry relies on the health of our coral reefs. If we are not working to study and preserve our islands their natural beauty and health is at risk of being lost to us forever.

Not only would this decision impact Hawai'i, but the botany department works with many other pacific island nations to study the sustainable use of their resources. Our department is the only botany graduate degree granting program situated in the tropics, within an island ecosystem. It is the only place where these ecosystems can be studied and where comparisons across other island groups can be made. Our department is a center for collaboration between pacific island nations to understand our island homes and to protect and conserve our unique resources.

My work in the botany department focuses on watershed management and conservation as it relates to our coastal marine ecosystems. I am dedicated to reducing the impacts of development and industry because I grew up here in Hawai'i, in Kailua Kona on Hawai'i island. All of my friends and family depend on the natural beauty and productivity of our marine and terrestrial ecosystems for their livelihood, if it be through commercial fishing, dive charters, vacation rentals, or even retail. People come to Kona because of the beauty of our oceans. Invasive algal blooms, which are increased by development of the watershed and increased nutrient runoff, cost the state in tourism and real estate revenue since guide books started telling people not to come to Maui's beaches when the blooms got bad enough. These blooms reduce people's enjoyment of the ocean and people will choose to go elsewhere if we do not prevent them. Also, there are public health concerns where ciguatera and other harmful bacteria are increased. Because I am from Hawai'i I am personally connected to these ecosystems and the people who rely on them. If you abolish the botany department it is unlikely that researchers will be as interested to come in from elsewhere with some understanding of our ecosystems and desire to study how to protect them.

Please do not pass this bill.



Dane Gonsalves  
32 North School Street #2  
Honolulu, HI 96817

February 4, 2015

Honorable Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and the Distinguished Representatives on the Committee on Higher Education of the Twenty-Eighth Legislature,

My Name is Dane Gonsalves and I strongly **oppose** bill *HB555*, which proposes to abolish undergraduate programs with less than ten (10) graduates per year at UH Mānoa. This bill has the disastrous potential to eliminate many important interdisciplinary courses that students from other larger departments use to fulfill their degree requirements. With the potential loss of more than 30 programs at the university, this will put future students entering the workforce at a severe disadvantage compared to their mainland-educated counterparts. Furthermore, you would be doing a disservice to undeclared and exploratory students who might otherwise find their niche through specialized courses offered in these departments. Many of the courses in these departments are used to fulfill focus, foundation, writing intensive, and other requirements needed to graduate. Cutting these programs will certainly make the university's goal of increasing on-time graduates (ie: *15 to Finish*) less likely and will put students further behind by eliminating useable classes that can be applied to their degree program.

As a continuing student at UHM, I found this news to be especially disturbing. I will be graduating with a BA in Anthropology in May and am a candidate for the Masters of Science program in Botany for the Fall 2015 semester. This bill directly threatens my ability to continue with my intended post-baccalaureate program as Botany is one of the proposed programs to be eliminated. Furthermore, it will cause me to become ineligible to be employed through the US Fish and Wildlife service (USFWS), a position which requires me to be in a degree-seeking program. I have spent the last four (4) months trying to secure an advisor for grad school and an equal amount of effort trying to secure placement in a program to become eligible for the USFWS position. Passage of this bill would irreparably hinder my ability to continue with higher education and would invalidate my opportunity to work with the Federal Government.

As a student at UH Mānoa, a resident of State District 27, and tax payer in the state of Hawai'i, I graciously request that you please vote **NO** on *House Bill 555*.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration on this matter,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dane', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dane Gonsalves

## Opposition to HB555

This measure, which “Requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished”, is a threat to the University of Hawai’i, the state of Hawai’i, and the United States of America. The University of Hawai’i is the premier public education institution in the state. It is a research institution that is built on science. Some of these science majors are highly specified, and have few graduates. These include Plant & Environmental Biotech, Plant & Environmental Protection Science, Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences, and Biological Engineering, just to name a few. These degrees are incredibly important to the University, the state, and the nation. Hawai’i is a highly diverse state, both in terms of people and ecology. We need the skilled, educated work force to keep Hawai’i healthy and sustainable for the future. Majors specific to Hawai’i like Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences are of the extreme importance, because these are unique programs not offered nationally. Additionally, many of the UH graduates travel nationally and internationally to work, and these skilled yet small majors provide students and the communities they join with the knowledge they need to create a better future. It is vital that these programs continue to exist.

Sincerely,

Sara Delenn Graves

University of Hawai’i at Manoa student

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:24 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** aguaglia@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrew Guagliardo   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Removing UH programs which are extremely important for accreditation of the university are not a good idea. University of Hawai'i at Manoa is a Tier One Research university and as such losing academic programs in order to meet budgetary goals is unacceptable, particularly when there is a large, bloated and unnecessary portion of the budget allocated for non-educational sports programs. Professor Robert Littman has stated the following and I agree with it whole-heartedly: "If the legislature wants to reduce the funding for the university that it provides, it should simply reduce the funding and let the university decide how to both accomplish its educational goals and its economical goals." Passing this bill will only be to the cultural detriment of the islands as a whole.

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**Testimony in opposition of HB555 Minimum Graduates  
Before the House Higher Education Committee, Hearing on February 5, 2015, 2pm,  
House Conference Room 309**

Dear Higher Education Chair Isaac W. Choy and Members of the Committee:

My name is Angela Haeusler, a PhD student in the Department of Second Language Studies at UH Mānoa, housed in the College of Languages, Linguistics, & Literature (LLL). For the past two years I have worked with federal and local initiatives for multilingual education and workforce development. I oppose HB555 and would like to provide my insights about some consequences of this detrimental bill that would eliminate programs with less than ten graduating students per year.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has recently been classified as serving one of the most diverse student bodies in the United States.<sup>1</sup> This diversity is linked directly to the rich ethnic and linguistic diversity of the people who call these islands their home. Many programs in the College of LLL provide our diverse students with opportunities to develop skills in their community languages. In fact, UH often is the first place on students’ academic path where they can receive formal instruction in these languages. If HB555 passed, it would, for instance, be the deathbed for the Filipino and Philippine Literature Program at UH, where Ilokano and Tagalog are offered.

Some branches of the Hawai‘i State Government report that up to 40 percent of their services are non- or limited English language encounters. Ilokano and Tagalog are among the most frequent languages in these encounters<sup>2</sup> – languages that, under HB555, would be eliminated from UH Mānoa’s degree programs. UH has a mandate to serve our community – it is its kuleana to do so. This community is in dire need of people who develop the ability to speak diverse yet less commonly taught languages, understand the unique cultures of our islands and the world, and use this knowledge to provide for themselves and for the people who live here. The proposed bill and its effect of eliminating language-learning opportunities from students would deeply harm the sustainability and the values of our diverse island community in the present and in the future. It would also deprive students from becoming global citizens who connect Hawai‘i with the rest of the world. Neither of these values can be measured in graduation rates.

Angela Haeusler  
PhD student  
Department of Second Language Studies  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa  
Email: [angelahh@hawaii.edu](mailto:angelahh@hawaii.edu)

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://college.usatoday.com/2014/08/07/top-10-most-diverse-colleges-in-the-united-states/>

<sup>2</sup> Source: Office of Language Access, Hawai‘i Department of Health

Dear members of Hawaii's legislative House,

My name is Justin Hata, and I am a sophomore at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am currently enrolled in Latin 102, and my Latin instructor is Mr. Lloyd Hamasaki. It has been called to my attention that a bill known as HB555 is making its way through your half of the Hawaii State Legislature. If enacted, the bill will abolish "any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year." According to my Latin instructor, this will endanger four of the five Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas (LLEA) programs, including the Classics, which consists of both Latin and Greek.

This measure will be devastating not only to the instructors of LLEA programs; the academic advancement of students will also be at risk. After all, students within the College of Arts and Sciences, including a Molecular Cell Biology major like me, need to satisfy four semesters of a second language in order to graduate: 101, 102, 201, and 202. This bill, if enacted, will greatly diminish the language options for us students.

Endangering the Classics in particular will be contrary to academic principles because Latin and Greek are fundamental to the English language, so these languages should especially remain available for students to learn. Furthermore, students like me who are science majors find the Classics very useful, as Latin and Greek words are continuously used in scientific terminology. The elimination of the Classical languages, particularly Latin, will especially be horrible for students with disabilities involving speech.

I was diagnosed with autism in 1996, so I know what it is like to have the most difficult time developing my speech. Latin has saved my academic career at the University of Hawaii at Manoa because it is unique for being mainly a written language, so there are no oral exams that can cripple my progress. By endangering the Classics program, HB555 puts students like me at risk. Therefore, as you decide on HB555, please consider the students who make the University of Hawaii possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Justin Hata

February 2, 2015

Committee on Higher Education  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to HB555. This measure would abolish many valuable programs at the University of Hawaii. My testimony relates specifically to the Russian division of the LLEA, as this is the only program I am familiar with, although my support extends to the other programs that are facing elimination should this measure be passed.

Simply stated, HB555 would abolish the Russian program (among others) at UH. I cannot imagine a worse time in our recent history to knowingly eliminate a program that produces **fluent, culturally-literate, politically-savvy speakers of Russian**. At this moment in history, Russia is not only a politically and economically powerful nation, but it has also acted recently in direct contravention of international law. For the foreseeable future, the United States must dedicate considerable resources toward diffusing the delicate political situation between our nations.

Now is a time in history when diplomacy is key, and now more than ever we are in need of qualified experts in Russia and the Russian language. Russian has long been considered a critical language by the US Department of State: hence its inclusion in the Critical Language Scholarship Program, Fulbright, FLEX (recently canceled), and many other programs dedicated to training Americans to speak Russian. It is not by accident that the undergraduate students in the Russian program at UH typically double-major with Political Science or International Relations. It would be an enormous mistake to cancel our training of eager, bright, talented students who could become major agents of diplomacy.

The Russian division at UH, although small, has accomplished major feats in recent years. For the first time, undergraduate students have participated in a fully-funded exchange with a university in Vladivostok, Russia. We have an undergraduate Russian club, as well as a Russian conversation circle. As the leader of this conversation circle, I must emphasize to you the enthusiasm and dedication of our Russian students. When I invite these students for a single hour of conversation in Russian, they come and talk for hours, begging for new words and expressions, challenging and supporting each other, until we are actually kicked out of the library at closing time.

**This is not a program to be simply thrown away.** These students impress us every day, and the graduates of this program, though few, will without question be assets to our state and to our nation. I implore you: do not cancel their program.

Respectfully yours,

Bryn Hauk  
PhD Student, Department of Linguistics  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 5:49 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** hoggan@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alena Hoggan        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I received a Russian language degree from UHM in May 2014. The small program size gave me the help and freedom of research needed for such an intensive language degree. Perhaps Russian is one of the less popular areas of study at UHM, but since when has popularity among college students been an indicator of cultural value, diversity, and quality?

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:54 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** joshuair@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joshua Irvine       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill. Obtaining an undergraute degree requires many years of dedication. Implementing a minimum number of graduates a year does not make sense and dilutes the quality of higher education. Many of the programs that are on the list are considered premier programs throughout the world. The State Legislature should urger the Univesrity of Hawaii should consider cutting sports as well as not approve wage increases for adminstrators. UH is top heavy. These undergraduate majors prepares a workforce that is worth far greater than income generated from sports activities.

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:01 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** tci.07@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### HB555

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Taressa Ishimi | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: You're right many of these programs are small, however they also provide a skill and satisfy a requirement and further the education acquired in the high school for their passionate students which some other programs are simply unable to do. Almost ten years ago I read a statistic in a local paper that almost every fourteen seconds a language dies. What a horrible statistic to read, especially in a state like Hawaii that prides itself on the diversity in the cultures and languages that have come here and called these islands their home. Second and sometimes third or even fourth language skills are such wonderful skills to have. Providing one with opportunities to teach young minds or to travel and works in other countries, reminding the world how wonderful Hawaii is to come from or to go to. In addition many colleges require at least two years of a second language to earn a degree. What a disappointment it would be for a student to apply to a university only to find a limit on the languages offered, especially for students coming from other states who may desire to further their European language skills. In many other states the popular second languages acquired in home or in high school are Spanish, French, and German, some with exposure to the Classics as well to enhance language acquisition. What message is being sent to mainland students applying to the University of Hawaii only to find these languages, so popular in other schools, gone. And what message is sent to the students of Hawaii as they apply to a college that encourages their international world to occur in Asia and Polynesia alone. Study abroad programs that accompany these language programs and great opportunities for these students, but the programs themselves provide learning opportunities, travel opportunities, and employment opportunities that other programs simply can't.

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:30 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** devonizumigawa@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Devon Izumigawa     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I have a personal belief that we are what we practice. We can say we are of certain ethnic backgrounds but if we do not practice the culture, then they are just empty words. It has been said to destroy a culture, take away its language. This can be seen with our own home, Hawaii, having lost its primary language of Hawaiian. Instead, we are taught English first and Hawaiian as an elective, with exception to Hawaii immersion schools. However, culture does not only stop there. In each culture there is art. it has been said that when there are no wars, art can flourish. Since we are in a time of war it is even more important to preserve our arts so that they may be passed on to our future generations. If we allow our arts to die we become nothing more than machines in a daily routine, having limited creativity. I strongly oppose this bill and hope the impact it can have on our future generations is strongly considered

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:06 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jinybeans@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jiny                | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: It is true that the graduate botany program at UH may be small at this time, but its importance cannot be overstated. I'm sure I don't need to remind you that our State government has legal obligations to protect and perpetuate indigenous plants, of which 90% occur no where else on Earth. Without a Botany department in our state, how will we educate stewards of these resources? In addition to myself, there are many other people employed in our State and Federal government and associated conservation organizations across Hawaii that received their degrees from the UH Botany department. In addition to the department's graduates and their roles in local government and environmental groups, the research done on Hawaiian plants by faculty and graduate students of the Botany department helps further our understanding of the native flora and continues to enhance our ability to protect it, while bringing in tremendous amounts of grant monies (including generous overhead costs for UH administration) and international academic acclaim to the University. At this time there are approximately 400 Threatened and Endangered (T and E) plant species in Hawaii, officially listed by Federal and State law. When it comes to native plants we are facing an extinction crisis in this state, with very limited resources to address it. It is already difficult to even find skilled applicants familiar with the local flora to fill the limited staff positions dedicated to plant conservation in Hawaii, but if the UH Botany department were eliminated by the arbitrary requirements of this unnecessary bill the situation would become much worse. All local hiring agencies looking for someone with a botany degree (i.e. University positions, DLNR, watershed partnerships, DOD, federal agencies, private environmental consultants) would be forced to turn to the US continent for an applicant pool, and any requirements for local knowledge would no longer be possible without a recognized local botany degree program. I urge you to please reconsider any legislation that would threaten this indispensable asset at the University. Although I understand that UH may be facing a dire financial situation, we should be looking for ways to address it that do not undermine degree programs which are so vital to the protection and perpetuation of Hawaii's natural resources. In these troubled times, faced with threats in the State from invasive species, climate change, increasing wildfires and food insecurity, we should be looking for ways to strengthen the UH Botany department and the absolutely necessary training and research that it provides to assure our continued existence in these fragile island ecosystems we call home.

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As a Hawaii-born resident with friends and family currently attending, having graduated from, or teaching at the University of Hawaii, and being myself a former UHM English major, I vehemently oppose HB555. To abolish programs at the University of Hawaii based on the sole criteria of enrollment, as Rep. Isaac Choy proposes in this bill, would be disastrous. How can a state, known worldwide for hula, end the dance program at its university? How does it make sense for Botany to be tossed aside when we have more endangered species of flora than any other state? Hawaii has one of the most diverse microclimates in the world and we were praised just last year by former Vice President Al Gore at the Stan Sheriff Center for work regarding climate change. Inexplicably, Rep. Choy wants to eliminate the meteorology program. When the public demands improvement in our public schools, how is it fiscally responsible to eliminate eleven secondary education programs, including those in Biological Science, English, Math and Music? We desperately need more health care professionals in the future, but Rep. Choy wants to cut the Medical Technology program. Kilauea is most active volcano in the world and it was on the slopes of Mauna Loa where the first evidence pointing to the greenhouse effect was found. But only five students graduated in Geophysics last year, so Rep. Choy believes that program should be cut.

HB555 makes no sense, unless Rep. Choy's goal is to make the University of Hawaii and our fair state a laughingstock.

If Rep. Choy truly has an interest in making the University of Hawaii be more fiscally responsible and efficient, he should take Classics Department Chair Robert Littman, up on his offer of showing how a university truly functions. Rep. Choy's political bean counting is insufficient analysis to make truly responsible and well-reasoned decisions about what's best for the future of education in Hawaii. It would benefit us all if Rep. Choy would take a class at Prof. Littman's knee to gain the requisite insight for that endeavor.

I ask that the House Committee on Higher Education stop HB555 from moving any further. Thank you.

*Fern Kanda  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
02/04/2015*

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2015

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

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

Re: Opposition to HB 555 Relating to the University of Hawaii

My name is Alyssa-Marie Kau. I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) majoring in Political Science and Communicology (with Honors) and am also obtaining a minor in Law and Society. I will be graduating in May 2015. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 555, which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduate less than 10 graduates per year.

As an undergraduate, I have helped many of my undergraduate peers in general by helping my peers navigate college. I also work in the Office of Admissions, counseling prospective student and helping them in the process of choosing the University of Hawai'i as their college. One of the issues that is present in this bill is that many our students come to our Research I university for its renowned science programs. Many of the programs on this list are in the sciences. Being that Hawai'i is the only Research I university to the state, it is important not to eliminate our University's contributions to the scientific community. Many of these courses have demanding curricula with immense requirements in various scientific and mathematical fundamentals. Each of us benefits tremendously in the sciences, and it is important that we continue with encouraging other young students to be a part of the innovative research that the university is known for.

While the intent of HB 555 is to encourage more economic self-sufficiency of University of Hawai'i programs, abolishing undergraduate degree-granting programs is short sighted for an additional three reasons:

1. Cutting programs does not necessarily cut costs. Approximately 90% of total university costs lie with personnel. The current language of HB 555 does not account for the fact that faculty members are not being retrenched. If such programs are cut, the faculty members are still under contract and will continue to teach.
2. There is already an immense teacher shortage in Hawai'i. By cutting many of these secondary education programs, we will increase this teaching deficit, which will punish our public school students. There will be teachers that will not meet the teaching requirements set forth by the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. Our children will continue to suffer in content learned, making them less prepared for post-secondary institutions and/or the workforce. Our university is notorious for noting that local students do not belong at a Research I university-we must prove our administrators wrong. Hawai'i's students have the potential necessary to increase and create new sectors to grow our economies. It would be unfair to take away this opportunity from them.
3. Cutting programs hurts students.

- a. Courses offered in these departments help students graduate by fulfilling, for example, UHM Core (general education) and Graduation Requirements that cover:
  1. Foundations (Written Communication, Symbolic Reasoning, Global and Multicultural Perspectives)
  2. Diversification (Arts, Humanities, Literatures, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences)
  3. Focus (Hawaiian, Asian, & Pacific issues, Contemporary Ethical Issues, Oral Communication, and Writing Intensive)
  4. Hawaiian or Second Language
  
- b. The programs offered are a part of what makes a liberal arts education important. Taken from the UHM General Education website, “The purpose of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa is to provide an environment in which both faculty and students can discover, examine, preserve and transmit the knowledge, wisdom, and values that will enrich present and future generations.” There is a higher purpose in offering a breadth and depth of programs at our university. These courses provide the diversity in curriculum that our system needs to have for attaining and allowing for the retention of accreditation.

While we understand that the university is facing tremendous financial difficulties, the way to fix this economic crisis does not come from providing additional punishments for students. The University of Hawai‘i is a land, sea, and space grant school, meaning that it has an obligation to give back to its students and to give back to the ‘āina. The university and the legislature will continue to fail living up to its mission with this piece of legislation, as it will take away opportunities for students. We are not customers and the university is not a business; providing higher education to students allows for increased civic engagement, innovation, and inspiration to allow our community to better itself for future generations to come.

Me ke aloha pumehana,  
Alyssa-Marie Y. H. Kau  
[amkau@hawaii.edu](mailto:amkau@hawaii.edu)  
(808) 218-9455

Merle Kawabata  
1550 Wilder Ave., #B403  
Honolulu, HI 96822

February 3, 2015

**Position: Strong Opposition to HB 555**

Hearing at 2:00 pm on February 5, 2015 in House conference room 309

I am writing to ask that you strongly oppose HB 555 relating to eliminating undergraduate degree programs at the University of Hawai'i if ten students per year have not graduated within a program for three consecutive years.

I work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. In the Department where I work, every semester there are about 2,000 students that take our courses. In a given year, I process a number of Certificates to students. What happens to students at the University of Hawai'i when their choice of what course to take or what certificate or minor to pursue is diminished? How are we helping these students to have a better education if we downgrade our University? Do you honestly believe that students will attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa if their choices of what courses, what major to decide on, what certificates/minors to pursue are limited?

Instead of downgrading the University and eliminating programs, why not upgrade our programs at the University of Hawai'i, such as hiring more faculty instead of freezing faculty positions? Wouldn't that generate more income? Students would be able to graduate at a faster rate. More students may enroll at the University of Hawai'i because there are more courses being offered.

In the beginning of the Fall 2014 semester, when the hiring freeze was announced, a student from the mainland decided against enrolling at the University of Hawai'i. She had already been accepted to the University and was in our program. I wonder how many students in other Departments at the University of Hawai'i decided not to attend the University because of the hiring freeze?

How do you honestly expect programs to have at least ten students graduating within a year, when faculty positions are cut and we are not able to hire more lecturers to teach our courses, thereby, not being able to offer enough courses for our students so that they can graduate in a timely fashion?

Please oppose HB 555. A vote for this bill will surely cause the continuing demise of the University of Hawai'i.

Thank you.



## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:19 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** turtle.aisland@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leisa King          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: The University of Hawaii would be incomplete without the botany and ethnobotany programs which support conservation and investigation of Hawaiian plants and cultural uses of plants. It is one of the smaller programs at the school but please do not be fooled by it's size. Simply because a University program is small and has a particular sort of person attracted to it does not lower it's value. If anything it should increase it's value for adding diversity to the campus. Many people who major in other subjects take botany and ethnobotany courses to supplement their education as well. This bill is not a proper solution to the budget crisis and should not be passed.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 5:11 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** matthew.kirchner@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Matthew Kirchner    | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am currently studying Russian at UH Manoa. The Russian department - its staff, programs, and educational opportunities - have been invaluable to me and to the many other students who benefit from the department's tireless work. The university would be doing a great disservice to itself and to the community it serves if it were to abolish departments based on an arbitrary metric such as the number of graduates. The educational value of small programs, such as the Russian department, cannot be measured in degrees alone. The university and the state benefit immensely from the continued inclusion and celebration of different cultures and ideas that such small departments provide. I implore you to reconsider this proposal, as I feel it will do irreparable harm to the university, the community, and most importantly to the many students such as myself who benefit directly from the efforts of departments which may be abolished. Thank you for your time.

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Date: February 4, 2015

Time: 2:00PM

Place: Conference Room 309

To: House Committee on Higher Education

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Re: Opposition to HB 555 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

Aloha,

My name is Alycia Kiyabu and I am a current Masters student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am writing this testimony in strong opposition to HB 555 in which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduate less than 10 graduates per year.

By abolishing the over 30 majors listed, UHM runs the risk of losing accreditation. UHM is the flagship research campus of the UH system, meaning that many students, both local and non-local, seek UHM for the varying degrees of opportunity and diverse range of studies. The proposed list of majors to be abolished, contribute to UHM's mission of encouraging diversity and global awareness. The majors listed for abolishment contribute to the creation of a wholesome, civically and socially engaged student.

HB 555 threatens the equity and empowerment of racial minorities. As a First-generation Filipino college student, I was able to become a culturally competent global citizen by completing courses that are found within the majors listed. By abolishing these majors, UHM will commit a great disservice to the student population because it is in these majors where students can find courses that reflect the literature, art, culture, and politics of racialized groups. These majors are spaces for students of color to pursue higher education.

Majors that graduate less than 10 students per year, also offer the entire student population the opportunity to fulfill general education requirements, such as the ethics, oral communication, and writing intensive requirement. By abolishing these majors, you also run the risk of negatively impacting UHM's graduation rates, as students will be forced to seek out alternative ways of completing general education requirements.

The abolishment of these majors will have long-term ramifications and repercussions, even more so than what I have previously stated. As a current student of UH Mānoa, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 555.

I want to thank the House Committee on Higher Education for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of HB 555.

Mahalo,

Alycia Kiyabu

Masters Candidate in Education Administration; Higher Education

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:18 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** carimmh@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cari Knowles        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Frankly put, UH Manoa's largest virtue is in it's diversity and education of all cultures and fields. I am a Junior at Manoa, currently a German major, and I find that the logic of terminating majors based on how many degrees are accomplished in them per year, is unfounded. The bill ignores the knowledge that students gain taking these classes, who may not have the means to major but still love the material and fantastic education provided by the many amazing and adept professors in these departments. I implore the house not to pass this bill, and to retain the integrity and spirit of Hawaii's diversity and education.

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## Testimony in Opposition to HB 555

Submitted online February 4, 2015

From: Margaret J. S. Koehler  
2914 A Laoha Place  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Sporck@hawaii.edu

To: Committee on Higher Education  
Hearing on HB 555 at 2pm, Feb. 5, 2015  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

This troubling legislation was brought to my attention this week and I felt obligated to speak out as an independent concerned citizen in strong opposition to it. While there are numerous important undergraduate degree granting programs that would likely be abolished by this ill-advised legislation, I would like to specifically use the UH Manoa Botany Department as an example of why this bill should be permanently shelved.

I graduated from UH at Manoa with M.S. in Botany in 2009 and a Ph.D. in Botany in 2011 and I taught various botany undergraduate classes over the six years that I was a graduate student in the department. At times, I relied on the wages provided by those teaching assistantships. It is extremely concerning to me that HB 555 might potentially abolish the very botany department that I attended due to it having a modest undergraduate program. I gained an invaluable education in the natural history of the Hawaiian Islands, Hawaiian's unique and imperiled flora, as well as a rich global understanding of Plant Science from the UH Botany. After graduation, it was my education in botany at UH Manoa that helped earn me a job as a lecturer at Honolulu Community College in 2011, and then in 2012 I became the Botanist for the Oahu Branch of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR-DOFAW). In 2013 I became the State Botanist for DLNR/DOFAW and still hold this position today. I owe these career achievements, in large part, to my applicable local education in this discipline.

It is true that the undergraduate botany program at UH may be small at this time, but its importance cannot be overstated. I'm sure I don't need to remind you that our State government has legal obligations to protect and perpetuate indigenous plants, of which 90% are in Hawaii and nowhere else on the planet. Without a Botany department in our state, how will we educate stewards of these resources? In addition to myself, there are many other people employed in our State government and associated conservation organizations across Hawaii that received their degrees from the UH Botany department. In addition to the department's graduates and their roles in local government and environmental groups, the research done on Hawaiian plants by faculty and graduate students of the Botany department helps further our understanding of the native flora and continues to enhance our ability to protect it, while bringing in tremendous

amounts of grant monies (including generous overhead costs for UH administration) and international academic acclaim to the University.

At this time there are 418 Threatened and Endangered (T and E) plant species in Hawaii, officially listed by Federal and State law. When it comes to native plants we are facing an extinction crisis in this state, with very limited resources to address it. It is already difficult to even find skilled applicants familiar with the local flora to fill the limited staff positions dedicated to plant conservation in Hawaii, but if the UH Botany department were eliminated by the arbitrary requirements of this unnecessary bill the situation would become much worse. All local hiring agencies looking for someone with a botany degree (i.e. University positions, DLNR, watershed partnerships, DOD, private environmental consultants) would be forced to turn to the US continent for an applicant pool, and any requirements for local knowledge would no longer be possible without a recognized local botany degree program.

I urge you to reconsider any legislation that would threaten this indispensable asset at the University of Hawaii. Although I understand that UH may be facing a dire financial situation, we should be looking for ways to address it that do not undermine degree programs which are so vital to the protection and perpetuation of Hawaii's natural resources. In these troubled times, faced with threats in the State from invasive species, climate change, increasing wildfires and food insecurity, we should be looking for ways to strengthen the UH Botany department and the absolutely necessary training and research that it provides to assure our continued existence in these fragile island ecosystems we call home.

Sincerely,

Margaret J.S. Koehler, Ph.D.

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:16 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jamiem6@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jamie Komata        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: As a senior in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources I strongly oppose this bill. Rather than taking programs away that students may wish to pursue, find another means to reduce our budget crisis. Enough is enough. Students have a right to a higher education and should not be punished for it on the basis that there are low graduation counts from such undergraduate programs. The UH system already has a bad reputation for students, I suggest that you don't make it worse and jeopardize the credibility of the campus.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:38 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** aloha2073@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| K Kondo-Brown       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: As a concerned citizen living in Hawai'i, I do not support this bill. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is a premier research institution that strives for excellence in teaching, research, and public service. Mānoa has a commitment to creating a diverse and unique local place of learning. If HB555 were approved, it would have a devastating impact on many important undergraduate programs at Mānoa. Many students in these "small" programs are successful, with scholarships and awards during their studies, as well as acceptances to graduate programs in various disciplines. Upon graduation, they are also successfully employed in Hawai'i and throughout the world. Please do not pass this bill.

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 4:44 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kostetsk@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anastasia Kostetskaya | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: Preserving the Russian Program at UH Manoa is important for US security since Russian is one of the CRITICAL LANGUAGES for US security. By eliminating Russian you will have UH fall seriously behind and you will deprive your students of the employment opportunities they would have if they can speak Russian.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:33 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** unheelim@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unhee Lim           | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:05 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** nature563861449@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| siven Liu           | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: This is not a good decision for the future generation in Hawaii and it limit the choices for students on what to learn. Because they don't have the money to learn it.

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Aloha, My name is Leo Louis and I am representing myself. I am an undergraduate in the Botany department majoring in ethnobotany. I transferred UH Manoa 2013. I specifically chose UH Manoa over many other schools because of the botany department and the ethnobotany program. UH Manoa is one of a small handful of universities that offers such a program. And is among even fewer full-fledged research universities in the United States that offers a botany program in a tropical climate. Further more the unique diversity of plants that inhabit Hawaii (the most isolated archipelago in the world) makes the islands an unparalleled environment in which to learn about these plants. Because of the outstanding faculty as well as students I have been able to participate in numerous outer island trips, conduct independent research in Tonga, and I have also been provided with work opportunities and research position in labs. The botany department and those that reside in it have not only allowed me to accomplish my goals, they encouraged and provided me with the tools to go further than I could have ever imagined. Because of the botany program I am writing a grant to conduct independent research in Bhutan, attend a summer REU program at Berkeley, participate in nationwide events such as the Bioblitz on Big Island, all while taking classes that have completely transformed my knowledge of plants, deepened my appreciation of the land, and motivated me to make active contributions to the community.

Today I am writing because of Bill HB555 that proposes to abolish all programs that graduate less than 10 students a year. First of all the botany department has averaged 9 graduates per year over the last 4 years. Secondly although there is good intention behind the HB555 bill I fear that passing it will have unintended consequences that will cause more damage than good. Students such as myself as well as many others whom I am personally familiar with in the department would not of come to UH Manoa had it not been for this program. In my experiences students from this program perform at a high level of excellence in all classes, and represent the department and the university in a good light outside of the classroom. I have personally along with fellow students volunteered hundreds of hours at Holy Nativity School in Aina Haina teaching 7 year olds about botany, assisting with limu conservation on Maui, traditional heiau restoration with the national park service at Kalaupapua on Molokai, conservation of the land and traditional Hawaiian protocol on Kahoolawe, and work in Lo'i Kalo (agricultural taro plots). For all of these activities me, and students like me were enthusiastically invited back. I bring up this work because it is but a small representation of the benefit that the students and faculty in the botany department are to the university and the state as a whole. The botany program is preparing the much-needed next generation of scientists who are already actively involved in the community, and committed to public service. According to a U.S. News article titled "The Academic Decline: How to Train the Next Generation of Botanists" the number of botany graduates since the late 1980's has dropped by 50%. This is to the detriment of the country and possibly the world. What we should be doing at times like these is not reducing programs, but encouraging them.

This is why I believe that bill HB555 although with good intentions will ultimately do the university and the state a disservice, because a number like

graduation rate does not recognize the quality of those whom graduate from this and other programs.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:40 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jjluis@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jose Jerelle Luis   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: As a French major, who is aspiring to become a professor of the language, an author of grammar guides, and an interpreter, I strongly reject HB555. Words cannot translate my passion for French. I love studying the language because of its elegance and because I believe it will expand my world as it opens new places and a fruitful culture to me. HB555 does not promote dreams; it prevents them. HB555 should definitely not be supported. Our programs should be saved. All of them.

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Dear Legislature,

These programs that you are attempting to abolish are extremely important to the citizens of Hawaii. The availability of colleges and degree programs in Hawaii is already limited. Reducing the options for academic programs greatly limits student's future possibilities at a career. You define these "low-graduating" programs as costly, but college educational programs are EXTREMELY important and worth investing in. I myself am a graduate of the Department of Botany. I am a part time teacher for the State of Hawaii and currently applying to a graduate program in Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences to study Plant Breeding and Genetics. Throughout history, Plant Breeders always have been paramount to securing world's food crop supply, and are increasingly needed to meet the demand of the world's rapidly growing population. This is only just one reason of many that exemplifies why ALL of these programs should NOT be abolished. The value of these degree programs cannot be simply measured by an immediate cost:benefit ratio. The rewards of KEEPING these programs will be witnessed in the future.

Sincerely,

Peter Maher

Graduate of UHM Botany, Bachelor's degree.

Applicant to UHM Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences, Master's Program.

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:19 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** ryan\_mandado@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: We need to support all programs at our university. We must support every student's interest. The diversity of majors on campus is what draws people to the university.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:12 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** joelmark@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joel Mark           | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I strongly oppose HB555. The legislature should be supporting our university and not actively undermining it by dictating which programs are worthy of study. Eliminating 24% of Bachelor's, 36% of our MA and 55% of PhD programs is NOT progressive thinking i s NOT the answer to perceived budget shortfalls.

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**TO: House Committee on Higher Education, Hawai'i House of Representatives**  
**FROM: Stephen Martel**  
**SUBJECT: Testimony against House Bill # 555**

Honorable Representatives-

I am a Professor in the Department of Geology & Geophysics (GG), School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). Our BA and BS degree programs have been listed as "small programs" that your bill seeks to eliminate. Other programs listed in the sciences include physics, meteorology, botany, and biochemistry. These programs support other larger programs, such as engineering, biology, and oceanography. Simply eliminating the smaller programs also would threaten the accreditation of the University as a whole. If state funding for the university is to be cut by the legislature, the University needs to determine how to manage those cuts to minimize the damage and maintain vital programs, even if some programs might be small. If HB #555 were passed, it would most likely cripple or kill the University.

Evaluating our department strictly in terms of the annual number of graduates fails to account for major contributions it makes to the University and the State in other key areas:

- 1 GG runs a highly respected graduate program in addition to its undergraduate program.
- 2 GG is well regarded internationally for the quality and quantity of its research. For example, the National Taiwan University web ranking (based solely on productivity and publication impact) scored us as #17 in the world. Much of our research has direct local relevance.
- 3 Our college (SOEST) is the most successful UHM unit in securing extramural funding. SOEST brings in roughly 1/5 of all research extramural research funding at UHM; this amounts to millions of dollars to the State every year.
- 4 Hawai'i faces many geologic hazards, yet is the only state without a State Geological Survey. GG helps fill that void, educating citizens about these hazards, and advising the State on how to deal with these hazards. GG graduates responsible for addressing these hazards include the Director at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (Charles McCreery), the Scientist-in-Charge at the Hawaii Volcano Observatory (Jim Kauahikaua), as well as members of their staffs. GG graduates at the Honolulu office of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of Land and Natural Resources also help manage the State's water. Our department and its graduates provide vital know-how for understanding and managing environmental hazards in Hawai'i.

My colleagues and I appreciate legislative support for UHM in its mission to provide excellent educational opportunities for the citizens of Hawai'i, as well as legislative support for our commitment to excellence in research and service in the Earth Sciences.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Very Truly Yours,  
Dr. Stephen J. Martel

Professor, UHM Geology & Geophysics  
Fellow, Geological Society of America

Re: Opposition to HB 555 Relating to the University of Hawaii

To whom it may concern,

My name is Hiro Martin and I am a Graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am writing in strong opposition to HB 555 which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduates less than 10 graduates per year.

With all due respect, this law will eliminate 5 European languages and will only leave us with one European language, thereby endangering our accreditation for the University of Hawaii and it will have an effect on enrollment since there will be fewer available courses and options for students.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiro Martin

**Claim:** The following testimony is in opposition to HB 555, the proposal to abolish any undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduate less than ten graduates per year, and to defend specific undergraduate programs endangered of being cut.

**Rationale:** As a declared research institution, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa allocates money to different departments to continue on in trending science research. Science, an everchanging field where new information arises every day, requires new generations of scientists to continue on in the work that will advanced mankind. Yet by cutting undergraduate majors such as physics, the university automatically eliminates their contribution to the science community, which will most likely lead to cuts in funding for the departments, such as the physics department. The reason why these types of majors have small graduating numbers is because the content is extremely difficult, as compared to other majors with high graduating numbers. To be able to understand physics requires a deep understanding of fundamental mathematical principles, as well as the ability to think about the physical world in ways that we cannot experience or see with our own eyes. Yet each of us benefit from the advancements that are made in fields such as physics and chemistry. Cutting this program, means cutting the opportunity for advancements that make our lives easier.

There is no justification for cutting the biochemistry program because it is a new program. The major was only offered beginning in the Spring of 2013, and since then, has graduated small numbers because the students who have declared this major are still only half-way through their academic journey. Therefore, UH would be cutting a program that is still maturing, thus offering less paths to students who are considering careers in medicine or pharmaceuticals.

The most outrageous, and greatest number of programs that are considered being cut are those that are in education. In a time when education is considered to be most important, our university shows their lack of understanding and concern for the well-being of Hawai‘i’s children by considering the notion to cut programs such as the secondary education programs, in English, mathematics, biology, and general sciences. Without programs such as these, public schools will being to face an even greater shortage of math and science teachers, who are already in such a high demand. The ramifications of eliminating programs such as these are unfathomable. Without licensure programs, we will not be able to get qualified teachers in our schools because they will not be able to meet the requirements set forth by the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board. Where will that leave Hawai‘i’s schools? In the same place, if not lower in the rankings for student test scores in reading, writing, math, and science. The achievement gap will double between students here in Hawai‘i and those in the mainland. It will disable our students, cutting their chances to succeed in getting into higher level universities and workplaces. By taking these programs away from undergraduates who are prospective teachers, the university is, in turn, taking away countless opportunities from Hawai‘i’s children.

Thus, it is absolutely **outrageous** that UH try to mend it’s financial problems by eliminating programs for their students. To have students pay the penalty for mismanaged funds is not only inappropriate, but immoral and downright dispicable. Why is it that when money is short, we must always take away from the students first? We pay to be there each and every day, yet university leaders get paid to sit in air conditioned office chairs, and make decisions that will forward their own personal agendas. When did our institution lose its sense of morality and foresight? When did we become so jaded by money and personal gain, that we forgot how to live by the values of aloha, the very value that embodies Hawai‘i?

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:28 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** amymckee@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amy McKee           | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: My name is Amy McKee and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) in the Educational Administration department. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 555. There is more to what makes a program run than how many students it graduates per year. By cutting the major as an option, all you're doing is preventing students from having that experience. It does not cut the faculty in the program or the resources being allocated to that program.

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Date: Thursday, February 5, 2015

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

To: House Committee on Higher Education

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Re: Opposition to HB 555 Relating to the University of Hawaii

My name is Eve Millett and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am writing in strong opposition to HB 555 which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduates less than 10 graduates per year. I am writing to ask you to join the effort to strike down HB 555. While it is true that the University of Hawaii system is in a financial crisis, the drastic and arbitrary measures outlined in HB 555 are not the solution. Not only would programs be taken away with this bill, but students would be stripped of the opportunity to study in their selected fields. This would undoubtedly force many to leave the islands to pursue their desired courses of study.

In addition to losing students, HB 555 will have a ripple effect across the UH system. Specifically, looking at UH Manoa, if all the programs that fit under this category were taken away, it would take away five language departments and leave only one European language for students to study. Although some might not see this as an issue, since we are in the middle of the Pacific, this will be an issue that will affect graduation rates. Most students at UH Manoa have to complete the Hawaiian/ Second Language Requirement, which is a level 202 competency in a language. While some languages will remain, those languages will have too many students trying to register for the already limited class spots. This will in turn lead to delayed graduation, hurting graduation rates and threatening accreditation, a consequence which will lead to fewer research grants being awarded to the university. It is hard to imagine a positive end to this downward spiral.

Many of the programs that would be cut under HB 555 are what make the UH system unique. Do we really want to become an institution that promotes diversity within the student population, but not in intellectual thought and growth? Do we want to limit the students who would be interested in attending the UH system schools, because of the limited number of programs we offer? The answer to these questions and to HB 555 is clearly a resounding NO!

Respectfully submitted,  
Eve Millett

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:41 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jacienmm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacie Miyashiro     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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As a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, a born and raised local of the island of Oahu, and a fan of sustainability and especially local agriculture, I strongly oppose the HB555 bill proposed by Rep. Isaac Choy that “requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished.” Programs included in the list of those that would be abolished include Plant & Environmental Biotech, Plant & Environmental Protection Science, and Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences. These undergraduate programs provide unique classes and skill sets that support students who want to go into agriculture in a tropical setting - especially Hawaii - and give students the opportunity to become resources for Hawaii. Approximately 70% of University of Hawaii students are residents of this state and these programs provides students to focus on unique aspects of their fields that they wouldn’t be able to get in any other program.

Education is an investment in our future, especially if it’s focused on addressing the issues we have in Hawaii right now. Please save these programs for a better tomorrow.

Thank you,

Loea Morgan

CTHAR Student at University of Hawaii



**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:13 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** irenemorrow@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Irene Morrow        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I oppose this bill because of the following: 1) These programs contribute to a level of higher learning for students. You can liken it to Arts education being cut from K-12 schools. Students will be missing out on opportunities to really diversify their education. Having a diverse range of knowledge may cost more, but it contributes greatly to a more diverse and prosperous society and economy. 2) Many of the programs are highly specialized and related to STEM fields ( Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education ); something the U.S. (and Hawaii) needs to build on. 3) I'm a strong proponent for having these programs available for students so they do not have to go away to another university to study them. They should have access to it right in their home state if that's what they wish to do.

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**Anne Murphy**  
**2953 Manoa Road**  
**Honolulu, HI 96822**

February 4, 2015

**Re:** HB555  
Committee: HED  
Hearing to be held Feb 5, 2015 at 2:00 p.m., Room 309

**Position:** Oppose; if necessary, recommend exception for UH Botany.

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I am writing to oppose HB555, a provision that would abolish certain Departments at the University of Hawaii on the basis of the number of students they graduate. This measure is a wholly inappropriate response to the University's budget problems. The legislature should have the courage to address the real causes of the shortfall at UH, not penalize specialized Departments of the University. Small does not mean underperforming, and an exemption based upon a Department's being *fully* self-supporting is just unfair.

At a minimum, you should provide exemptions for smaller Departments that have special value to the State. The Botany Department is an example, and one of which I have personal knowledge. It is critical that Hawaii have botanists who understand its unique endemic species, and have the knowledge needed to protect and nourish this irreplaceable resource. If Hawaii does not train its own botanists, then who will do it? Do you want invasive species to take over? It is truly short-sighted to deprive Hawaii of people who will understand her plants and work passionately to cherish and protect them.

UH Botany students already make many skilled contributions to Hawaii's parks and protected areas. In only the last year, UH students have performed valuable volunteer work on Kauai, Kaho'olawe and Molokai, as well as here on O'ahu. The students return to Molokai next month to perform more work in the park at Kalaupapa, and many other specialized service projects are in the pipeline.

The botany students are international ambassadors for Hawaii as well. Last summer, students and a professor from UH Botany spent several weeks in Tonga, helping the community there identify and catalog the plants on the Tongan islands. How many undergraduate departments produce students with valuable skills needed by foreign governments, and the willingness to share that expertise abroad? Please do not eliminate this critically important source of knowledge and expertise on Pacific plant life.

I oppose HB555 because it is a bad response to the budget crisis at UH. But at a minimum, legislation along these lines cannot blindly eliminate specialized programs with real, irreplaceable value to Hawaii. The UH Botany Department is critical to the future of Hawaii's endemic plants. If you enact a version of HB555 is enacted, the legislation should include an exemption for the Botany Department.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:00 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** cmutnik@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Corey Mutnik        | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: I feel that any credible university must have a Physics degree program.

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# ASUH

Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i  
YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**Martin M. Q. Nguyen**  
Chairperson  
ASUH Committee on External Affairs

**February 04, 2015**

Rep. Issac W. Choy  
Chairperson  
Committee on Higher Education  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 404  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Aloha Chairperson Choy and Members,

I am submitting personal testimony in strong opposition of HB 555 which requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished. This bill, if passed, would have detrimental short-term and long-term implications for the students, faculty and over-all University of Hawai'i.

From what I am aware, the following programs and majors would be at risk of being cut under the language of HB 555:

Pacific Islands Studies, Russian, Ethnobotany, Molecular Biosciences, Classics, Medical Technology, Geology, Meteorology, German, Biological Engineering, Philippine Lang & Lit, Plant & Environmental Protection Sciences, Botany, Physics, Computer Engineering, Molecular Cell Bio, French, Dance, and Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences

The passing of this bill would jeopardize UH accreditation should these classes be cut. They provide a diversity in curriculum that the UH system needs to have for the accreditation process and retention of that accreditation.

Therefore, I strongly recommend that this bill not be passed through the Committee on Higher Education.

Sincerely,

**Martin M. Q. Nguyen**

B.B.A. Honors Candidate in Finance & International Business  
Shidler College of Business | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 8:21 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jodo059@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jared Odo           | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: The University of Hawaii is meant to be a place where students can broaden their horizons and where teachers can share their knowledge. Therefore, the abolishment of any program within the university should be determined by the students and faculty that are interested or involved, not by the number of degrees handed out per year. Abolishing a program simply because it is small does the students a disservice, by removing the opportunity to learn, to see, and to experience. Nothing should hinder the desire to pursue knowledge, especially at an institution of learning.

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To whom it may concern,

As a student who's major is in a European language, I find that this bill is ludicrous in the fact that many of the language majors come to this specific educational institution, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, because of its geographical location and also because of the fact that it's maybe one of very few institutions which offers all of these various programs within one institution. I want to testify that by abolishing these many undergraduate major programs, the enrollment into the University of Hawaii system will surely plummet.

Sincerely,  
An Angry French Major

Degrees like the Classics Program at UH, though small, are a very important asset to UH as a whole. Although there are not many majors, at least as of yet, the program itself provides a great platform for a multitude of other programs, both in the arts and in the sciences.

The languages, such as Greek and Latin, are invaluable to the Arts because they are the languages with which ancient primary sources are written. In English, there are many words that are derived from Greek and Latin, which helps in understanding definitions of words. Greek is especially helpful for medical terminology and Latin is especially helpful for law terminology. Egyptian hieroglyphs paint the window into dead civilizations, a tool for research in fields like History and Anthropology as well as Archaeology (which I realize comes under the Anthropology umbrella).

Beyond the languages, the literature that exists has provided the foundations for many of our literary genres: the epic, lyric, tragedy, comedy, and history. From Classical Civilizations, we learned philosophy, art, architecture, rhetoric, politics, government, and military strategy. Classics, closer to home, provides a platform for students seeking to make a career in the field itself, both at an undergraduate as well as graduate level. Even more practically, the Classics Department provides Culture Classes, such as Greek and Roman Mythology or Roman Literature, as alternatives to the language requirement set by UH standards that can be taken by students across all fields that allow this option, including Business majors. The Classics department has roots in many departments, both directly and indirectly, and it is crucial to support because of this benefit to such a plethora of other departments.

As a student majoring in History, focusing on Ancient History, the Classics Department is not only a convenient, but also a necessary asset to my research. One of the requirements for Ancient history is to know at least one ancient language of the chosen field as well as a modern language in order to properly research.

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**Report Title:** University of Hawaii; Budget Crisis; Minimum Graduates

**Description:** Requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished. Provides an exception for undergraduate programs that are self-sustaining. Authorizes the board of regents to extend the three-year time period to six years.

## Re. undergraduate UH Botany Department

Aloha,

An initiative that abolishes ALL undergraduate programs graduating less than 10 students each year means losing small, valuable, highest-quality, community-oriented programs. Among these: the UH undergraduate botany department.

As a second grade teacher at Holy Nativity School in Aina Haina, I had the good fortune to have two undergraduate UH Botany students teach botany to my 20 seven and eight year old students twice a week, for half the year.

They created the curriculum and delivered content as volunteers.

More, they were an integral part of Arbor Day during which the school received a Proclamation from the Mayor.

To say that the students, their parents, the school, and the community were grateful is an understatement.

Climate change and increased population both necessitate a deep understanding of what sustains the planet: plants. I was lucky: thanks to the UH Botany Department (undergraduate), I was able to expose young minds to the wonders of plants, hopefully in a manner such that they will remember this for the rest of their lives.

More, for botany to be devalued on Hawai'i, of all places, seems to be a shooting-ourselves-in-the-foot — or, more accurately, destroying-our-lungs — act, an act we will regret.

Dr. Kirtland C. Peterson  
Second grade teacher  
Holy Nativity School, Aina Haina, Honolulu  
[kpeterson@holynativityschool.org](mailto:kpeterson@holynativityschool.org)  
808-264-4076



## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:19 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** srp4166@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sarah Phillips      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: It is not just about how many student graduate with degrees in these programs. For example, without an undergraduate physics department, and qualified physics professors, you will not have graduates from other engineering programs such as electrical engineering that require pre-requisites in physics to graduate. Furthermore, some of the most cutting-edge research and innovations in S&E happens at the interface of disciplines, for example, nanotechnology which often requires researchers and students in a range of fields such as physics and electrical engineering to collaborate together. Do you really want to limit potential career opportunities for Science and Engineering students at UH Manoa by eliminating a department that is vital to their understanding of and progression in other science and engineering fields? Using the number of graduates alone is a poor metric for the 'success' or 'importance' of any department. Indeed, I believe that the University of Hawaii, Manoa would lose their accreditation status in ABET and other engineering and science accrediting boards without a physics department/courses which would mean shutting down even more departments and forcing any Hawaiian student interested in science and engineering to go elsewhere. I thought the University of Hawaii system was about providing academic and career opportunities for Hawaiian, not taking away the opportunity to pursue degrees in high-paying fields like science and engineering. This bill is poorly designed, poorly thought out, and will have \*many\* unintended consequences for students, the University of Hawaii system overall in terms of accreditation, and potential workforce development in Hawaii. I strongly oppose.

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:58 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** rrp4420@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ryan Pittinger      | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: As a member of the German Department here at University of Hawaii at Manoa, I would like to testify against this bill. If all of the programs with under 10 graduates per year are abolished, this will not allow a lot of students to fulfill what they want to do in the future. I came here from Pennsylvania because of how excellent the German Department is. We have an amazing group of instructors and professors who care so much for their students, despite us not having a lot of graduates every year. I have a minor in another department that is very large, and you never feel like you know your advisor or all of the instructors, which to me is a key in how successful one's college career goes. We have had very successful students who have gone on to represent us in Germany and other areas on very hard to get scholarships (DAAD, CYBEX, and other programs.) In my opinion, in a smaller department, the students get more personalized attention and time with the advisor or instructor. I luckily have been able to meet with my advisor and professors very easily since there are not that many of us in the department. This made me more confident in my classes and knowing that if I needed help, it was very accessible. With not just my department having the possibility of being abolished, several other language programs will be abolished, too. It is proven that studying a second language has a lot of benefits in the world. Employers nowadays will pay more for, and are looking for, people who are bilingual. People who study a foreign language also offset the start of dementia and other cognitive diseases by about four years. German, for instance, is the second most used language in the scientific field. It's not just for us who want to be a translator or interpreter, but for someone who may want to pursue pharmaceuticals, chemistry, biology, or whatever other field in science they are interested in. German also helps with business, since the European Union has some of their seats inside Germany. The European Union's main bank is in Frankfurt am Main. Germany also has several very large international companies (Siemens, Thyssen-Krupp Elevators, Adidas, Porsche, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and thousands of others.) All of these companies would be looking for someone who is bilingual in German and English, opening up hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs for people. To abolish any department with under 10 graduates per year is to deter the dreams and goals of a student. Please think about the future and goals of future students when this decision is made. Sincerely, Ryan Pittinger Graduating Senior with a BA in German, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:03 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** npuniwai@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Noelani Puniwai     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I believe that the University needs to assess its own priorities and understand the needs of students and the education required to function in today's society. The government should NOT be interfering in the operation and administration of degree programs. This occurs in NO other state. I believe that Choy has a bias against the University and needs to find alternative measures in which to make this institution stronger. I relish the attention the faculty at this University provide to each student. Advanced degree programs which graduate more than 10 students a year are NOT common. With the price and research involved for these degrees, it is not feasible for our faculty to support more than 10 students per year. Our teaching programs are in HIGH demand. Eliminating these programs will insure that our Public Schools will continue to see shortages of teachers. More problems will be created in the long term with passage of these types of Bills.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 1:05 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** tom.ranker@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tom Ranker          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: This is a very poorly designed bill that would gut much of the University. It ignores the contribution that departments make to the post-graduate study mission of the University as well as the societal need for professionals in certain fields.

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I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and I oppose HB555. This bill would destroy the university and the fundamental principle of academic freedom. The programs cut by this bill would leave this university without key subject areas including many languages (such as French, German, Latin, Greek, Russian, Philippine Languages & Literatures, and Sanskrit) and even several sciences (physics, geology, geophysics, botany, biochemistry, biological engineering, plant science, meteorology, and tropical plant & soil sciences). Many of these program are unique to our university and are vital for our state (such as tropical plant & soil sciences). If all these programs are cut that do not meet the required threshold, the university also risks losing its accreditation, which will adversely affect all students at the university by rendering their degrees virtually worthless. Furthermore, most undergraduate students currently struggle to complete their degrees in four years due to the dearth of classes offered each semester. Cutting these programs will only further hinder undergraduate students and their struggle to complete their degrees in a timely manner.

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 6:23 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** test002@hypertext.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dr. Thomas Ringmayr | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: The intellectual and educational contributions of small programs to the university's educational missions cannot be measured by numbers of BA degrees alone. Specifically, eliminating or further curtailing the \*Classics\* program at UH would contradict the objectives of a meaningful Liberal Arts education. As an MA graduate of UH Manoa in European Languages, a long-time academic educator, and now proprietor of an IT business I cannot stress enough the importance of a well-rounded education. Comprehensive intellectual training in the history of ideas is one of the cornerstones of an academic education, and it would not be possible without a solid foundation in the classic languages. The Classics department at UH Manoa is and has always been a small but crucially important part of the university's mission, and is unique as the sole and single source for such education in the entire region. Please consider its important place that cannot be underlined emphatically enough.

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:47 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** drodrigues2001@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Darlene Rodrigues   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB555! I write as a concerned citizen and kama'aina of Hawai'i. Abolishing Ethnic Studies, Pacific Island Studies and various language programs is outrageous! The rationale behind this bill is dangerous. Just because a program does not produce a certain number of graduates does not make it less necessary. What kind of message are you saying to future students and the greater public by getting rid of these programs? Hawai'i is in the middle of the Pacific. Filipinos are 33% or more of the population. We have one of the premier Philippine language programs in the country/world and you want to get rid of it??? Pacific Island Studies provides valuable research and courses necessary to understanding our region and our world. Abolishing these programs would be a costly mistake and send the wrong message to the general public. I STRONGLY URGE you to defeat HB555. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Edwin Roman

4 Feb 2015

My testimony

This bill would put into danger our language department and even sciences like our physics department. These are programs the school needs not only for recognition and status as an accredited national institution of higher learning but also for the education of the local population and those that come to this amazing island. The school needs to have these programs in order to provide its students with a wide and diverse range of interests and fields.

Without these options, students will be forced to go elsewhere for their education. Rather than cut these programs the schools should be doing everything it can to improve them. Being the only state university in Hawaii, everything should be done to educate, provide the most diverse curriculum, and realize the full potential of this university for the sake of the local population of Hawaii.

This bill would be destructive to the future of the University of Hawaii and detrimental to the future of the local population. Please prevent this bill from moving forward.

Very Respectfully,

Edwin Roman

3 Feb. 2015

Aloha! I ask that you oppose HB555 for the simple reason that it is a poorly designed bill that takes an extremely simplistic approach to performance metrics at the University of Hawaii and will result in disastrous consequences for some of the very best departments at UHM if it passes.

The activities of the university, its departments, and the individual faculty go well beyond teaching undergraduate students and conferring Bachelors degrees, so that using this one metric as a means to determine program efficiency and effectiveness for assessing the viability and cost-effectiveness of a program is ludicrous. In reality a "program" at UHM in nearly all cases encompasses an academic department and all of its degree-granting, non-degree service teaching, research, mentoring, publishing, extramural funding, and related activities.

A singular metric as HB555 proposes to deploy is akin to rating an automobile solely on fuel efficiency, without considering safety, performance, emissions, passenger load factor, and freight capacity. Using an arbitrary cut off to define small or large bachelors programs also ignores the importance of certain disciplines to state and national safety and economic viability even when the topic of the degree program is possibly not as popular. Furthermore, many of the popular (high enrollment) programs at UHM are that way because they confer easy degrees and/or because they are artificially propped up with a disproportionately large amount of graduate teaching assistance support, which allows them to offer more courses and fill more seats.

Perhaps most importantly, using a single-minded performance metric (numbers of degrees granted) would be **especially disadvantageous and harmful to academic programs in the UHM research units** (SOEST and IFA), one of which I chair (the department of Geology and Geophysics). The units BY DESIGN were created to have a different mix of teaching and research than the other nearly purely academic (teaching-only) units at UHM. The 4 SOEST teaching departments in particular are not only exceptional (all of them were rated in the top 10 at UHM in an independent assessment by Academic Analytics† on a wide range of academic performance metrics) and yet all 4 graduate small numbers of bachelors students per year (the highest being Geology and Geophysics at 12 per year divided between a BA and BS degree and the next being Oceanography at 10 BS degrees per year). At the same time, these units are highly productive in graduate student training and especially research (and the extramural funding thereof), making them highly important to the state.

I thank you for your time. I would be more than happy to elaborate on any of the above noted concerns with the entire committee or parts thereof, based on my 23 years of experience at UHM.

Professor Kenneth Rubin  
Department Chair  
Dept. of Geology and Geophysics  
UH Manoa

†Academic Analytics report will be released to the public in April 2015 but results are available now.

Anna Sachs  
1109 Aloalo Pl.  
Honolulu, HI 96816

OPPOSING HB555  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII; BUDGET CRISIS; MINIMUM GRADUATES

Hello,

My name is Anna Sachs, and I have completed three degrees at the University of Hawaii at Manoa – 2 undergraduate, and 1 masters. I am grateful for the opportunities my state education has provided me and am passionate about the value of education, so much so that I have become an educator myself in the community college system. I am testifying against HB555 because it is not an effective solution for the university budget cuts or our local community as a whole.

Smaller departments should not have to worry about how many students they graduate per semester or year in order to receive resources from a suffering budget. I myself received a bachelor's degree in a smaller department, after realizing that education is not about receiving a "mainstream" major for merely the sake of it. Education is about finding your passion, and in turn making a difference in the communities around you. Students who have chosen a less popular major, as some may see it, are those who have decided against joining larger departments despite the comparatively greater supply of opportunities, instructors, and resources in said larger department. It is likely that they have gone against popular choice and chosen their field not based on funds and popularity, but rather based on their passion. It is this passion that education should promote, not suppress or abolish in the case of this bill. These passionate students are the ones that will make a difference in the local and international communities around them. I can confidently say this because I was one of these students. I graduated with an undergraduate degree from a smaller major within the college of LLL (Language, Linguistics and Literature) and the department of LLEA (Languages and Literature of Europe and the Americas). I, in turn, am now teaching within this field at a community college within the UH system. If the university had abolished these smaller programs when I was attending the school, I likely would have sought education elsewhere in another university or state. This kind of decision would hurt not help the problem of student enrollment. Not only would this bill affect current and potential students of UH, but also educators like myself, who teach these less popular disciplines. Instead of attracting new instructors and thus new ways of thinking from other states and countries, the University of Hawaii would be warding them away with this bill. Our state identity and history has prided itself on diversity, not only in race but also in thought. By abolishing university disciplines, you are abolishing diversity. You are abolishing identity. You are abolishing Hawaii.

I urge the committees to oppose bill HB555.

Thank you for your consideration.

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:48 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** schmitzmel@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Schmitz     | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: Aloha, I received my Master's Degree from UH, and I oppose this bill because universities have their own governing bodies that make these decisions. Therefore state legislators can spend their time on matters that are more within their grounds to legislate. Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:57 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kristyn7@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| KRISTYN SCHULLER    | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: This piece of legislation is highly troubling. I graduated from the University of Hawaii Botany department in 2011 and cannot overstate the importance and value of my education. Not only did the program provide me with a strong scientific foundation, it gave me a background in plant science, which is integral for conservation work in Hawaii. In a place that holds some of the highest concentration of endangered plants, it would be completely ludicrous to abolish a department at the specializes in studying and protecting these precious plants. It was not difficult to graduate from this department. Quite the contrary. My advisors and mentors ensured that I stayed on a timely track and graduated on time. Although small, we are mighty and one of the last Botany departments left in the country, which attracted me to UH in the first place. Abolishing the Botany department at UH would be a travesty and a huge mistake. The importance of producing Botanists locally is critical to natural resource preservation, as it is these locally produced people that have the greatest knowledge and care for Hawaii's natural resources. I urge the legislation to reconsider and kill this bill. How about we redistribute resources from the failing football team and put the money where it really counts, makes a difference, and matters- into conservation and Botany.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:56 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** sara.nicole.sellers@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| sara sellers        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Any student who wishes to learn should not be denied that opportunity because someone thinks their field is unworthy of recognition

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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Kimberly (Lesnock) Shay  
33 Bank Street, Carnegie, PA 15106  
kimlesnock@gmail.com  
808-292-4392

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in opposition of HB 555. My name is Kimberly Shay and am a recent Masters graduate of the Botany Department of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa . If this bill passes through, then it appears as a result the Botany Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa would be abolished. To abolish the Botany Department would be a quick and poor decision for the field of Botany and to the Hawaiian islands.

The Botany department is home to notable researchers and educators in the field of Botany. To note a few, Dr. Donald Drake initiated the Island Biology Conference last summer, which brought together the world's experts of island biology, including Peter and Rosemary Grant who have worked in the Galapagos Islands since 1973 and provided seminal work on Darwin's finches. This conference was a landmark event for the field of island biology, allowing island biologists all over the world to share ideas of the ecology, evolution, and conservation of some of the most unique and diverse ecosystems. Dr. Kasey Barton's exciting work in island plant defenses and the ontogeny of plant defenses has challenged long held beliefs of plant defense evolution. Dr. Tom Ranker is the President of the Botanical Society of America, was a Program Director for the National Sciences Foundation, and is recognized by the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences for his contributions in phylogeny and evolution of vascular plants. In addition to the faculty's contributions, the department houses the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, which protects cultural and natural biodiversity in the Pacific and is led by Dr. Clifford Morden and Dr. David Duffy.

Not only is Hawai'i's native flora unique and diverse in the academic setting, but Hawai'i's native plants are part of its identity. Tourists and scientists worldwide come to see and study the unique biota of Hawai'i. Hawai'i must recognize that its future relies on protecting and conserving its native ecosystems for the products and services they provide, such as clean water, clean air, food, and shelter. The Botany Department trains many scientists that go on to work in Hawai'i's agencies and non-profits that study, conserve, restore, and educate others of its unique native flora and in the field of Botany. Additionally, some graduates go on to protecting and conserving other ecosystems of the world. Abolishing the Botany department would result in fewer trained scientists to overcome the challenges facing the native ecosystems, such as invasive species, climate change, and habitat loss due to man-made developments. If we lose the

native vegetation of Hawai'i, we truly lose part of Hawai'i's identity and the native plants will become just photos and stories.

I ask you to reconsider this bill and its consequences if it is passed. Please consider if the Botany Department is abolished, this is also a loss to the field of Botany and to the Hawaiian islands.

Thank you for your time,

Kimberly Shay



2 February 2015

Dear Hawaii State Representatives,

I am writing to oppose HB 555 (hearing on 2/5 at 2pm in conference room 209, State Capital). I believe there are many reasons why a hard-and-fast cutoff of 10 graduates per year for a department is unrealistic and unfair—abiding by such a rule would likely reduce the reputation of the university. In short, a UH department with <10 graduates per year still has great value.

I am most aware of, and tied to, the Botany Department at University of Hawaii at Manoa. I enrolled as a Ph.D. student in Botany in Fall 2005, and graduated with my Ph.D. in December 2010; during this time I became familiar with the undergraduate and graduate students that were Botany majors, and I served on several Department- and campus-wide committees. The Botany Department at University of Hawaii is unique—there are very few opportunities to receive a botany education in the U.S. as there are only a handful of Botany Departments remaining in the country. Furthermore, many students, like myself, moved to Hawaii to enroll in the Botany Department because of this unique education. Such an education, and experience, could not have been obtained elsewhere, and graduating with my Botany Degree is how I obtained a job in Hawaii with the USDA.

I strongly urge you to assess university departments that may need to be abolished in a different manner than those outlined in HB 555. Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Aaron B. Shiels, Ph.D.

Research Biologist and Project Leader

USDA, National Wildlife Research Center

P.O. Box 10880

Hilo, HI. 96721



# ASUH

Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i  
YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Krystal K. Shon  
ASUH Senator,  
Colleges of Arts and Sciences

**February 04, 2015**

Rep. Issac W. Choy  
Chairperson  
Committee on Higher Education  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 404  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Aloha Chairperson Choy and Members,

I am submitting personal testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of HB 555, which requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished. This bill, if passed, would have detrimental short-term and long-term implications for the students, faculty and over-all University of Hawai'i.

From what I am aware, the following programs and majors would be at risk of being cut under the language of HB 555:

Pacific Islands Studies, Russian, Ethnobotany, Molecular Biosciences, Classics, Medical Technology, Geology, Meteorology, German, Biological Engineering, Philippine Lang & Lit, Plant & Environmental Protection Sciences, Botany, Physics, Computer Engineering, Molecular Cell Bio, French, Dance, and Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences

The passing of this bill would jeopardize UH accreditation should these classes be cut. They provide a diversity in curriculum that the UH system needs to have for the accreditation process and retention of that accreditation.

Therefore, I strongly recommend that this bill not be passed through the Committee on Higher Education.

Sincerely,

Krystal Shon

Senator of the Colleges of Arts & Sciences

B.A. Political Science

Colleges of Arts and Sciences | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

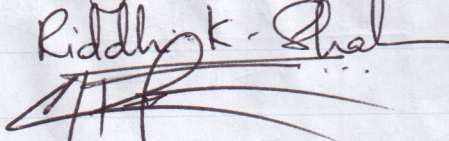
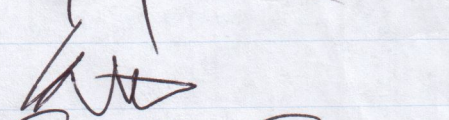
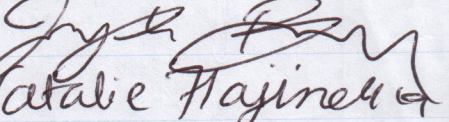
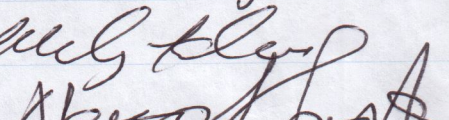
Submitted 2/5/15  
by Krystal K. Shon

PG 1 of 5

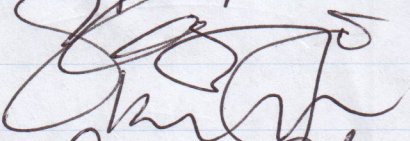
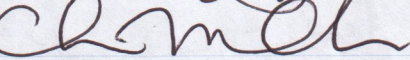
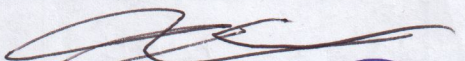
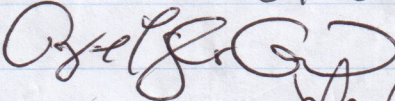
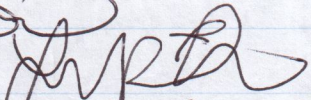
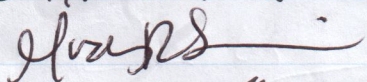
I am in strong opposition of HB555 as a University of Hawai'i student. I do not want my experience at this school to be limited or the level of a diverse experience to be diminished nor abolished for future UH Manoa students.

|     | <u>Print Name</u> | <u>Sign Name</u>         |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1)  | Kassidy Hardoin   | KSNAA                    |
| 2)  | Todd Simeroth     | <del>Todd Simeroth</del> |
| 3)  | Yuta Tamamoto     | Yuta Tamamoto            |
| 4)  | Carina Fasi       | carina                   |
| 5)  | Jane Lee          | Jane Lee                 |
| 6)  | ADAM Dougherty    | ADAM Dougherty           |
| 7)  | Mitsuhiko Hamma   | Mitsuhiko Hamma          |
| 8)  | Jillian LeBeau    | Jillian LeBeau           |
| 9)  | James Mead        | James Mead               |
| 10) | William IwaoKa    | William IwaoKa           |
| 11) | John Klebba       | John Klebba              |
| 12) | Hana Ogawa        | Hana Ogawa               |
| 13) | Spencer Dm        | Spencer Dm               |
| 14) | Reginald Hollis   | Reginald Hollis          |
| 15) | Wesley Smith      | Wesley Smith             |
| 16) | Kimo Merriam      | Kimo Merriam             |
| 17) | Krystal Shon      | Krystal Shon             |

I am in strong opposition of HB555 as a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa student. I do not want my experience at this school to be limited or the level of a diverse experience to be diminished nor abolished for future UH Mānoa students.

| <u>Printed Name</u>            | <u>Signed Name</u>   |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 18) Riddhi K. Shah.            | Riddhi K. Shah   |
| 19) Chase Horikawa             |    |
| 20) James Pitzer               |   |
| 21) Ben Scott                  |  |
| 22) Joey Brown                 |  |
| 23) Natalie Hajinelian         | Natalie Hajinelian   |
| 24) Melody Kaghu               | Melody Kaghu   |
| 25) Nazrat Jogut               | Nazrat Jogut   |
| 26) Sukhan To                  | Sukhan To  |
| 27) Robert Hopper.             | Robert Hopper  |
| 28) Wesley Smith               | Wesley Smith   |
| 29) HARVEY ALEXANDER           | Harvey Alexander   |
| 30) Troy Takeshita             | Troy Takeshita   |
| 31) Eric Lower                 | Eric Lower   |
| 32) DABIAN KWON                | Dabian Kwon  |
| 33) Anthony Barro              | Anthony Barro  |
| 34) PHILIP (KAPONO) AIWOMI-KIM | Philip (Kapon) Aiwomi-Kim  |
| 35) Maria Ansing               | Maria Ansing   |
| 36) Kuaini L K P I H MAKUA     | Kuaini L K P I H Makua   |

I am in Strong Opposition of HB555 as a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Student. I do not want my experience at this school to be limited or the level of a diverse experience to be diminished nor abolished for future UH Mānoa Students.

| <u>Printed Name</u>        | <u>Signed Name</u>   |
|----------------------------|--|
| 37) Mikela Branco          | Mikela Branco  |
| 38) Angelina Manginsay     |    |
| 39) Kylee Piazza           |   |
| 40) Chelsea Chun           | Chelsea Chun   |
| 41) Jason Wen              |  |
| 42) Lili Kong              | Lili Kong  |
| 43) Toni Kalomaim          | Toni Kalomaim  |
| 44) Alisa Vargas-Banourong | Alisa Vargas-Banourong   |
| 45) Kelsey Cahalan         | Kelsey Cahalan   |
| 46) Angie Taylor Anderson  |  |
| 47) Eivada Lopez Rivera    |  |
| 48) Chinwendu Amadi        | Chinwendu Amadi  |
| 49) Moses Gouveia          |  |
| 50) Courtney Beers         | Courtney Beers   |
| 51) Hannah Lester          | Hannah Lester  |
| 52) Allison Fujimoto       | Allison Fujimoto   |
| 53) Ariel Ashe-Bamirez     | Ariel Ashe   |
| 54)                        |  |

I am in Strong Opposition of HB555 as a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa student. I do not want my experience at this school to be limited or the level of a diverse experience to be diminished nor abolished for future UH Mānoa students.

| <u>Printed Name</u>          | <u>Signed Name</u>       |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 55) Phoenix Luamanu          | Phoenix Luamanu          |
| 56) Roger. Tuivasa.          | Roger Tuivasa            |
| 57) Myemim Shim              | H. Shim                  |
| 58) Nick Hoonan              | Nick Hoonan              |
| 59) JOSEPH GORRE             | Joseph Gorre             |
| 60) <b>BENTON ROLDEN</b>     | <b>Benton Rolden</b>     |
| 61) Lianne Charlie           | Lianne Charlie           |
| 62) Amber Camp               | Amber Camp               |
| 63) <b>NaShonda McGaughy</b> | <b>NaShonda McGaughy</b> |
| 64) Claudia Lara             | Claudia Lara             |
| 65) Vicki Bui Mann           | Vicki Bui Mann           |
| 66) TIARE-LEIANA JOLIS       | Tiare-Leiana Jolis       |
| 67) Rahele Lamasad           | Rahele Lamasad           |
| 68) Nathaniel Char           | Nathaniel Char           |
| 69) ASHLEY CACHERE           | Ashley Cachere           |
| 70)                          |                          |
| 71)                          |                          |
| 72)                          |                          |
| 73)                          |                          |

staff or

I am in Strong Opposition of HB555 as a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa faculty alumni student. I do not want my experience to be diminished or these programs abolished for future UH Mānoa students.

Printed Name

Signed Name

- 1) Kathy E. Ferguson
- 2) DEBORA HALBURT
- 3) Katharina Heyer
- 4) Patricia Fifita
- 5) WenDee Eng
- 6) TERESA BULL
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)
- 11)
- 12)
- 13)
- 14)
- 15)
- 16)
- 17)
- 18)
- 19)
- 20)

*[Handwritten signatures corresponding to the printed names above]*

February 3, 2015

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair  
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
February 5, 2015  
2:00 pm  
Conference Room 309

**RE: HB555** RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Position: **In Strong Opposition**

Dear Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

I am writing to testify **in strong opposition** of HB 555.

As a current University of Hawai'i student and graduate assistant, I consider the intent and scope of HB 555 to be extremely detrimental to our educational community.

Not only does HB 555 utilize an arbitrary number of graduates to determine the supposed "worth" of a program, it also unfairly deprives students the freedom of determining their own educational possibilities when these programs are "abolished" as noted in the measure. According to the measure's logic, 24% of Bachelor degree seeking programs would be eliminated. If this logic proceeded to evaluating graduate degree programs, 36% of Masters and 55% of PhD programs would disappear. How can the University of Hawai'i continue to be considered a top research university with the systemic abolishment of meaningful programs?

Dick M. Carpenter and Haning Hughes' (2011) study determined that governmental rhetoric towards educational purpose showed a distinct shift from civic duty and social responsibility to that of economic efficiency. This narrowing of educational purpose has dire consequences, including "the potential of perpetuating a citizenry committed to self above all, shrugging off responsibilities inherent in a free and pluralistic society" (p. 11). HB 555 continues to reiterate this problematic rhetoric by hierarchizing income-generating programs as the only economically legitimate paths for research and education.

Though HB 555 does not directly articulate humanities as targeted programs for abolishment, the implication is there. To this point, I recall Gregory A. Petsko's 2010 open letter to then State University of New York at Albany's President George M. Philip, concerning President Philip's decision to eliminate several humanities departments. Titled "A Faustian Bargain", Petsko—though a Professor of Biochemistry and Chemistry—reflected that the courses focused on humanities actually helped him the most in his career as "they taught me how to think, to analyze, and to write clearly." How



many students would be deprived of these learning opportunities should almost a quarter of the Bachelor's programs be eliminated at UH?

I respectfully urge the Committee to **not** pass this bill, and instead seek other avenues to truly support students as well as upholding the educational mission of our public university.

Though I attend and am employed as a graduate assistant at the University of Hawai'i, this testimony does not reflect the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,  
Amy Sojot  
Mililani, HI 96789

Carpenter, D. & Hughes, H. (2011). Gubernatorial Rhetoric and the Purpose of Education in the United States. *International Journal of Education Policy and Leadership*, 6(6). 1-15.

Petsko, G.A. (2010). A Faustian Bargain. *Genome Biology*, 11(10). doi:10.1186/gb-2010-11-10-138 Retrieved from: <http://genomebiology.com/2010/11/10/138>

Committee: HED      Room: 309      RE: HB 555 – Oppose  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, Feb 5, 2015 2:00 PM

Aloha, my name is Melani, I am a graduate of UH Mānoa and I could not oppose house bill 555 any more strongly. You are threatening to cut apart the academia at UH. This is an academic institution founded on the precepts of educating Hawaii. People come from all over the US and even from other countries to attend this institution because of what we offer in the academic fields. If you want to look for areas to cut waste spending, then cut spending to sports programs like football. Or cut down on air conditioning in buildings where it is not necessary, cut salaries for the deans and the president and all the other executive positions. Cut some of the big concerts that they throw, those are all big losses for the school in funds, but cutting them won't cripple the education offered by the institution.

One program in particular you would have to be crazy to cut is the Botany department. To begin with, UH was founded as part of the Agricultural Extension Program as a service to the people of Hawaii. Botany is essential there and in so many other ways. The people who graduate from that program go on to careers saving rare and endangered native plants, protecting the watersheds and many other jobs that benefit the state, and promote a sustainable and functioning ecosystem here in Hawaii. Botany at UH is one of the few surviving programs of its kind in all of the United States and it has a huge draw. We get an average of 9 graduates a year in that program. The main reason it's not more is because funding cuts have reduced the number of available classes so like most other majors at UH it takes more than 4 years to graduate.

It's not only the program itself that is historical and noteworthy; there are professors in that department known as experts in the nation and all around the world. They bring in huge amounts of grant money and publish highly influential works that bring credit to the university's name. Without this program, botany in Hawaii and the study of and protection of native species would be crippled. There would be no university program to study the cornucopia of native plants which may very well yield not only medicines for future generations, but also serve as a cultural heritage. They are drivers for tourism and the foundations of our watershed. Don't do it, think of the future of Hawaii, we need to protect the native habitat, but we also need to feed ourselves and we need people who understand plants to help guide that.

It is not just Botany I am arguing for; I think that cutting any of the programs is a terrible idea. This is not where you need to short change the students of UH. They need their classes and their programs. If enrollment is down consider that cutting classes and course offerings is only going to further decrease the amount of people interested in coming to UH. Cutting programs reduces the availability of foundation courses and will increase the time it takes to get through core requirements in order to obtain a degree. This means even longer wait times to graduate. Consider that all across the US there is a focus on S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math) programs in order to bring the US up to international standards. We are falling behind, especially so here in Hawaii, and this bill will only make things worse. I know you need to balance the budget, but find your money elsewhere; this is the wrong thing to do.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:47 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** stein4@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Angela Stein        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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Testimony to the House Committee Higher Education Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 2:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

RE: HOUSE BILL 555 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee:

I, Nellie Sugii, as an individual and employee at UH's Lyon Arboretum oppose HB 555, which requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished. Provides an exception for undergraduate programs that are self-sustaining. Authorizes the board of regents to extend the three-year time period to six years. This is in referral to primarily the UH Botany Department, which has been graduating 9 students for the past couple years. The UH Botany Department has been in the past and continues to house some of the world's leading experts in Tropical Island Biology and Ecology. Hawaii has such a fragile environment, with the nation's highest rate of endangered plants, and at the same time a very exciting place to be evolutionarily-wise, it would be foolish to even consider the removal of such a remarkable department for a single criteria not met.

In my work as the Hawaiian Rare Plant Program manager at Lyon, I work with the UH Botany faculty and use their facilities regularly due to the high quality research, extensive global networking and level of professionalism. As for students, I have advised some on projects and hired several, which have come out of the Botany program and find them to be well prepared, knowledgeable and eager to give back to Hawaii and it's ecosystem. Many of the faculty have and continue to help us in outreach programs, internships, community and research projects, talks to age groups ranging from K-12 children to seniors, served on advisory committees and so many other things. Literally, the staff (Botany faculty and students included) reach hundreds if not thousands a year. Botany is definitely my go to place when I need assistance.

Therefore, I oppose Bill HB555 as is stated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nellie C. Sugii  
Junior Researcher  
Harold L. Lyon Arboretum  
3860 Manoa Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Ph. 988-0470  
sugii@hawaii.edu

I am writing to oppose the measure listed as HB555, listed below:

RELATING TO THE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAII.

**Report Title:** University of Hawaii; Budget Crisis; Minimum Graduates

**Description:** Requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished. Provides an exception for undergraduate programs that are self-sustaining. Authorizes the board of regents to extend the three-year time period to six years.

I serve as Chair of the Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American and Iberian Studies Division of Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas at UH Manoa. At present, our Spanish BA program has approximately 48 majors. While we are not in danger from the proposal of this measure, any of our colleagues in Classics, German, French and Russian are. And while Spanish is a thriving major and MA program, it can be seen from our numbers that only a minor lapse in continuous graduation numbers could easily put us under the listed threshold and menace us with abolition.

This measure is short-sighted and prejudicial, punishing majors whose numbers are small. The legitimacy of a major at a Research 1 university should not be judged by its popularity, as often those who choose a major in an "unpopular" field are among the most dedicated and enthusiastic students. This measure also imperils those who teach in these fields and entire areas of academic inquiry whose legitimacy is beyond question. Surely there are other areas where the legislature can find ways to economize rather than menacing these minority fields.

Dr. Eric M. Thau

Associate Professor of Spanish

Chair, Spanish Division, LLEA, UH Manoa

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:58 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** deja.thomas.19@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deja                | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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Aloha,

My name is Jeffrey Tom and I am an alumnus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Hawaii resident.

I oppose the passing of HB555 and urge you to reconsider the parameters of the bill. The bill aims to abolish undergraduate or graduate programs that graduate less than 10 students per year. This includes my former major, Ethnic Studies. As one of the few universities to offer Ethnic Studies and with such a unique perspective gifted to us by the melting pot status of Hawaii...it would be a shame and a waste to eliminate it. In this day and age of newfound racial tensions sparked by various issues in our fair nation, those with an Ethnic Studies background are tailor-made and well equipped to be leaders and advocates in the community. Graduates of the Ethnic Studies department, although few in number as noted, are capable of offering solutions that many are not capable of. Look at the rallies that have taken place across our country in countless of cities and townships across the map. They gave us a wake-up call and something to be angry about, but do not offer concrete solutions to solve these issues. This is why Ethnic Studies graduates can play a major role in society.

I'm kind of ashamed that I didn't follow the route my degree offered me, but it gave me a new lease on life after I learned about what my own ancestors went through to get our family to this point we are at today. It motivated me to stand up for myself and those that may not have a voice. I am ashamed I haven't done more to fix the issues that plague our society today. But perhaps someone better and more motivated than me will come through the system and use the tools our Ethnic Studies professors so eagerly and passionately teach us from the moment we step foot on the beautiful, one-of-a-kind Manoa campus to the day we hold our degrees in

triumph. None of that would be possible if the program is abolished. What will happen to those who have majored in these programs prior to this bill? You are telling those studying Ethnic Studies, Dance, Russian, etc. that their major does not matter and will not matter. Their future that you say is “secure” will not exist when their program is shut down. Don’t try to reassure those that have passed through the system that their majors being crossed out will have no effect on their future.

Abolishing the program is essentially condemning the future keiki of Hawaii to live in a world perpetuated by racial segregation. You may think it is a stretch to make such an allegation, but there is no other message that the one I just conveyed. I urge you to reconsider the bill and find more solutions to the financial problems of the university that do not involve undercutting the very students you wish to benefit by this bill.



**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:50 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** cathyt@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| cathy tran          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**U N I V E R S I T Y   O F   H A W A I ' I   A T   M Ā N O A**

College of Education  
Institute for Teacher Education

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Linda Venenciano and I am an Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am responding to HB 555 relating to the University of Hawai'i.

The focus of my work is in secondary mathematics teacher education. The Institute for Teacher Education–Secondary program is the umbrella under which the secondary education content area programs fall. We prepare future secondary educators for teaching the wide varying content in the middle and high schools. Some content areas, such as secondary mathematics, are less popular than others. My program is one which may be at risk should HB 555 pass. Since I began working in the department in 2012, I have had 3–4 students graduating with their B.A. per semester. These graduates are prepared to become mathematics teachers and enter the workforce immediately upon graduation. Eliminating my program will negatively impact the supply of teachers in a field that has consistently had to recruit beyond Hawai'i. The shortage of highly qualified mathematics teachers continues to plague our schools. Rather than eliminate the program altogether, I urge you to instead consider supporting strategies to increase the number of students entering mathematics and mathematics education.

Current efforts that I have been involved in include a recent grant submission to the National Science Foundation to increase undergraduate enrollment in mathematics. Our proposal targets place-based learning and early field-work to broaden students' perception of the discipline of mathematics. As you are aware, mathematics is foundational to careers in STEM. Unfortunately, the number of students entering mathematics has been on the decline. This has resulted in even fewer students to complete mathematics coursework and then pursue the mathematics education track. We need creative solutions to make mathematics an attractive field for students. It is the gateway to all STEM and STEM education fields.

I urge you to consider the potential consequences of HB 555. Hawai'i cannot afford to eliminate pathways for future mathematics teachers.

Aloha,  
Linda Venenciano, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Mathematics Education  
College of Education

3190 Maile Way, Room 101  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

February 3, 2015

Dear House Higher Education Committee,

My name is Seana Walsh. I am currently a Master's candidate in the Department of Botany at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) and also work part-time for a local, environmental non-profit.

This written testimony is in opposition to HB555, the public date and time of the hearing of which is on February 5, 2015 at 2:00 PM HST.

Do not support this bill which *"Requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished. Provides an exception for undergraduate programs that are self-sustaining. Authorizes the board of regents to extend the three-year time period to six years."*

I obtained my Bachelors of Art in Botany at UHM in December 2011 and eagerly applied to the graduate program which I started that following semester (in spring 2012). Hence, I have been in the department for nearly 6 years so know all of the faculty well and am very familiar on where our department stands in the general field of botany from not only a local but also national, perspective. Our department brings in a lot of research grants. I personally have obtained both international and national grants for my own thesis research equating to over \$15,000. We have nationally and internationally known researchers who enhance the reputation of the university and the state. I have collaborated with many international, national, state, and local island agencies throughout my graduate research the past several years. I have also been fortunate enough to attend four national and many other local conferences to present my research and put not only our Department of Botany in the spotlight but also UH as a whole. Most of our faculty and graduate students and even many of our undergraduates, are fortunate to have similar experiences.

Our Department of Botany is training both undergraduates and graduates for many jobs at the state, national, and international level. Our department is amazing in that an individual not only gets a well-rounded educational background, but can also gain specific, specialty experiences and skills necessary to enter the work force or continue in academia. An article from November 2013 in U.S. News stated that *"...more and more, colleges and universities are getting rid of their botany programs, either by consolidating them with zoology and biology departments, or eliminating them altogether because of a lack of faculty, funds or sometimes interest. And at the same time, many trained botanists in federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, are nearing retirement age, and those agencies are clamoring for new talent."*

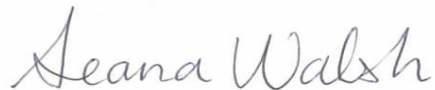
There is going to be an increasing need for botanists at all levels in the coming years. Already, many graduates of our department who I know personally from UH Botany are in important positions in the state. For example, our State Botanist (Dr. Maggie Sporck Koehler) and O'ahu Island (Lara Reynolds) and Kaua'i Island (Adam Williams) botanists, because they are trained in Hawaiian botany. Maggie received her PhD in Botany, Lara her MS, and Adam his BA. I personally have yet to graduate with my MS but just accepted a job on the condition that I do as Conservation Biologist of the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG). Many of my future co-workers at NTBG are botanists, some of whom graduated from

UH Botany. Key players at NTBG played major roles in bringing the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress to Hawai'i in 2016 - the world's largest conservation event. This is a huge deal and will bring a lot of money to our state. Hawai'i contains the vast majority of federally listed endangered species in the U.S. and most of those species listed are plants. Botanists are those who deal with all of this work in managing these endangered plant species. I believe this World Conservation Congress will also harness more support at the international level to protect our rich, unique native flora. This will require even more locally trained botanists.

Having been born and raised in the Hawaiian Islands, I have a great desire to focus on conserving and protecting our native flora and fauna. I am committed to a career that will forward these goals. If it wasn't for the Department of Botany at UHM, I would have had to leave my island home to attend college on the continent. In this scenario, I would not have been as well trained and competitive for jobs here, since my botanical training would have been focused on a different region with a completely different flora.

If you have any questions or need further information, please call or email anytime. Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seana Walsh". The ink is a light grey color and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Seana Walsh  
808 264 7371  
skwalsh@hawaii.edu

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:36 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** pwegesen@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pablo Wegesend      | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: It has come to my attention that the State Legislature wants to eliminate UH academic programs that graduate less than 10 students per year. While such a move may be understandable in financial terms, it ignores that some academic programs are vital to Hawaii's economic, medical, and cultural future. Some academic programs that have a few graduates per year are specialized programs that provides future experts in vital areas like Biological Engineering, Plant & Environmental Protection Science, Meteorology, Medical Technology and Computer Engineering. Why would you want to outsource those fields to the continental US? If the academic program is vital to the state of Hawaii, it should be preserved, even if there isn't a high amount of graduates.

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**TO: House Committee on Higher Education, Hawai'i House of Representatives**  
**FROM: Paul Wessel**  
**SUBJECT: Testimony against House Bill # 555**

Honorable Representatives-

I am a Professor of Geophysics in the Department of Geology & Geophysics (GG), School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Our BA and BS degree programs have been identified as “small programs” that your bill seeks to eliminate. I believe your bill would have very negative and wholly predictable consequences for our flagship University. While I share the spirit of your proposed bill (to increase graduations), I believe that goal is better achieved via incentives rather than punitive measures. Unfortunately, your bill focuses on a single metric (degree count), an easily understandable metric, but fails to take into consideration other important measures such as quality and importance to the State:

- The Geosciences is ranked highest of all UHM programs: The US News & World Report ranked us #34, while the National Taiwan University web ranking (based solely on productivity and publication impact) scored us as #17 in the world. A recent external evaluation of UHM ranked GG as the 8<sup>th</sup> best UHM program.
- Our college (SOEST) is the most successful UHM unit in securing extramural funding, being responsible for roughly 1/5 of all research grants.
- Hawai'i is the only state in the Union that does not have a State Geological Survey, despite a location that exposes it to volcanic, seismic, tsunami, and rock fall hazards. The GG department plays an important role in educating our citizens about these natural phenomena, advising the State, and producing graduates that are knowledgeable about natural hazards.
- The Director (Charles McCreery) and other scientists at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center are graduates of GG. The Scientist-in-Charge at the Hawaii Volcano Observatory on the Big Island (Jim Kauahikaua) is a graduate of GG.
- Counting our BA and BS graduations separately is disingenuous. There is no additional cost for the BA program since all required BA courses are part of the BS major. Combined, we are close to 10 and have already implemented actions to grow our program further.

I hope your committee will find ways to help UHM provide an excellent education for its citizens while supporting our commitment to excellence in research and service in the Earth Sciences.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Dr. Paul Wessel

Professor, UHM Geology & Geophysics  
Fellow, Geological Society of America  
Fellow, American Geophysical Union

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:48 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** cwilkins@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caleb Wilkins       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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## Testimony in Opposition to HB 1555

Submitted online February 3, 2015

From: Adam M. Williams  
PO Box 3271  
Lihue, HI 96766  
[adammw@hawaii.edu](mailto:adammw@hawaii.edu)

To: Committee on Higher Education  
Hearing on HB 555 at 2pm, Feb. 5, 2015  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

This troubling legislation was brought to my attention this morning and I felt obligated to speak out as an independent concerned citizen in strong opposition to it. While there are numerous important undergraduate degree granting programs that would likely be abolished by this ill-advised legislation, I would like to specifically use the UH Manoa Botany Department as an example of why this bill should be permanently shelved.

I graduated from UH at Manoa with a bachelor's degree in Botany in 2010. It is extremely concerning to me that HB 555 might potentially abolish the very botany department that I attended due to it having a modest undergraduate program. I gained an invaluable education in the natural history of the Hawaiian Islands in the Botany department, including the incredibly high rates of endangerment of our unique flora. After graduation, it was my education in botany at UH Manoa that helped earn me a job with the Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership. And since 2013 I have been employed as a Botanist for the Kauai Branch of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR-DOFAW), in large part because of my applicable local education in this discipline.

It is true that the undergraduate botany program at UH may be small at this time, but its importance cannot be overstated. I'm sure I don't need to remind you that our State government has legal obligations to protect and perpetuate indigenous plants, of which 90% occur nowhere else on Earth. Without a Botany department in our state, how will we educate stewards of these resources? In addition to myself, there are many other people employed in our State government and associated conservation organizations across Hawaii that received their degrees from the UH Botany department. In addition to the department's graduates and their roles in local government and environmental groups, the research done on Hawaiian plants by faculty and graduate students of the Botany department helps further our understanding of the native flora and continues to enhance our ability to protect it, while bringing in tremendous amounts of grant monies (including generous overhead costs for UH administration) and international academic acclaim to the University.



At this time there are approximately 400 Threatened and Endangered (T and E) plant species in Hawaii, officially listed by Federal and State law. When it comes to native plants we are facing an extinction crisis in this state, with very limited resources to address it. It is already difficult to even find skilled applicants familiar with the local flora to fill the limited staff positions dedicated to plant conservation in Hawaii, but if the UH Botany department were eliminated by the arbitrary requirements of this unnecessary bill the situation would become much worse. All local hiring agencies looking for someone with a botany degree (i.e. University positions, DLNR, watershed partnerships, DOD, private environmental consultants) would be forced to turn to the US continent for an applicant pool, and any requirements for local knowledge would no longer be possible without a recognized local botany degree program.

I urge you to please reconsider any legislation that would threaten this indispensable asset at the University. Although I understand that UH may be facing a dire financial situation, we should be looking for ways to address it that do not undermine degree programs which are so vital to the protection and perpetuation of Hawaii's natural resources. In these troubled times, faced with threats in the State from invasive species, climate change, increasing wildfires and food insecurity, we should be looking for ways to strengthen the UH Botany department and the absolutely necessary training and research that it provides to assure our continued existence in these fragile island ecosystems we call home.

Sincerely,

Adam M. Williams

## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 12:00 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** hotel.whiskey64@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Harold Wong         | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: Having graduated with a BA in theater I can testify that the community within the theater and dance department is a strongly knit family of students and faculty alike. Cutting off this department denies other students the opportunity to learn these arts which through many personal testimonies have proven to make the college experience more enjoyable.

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HB555, relating to the University of Hawaii:

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, herewith my comments on bill HB555, Relating to the university of Hawaii. I suggest that the implementation and consequences of this bill (if passed) be considered carefully.

While it is of concern that there are programs graduating less than ten graduates per year at the University of Hawaii, I believe each program should be examined on merits before steps are taken to abolish that program. Some small programs contribute graduates with very specific skills that are essential, albeit in small numbers, for various cornerstone functions in our society. For example, the State of Hawaii employs a number of people with degrees in "Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences" (a relatively new program, graduating less than 10 per year currently, and one with which I am familiar), or combinations of courses from that program, at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, where they are engaged in prevention of invasive species and management of invasive species. While this program graduates less than 10 people per year, courses offered by the program are well attended and often fully subscribed by students from other majors, but requiring specific courses for their major. I am sure there are other programs within the UH system with similar circumstances.

I therefore suggest that more than simply the number of graduates produced by a program should be taken into consideration when making major decisions regarding that program.

My name is Mark G Wright. I am a professor of entomology and an entomology extension specialist at UH Manoa. However, today, I am providing personal testimony.  
February 4, 2015.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:56 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kzakimi@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*

**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelli Ann Zakimi    | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 6:28 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** drakez@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

### **HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Drake Zintgraff     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Dear HB 555 Committee, I write this in opposition to HB 555 which calls for the closure of academic programs at the University of Hawaii at Manoa which fail to graduate a specific number of students each year. I write this in opposition after hearing Rep. Choy's comments in the Ka Leo newspaper recently. From my experience in both professional and in my studies of higher education, the language of this bill and the comments that were made in regards to this bill makes me concerned that there is not a full understanding as to how institutions of higher education have to operate in order to meet accreditation and how students are graduated. A blanket statement that would close programs for low degree awards per year threatens the sustainability of not just specific departments, but the entire University. Many programs have students not graduate from their specific department, but use those courses to complete a comprehensive degree in a similar or like program. In addition, the admissions and cohort groups that go through some departments make the graduation numbers for a department vary from year to year. In addition, although some programs have small undergraduate "numbers" graduate each year, many of these students go on to graduate programs in those fields which then helps to contribute to the millions of dollars that the research arm of UH Manoa helps to bring in, which is one of the largest sources of our State's economy. Research on the influences of college choice in graduate programs shows that students being able to identify key faculty members as undergraduates is often weighed very heavy in their decision making to eventually apply and enroll in that program. If these programs were cut off it would greatly impact the ability for various departments, not just those being cut, to recruit students into graduate programs and further produce top quality research that makes the University one of the leading institutions in the country. I understand the need for their to be measures made to address the finances of the UH System, however, I hope that this is further investigated to understand the potential ramifications this bill would have on the University and the entire State's economy because of it. Thank you for your time and chance to submit testimony. Drake Zintgraff, M.Ed.

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Candonians of Hawaii  
1328 Molehu Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96818

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 555**

Pertaining to the abolition of UH Undergraduate Programs that “graduate(s) ten students per year”

This testimony is strong opposition to House Bill 555 that seeks to abolish UH undergraduate degree programs that graduate 10 students per year.

My testimony is based on several premises:

1. As president of a civic organization serving Oahu, I have come to witness the importance of heritage and language programs as our social resource in this state.
2. The Candonians of Hawaii, in partnership with the Philippine Consulate General, with the Filipino Community Center, and with the University of Hawaii Ilokano Language, Literature, and Culture Program providing instructional support, has initiated a language acquisition and immersion program in Ilokano. Ilokano, alongside Tagalog/Filipino, is one of the only two language programs offered at the University of Hawaii. Both programs have served our heritage students and our communities for that last 40 years.
3. We understand that those who have graduate from these two Philippine language and literature programs at the university have given back to the community by rendering professional and public service to our people. They work as teachers, interpreters and translators, and social services professionals.

The continued offering of Philippine language and culture programs at the university will guarantee public service and representation to the almost 25% of the demographic make-up of the entire state of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration to this testimony.

Grace Villanueva Go  
President  
Candonians of Hawaii

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 2:23 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jeffrey.acido@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeffrey Acido       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Aloha Chair Choy, I am writing in strong opposition for the proposed bill that would cut out programs with less than 10 majors. While I am not opposed to the spirit of cost saving and efficiency, I believe this bill does not address the full complexity of such programs that would be impacted. I majored in Religion, Asian Studies and Education. The programs that would be terminated were a large part of my Major. It was a great component of my general education and is used by other majors--in other words, the programs that would be cut would significantly impact majors with 10 or more. Please do not cut these programs without a thorough evaluation of its contributions to the state. I do think, for the purposes of reinvigorating the students of UH, this bill would be helpful (only if not passed; detrimental if passed). Thank you so much for your time, Jeffrey Tangonan Acido, PhD

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**LATE**

Strongly Oppose for HB555  
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
February 5, 2015, 2:00 p.m.  
Hawai`i State Capitol – Conference Room 309

To: Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and members of committee

From: Geryll Anthony A. Agno  
Sulong Aral, Leeward Community College  
94-045 Ala Ike Street, DA-204  
Pearl City, HI 96782

Subject: Testimony in strong opposition of HB555

My name is Geryll Anthony A. Agno, a prospective graduate of Leeward Community College with an Associate's of Arts in Liberal Arts degree by the end of this semester, spring 2015. Upon completing my time in the community college, I plan to pursue a Bachelor's of Science in Computer Science degree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am writing in strong opposition to HB555 that if passed, will require that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished. It will provide an exception for undergraduate programs that are self-sustaining. It will authorize the board of regents to extend the three-year time period to six years.

Education is supposed to be for everyone, and if you let pass this bill into a law, you are preventing students to study the area they are passionate about. If you pass this bill and subsequently abolish the programs that these students want to take, you are forcing them to take another program that they do not really like.

People go to school so that they can train academically and professionally in their program of choice, not in a program they were forced to choose because they could not take the major they want. Worst case scenario for the university system is that these students attend another institution that is not part of the system because they offer it there – and not here.

If the university system is really facing a financial crisis, why don't we propose to take down projects that are costing the university millions of dollars like the whole athletics program?

If you really care about education like you claim you do, you will block this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Geryll Anthony A. Agno  
[geryll@hawaii.edu](mailto:geryll@hawaii.edu)



**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 2:00 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** sharlina@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sharlina K Brown    | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Reducing available programs wont solve the issues of embezzlement.

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**LATE**

**Testimony in opposition of HB555 Minimum Graduates  
Before the House Higher Education Committee**

Dear Higher Education Chair Isaac Choy, and Members of the Committee:

I am a professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the Department of Second Language Studies, in the Colleges of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature. I have worked on aspects of second and foreign language research and teaching as a professional for the past 28 years, including 25 years with the University of Hawai'i. I am testifying on my own behalf, as a concerned professional educator.

I oppose HB555 because it will diminish the capacity of the State of Hawai'i to develop its human resources in one of a rather limited number of areas in which the State has natural strengths. Our tourism industry, and our burgeoning international conference industry, with their needs for qualified and well-trained language professionals, benefit from a steady accumulation of specialists, individuals with (among other qualifications) undergraduate degrees in languages. The fact that there may be a relatively small number of graduates per year does not detract from the gradual build-up of a professionally significant critical mass of specialists, which is what we need if the State of Hawai'i is to increase its capacity to be a site of international business and cultural exchange.

The fact that a degree program produces a small number of graduates per year does not inherently mean that the program is inefficient. Students from more than one degree program may be in a single class meeting. A number of distinct degrees may be awarded across a large group of students who have many classes in common, but it may be advantageous, for career purposes, for some distinct and narrow specifications to be made in the name of the final degrees. Number of graduates per year is only one of a number of measure of program cost-effectiveness and impact.

Our multicultural population is one of our strengths. We should be building up our capacities in this area, not cutting them back.

Graham Crookes  
Professor, Chair; Department of Second Language Studies  
<crookes@hawaii.edu>

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 4:56 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kealiig@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keali'i Gora        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 2:09 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kelsinishina@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelsi               | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

**Comments:**

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 2:01 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kroessig@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tim Kroessig        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: This bill is not well founded and threatens many small yet important departments in the University of Hawaii. Specifically the Botany Department is extremely important in training local people to be stewards of our precious natural resources and watersheds in Hawaii. The flora of Hawaii is extremely unique and highly threatened. the University of Hawaii's Botany department conducts research that is vital to understanding and preserving our unique natural treasures in Hawaii. I urge you to please reconsider this piece of legislation and to use other criteria other than number of graduating undergrad students per year in your decision about which departments to abolish. Maybe you should consider drafting a bill that eliminates the costly athletics department at UH. Please don't sacrifice our small yet important departments at UH just because times are tough. Think this through for the future of our local children and their educational opportunities at the University of Hawaii.

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**LATE**

**Testimony in opposition of HB555 Minimum Graduates  
Before the House Higher Education Committee, Hearing on February 5, 2015, 2:00 p.m.,  
House Conference Room 309**

Dear Higher Education Chair Isaac W. Choy and Members of the Committee:

My name is Emily Lee. Currently I work for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa as a temporary full-time employee, which allows me to see the possible effects of the proposed HB555, and I am testifying as an individual citizen to oppose HB555.

Programs that graduate fewer than 10 students per year over the period of three consecutive years, or even over the period of six consecutive years, serve many, many more students than the students graduating with those majors. For example, a student graduating with a degree in chemistry or business may take courses in Pacific Islands Studies, French, and Dance. If HB555 were passed, students attending the University of Hawai'i across campuses would be deprived of the rich offerings presented by the university and robbed of the unique assets of the university. Programs such as Philippine Languages and Literature and Pacific Islands Studies are unique. They are part of what attracts students to the University of Hawai'i.

Emily Lee  
emilywslee@gmail.com

**LATE**

Hello,

My name is Yining Lin, I am a doctoral candidate at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

I am submitting my testimony in opposition to Representative Choy's House Bill 555 proposing the cut of 30 undergraduate programs from the UH system in order to save money. While I agree that the university is in dire financial straits, I do not believe that cutting these 30 programs is the solution.

Of the 30 programs listed in today's Kā Leo (2/4/2015), a number of programs, such as Tropical Plants and Soil Sciences and Pacific Island Studies, are unique to UH and is a major part of the draw for students not just from Hawai'i, but also from the mainland and the world. Other programs, such as secondary education, geology, and geology and geophysics are programs that benefit greatly from the location of UH and it's vicinity to research sites and the data needed for those students. Other programs, such as theatre and dance, while more universal, hold a special place at UH because of our connections to not only Hawai'i, but to Asia. At UH Mānoa, we produce one theatre production a year from a specific part of Asia and from Hawai'i. This is the *only* program in the country that supports and seriously studies the Asian theatre forms and if that is taken away, UH theatre will be like every other university in the country: a department that wishes it had more opportunity to teach Asian arts, but cannot, or does not, employ such people who are expert in it. UH is special because it employs professors and accepts students who want to learn more about unique subjects, some that are more specific to Hawai'i, but can contribute greatly to the world around them.

The programs that HB 555 calls to abolish are undergraduate programs, which implies that graduate programs will remain in place at the University. However, in order to have a graduate program, you must also have an undergraduate program because graduate students are often hired as lecturers and TAs to teach undergraduate classes to gain more teaching experience. We, undergraduate and graduate students, learn from each other. We build on each other's research and activities in a way that is unique to an university and academic setting. In theatre and dance, graduate students rely on undergraduates to be our performers, our stage crew, our life lines. We count on them to build a theatre and dance of quality that will be lost forever if our undergraduate program is taken away.

The abolition of any program, especially these programs, could mean that the University would be unable to draw any important names to teach at our universities. UH Press, famous for its publications in terms of journals and books, could also see a great drop in what they can publish because those programs have disappeared. This university system will lose its accreditation if these programs are taken away and the University of Hawai'i system will lose even more money due to these losses because it will no longer attract students from the mainland and abroad.

UH Mānoa is the first university I have been to that allows scholars who have international fame in their fields both domestically and internationally, to call it home. It has been these professors' homes for many many years and if this bill passes, not only will UH lose its future students and

the professors who play a large role in the quality of education we receive here, but it will lose all legitimacy as an University and is a great disservice to the Hawaiian community.



**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 4:47 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** bghngao@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brandon Ngao        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**LATE**

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

Re: Opposition to HB 555 Relating to the University of Hawaii

My name is John Matthew A. Pagaragan and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am writing in strong opposition to HB 555 which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduates less than 10 graduates per year. I believe that everyone has a right to education no matter how unpopular/uncommon/different his or her interests are! And personally, I think any language is worth keeping. It's not only about learning the language, it's also about opening doors and opportunities to students to learn and see how much more there is to life outside of the United States. Don't punish the students who merely want to learn, isn't that what college is truly about? This school can certainly find other ways to budget better, taking it out on the academic programs is not the way.

Respectfully submitted,

John Matthew Arela Pagaragan  
jmap@hawaii.edu

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 2:00 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** mraaronpresents@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aaron Pughes        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am voicing my opposition to the abolishment of programs at UH, the bill only takes into account the students that MAJOR in the program but omits all MINOR studies in the programs. The UH Theater program has produced many well recognized performers in Hawaii's theater, comedy, and music community. Last month a group of students that don't major in Theater and Drama but have great enthusiasm for it traveled to a major festival in San Francisco and represented Hawaii placing second with no training other than what they received at UH Manoa

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 5:14 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** rsuvorov@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ruslan Suvorov      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: To whom it may concern, I would like to express my opposition to HB 555. As a researcher and faculty, I have witnessed numerous undergraduate programs that graduate less than ten students per year. Many of these programs are essential for our nation and offer majors that are of critical importance to the society. The success of such undergraduate programs cannot--and should not--be measured by the number of students they graduate. Sincerely, Ruslan Suvorov, Ph.D. Instructional Technology Specialist University of Hawaii at Manoa

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 2:13 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** pwiggin@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Peter Wiggin        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: The notion of not having Plant sciences departments, whether it be TPSS, Botany, anything of this nature abolished is an absolute travesty. Hawaii is both the biodiversity and Endangered Species Capital of the United States. It is literally a joke to think that the flagship campus, of the state university of hawaii, would not have plant science departments. If we are trying to make cost cutting measures in fields, departments or programs that are deemed unsuccessful or inadequate, why dont we cut the football program? I am a football fan and UH alum and am being dead serious. I know of at least two dozen people off the top of my head who were educated and graduated through one of those two aforementioned programs and are imperative to the success of the states efforts at maintaining a somewhat native and healthy environment and watershed, throughout the entire island chain. Think about it, hawaii. People come to hawaii for the plants, the palm trees, the greenery, the orchids, etc etc. All of the experts, nurserymen, scientists and alike that are responsible for these things (i.e. tourism attractions) either went through, worked with or was trained in these departments. It is truly shameful that this is the situation we are in.

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**LATE**

## Testimony in Opposition to HB 555

Submitted online February 4, 2015

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From: Tamara M. Wong  
Researcher  
Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo  
tamarawo@hawaii.edu

To: Committee on Higher Education  
Hearing on HB 555 at 2pm, Feb. 5, 2015  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

I am a concerned citizen in very strong opposition to HB 555 and I believe this bill should be permanently shelved. Many significant undergraduate degree granting programs could be abolished by this legislation, based on a formula that does not accurately reflect the benefits to the students, university, and community as a whole. It is my opinion that we as a greater community would be negatively affected by the actions of HB 555.

The bill could abolish departments that do not graduate more than 10 students a year, however, graduation rates are typically greater than 4 years in all UH departments. The average graduation time for UH undergraduates in Spring 2001 was 4.7 years ([www.hawaii.edu/iro/adhoc/tgmas01.pdf](http://www.hawaii.edu/iro/adhoc/tgmas01.pdf)), and the institutional average for graduate students is higher. In fact, national on-time completion rates are estimated at 19% for those seeking four-year degrees (non-flagship) and 4% for those seeking two-year degrees in a recent article titled, "Latest numbers show on-time graduation is a myth for most college students: Complete College America calls for states to recognize 'full-time' should mean students take 15 credits per semester, 30 per year" ([www.completecollege.org/news.html](http://www.completecollege.org/news.html)). However, the UH System "15 to Finish" initiative focuses on improving on-time graduate rates and is being implemented across the country.

Departments would likely need a minimum average of 100 undergraduate majors to guarantee 10 would graduate each year, however, many UH departments currently do not have access to university resources in order to support 100 undergraduate majors.

An excellent example of an essential resource at UH Mānoa is the Department of Botany: a unit that brings in more research money and overhead funds in one year than required to pay all salaries and running expenses and provides critical training to students. UH Mānoa Department of Botany is one of the few Botany Departments left in the US, with internationally and nationally recognized researchers who enhance the reputation of the university, Hawai'i, and the nation. Further, in 2013 and 2014 six students in the department were recognized as ranking in the top 50 in the country by the Botanical

Society of America. Due to their training in Hawaiian Botany, many graduates contribute to the community from within important positions in the state, including jobs in government agencies (Watershed Partnerships; State Botanist; Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources), education and research (UH Mānoa, UH Hilo, LCC, KCC, HCC), NGOs, consulting agencies, and botanical gardens (Director of Preserve; Seed Conservation Manager in Hawaiian Rare Plant Program; Plant Collections). An estimated minimum of 28 recent graduates of UH Mānoa Botany are employed in at least 8 agencies doing work that is critical to Hawaiian conservation, management, and education.

More and more Botany Departments are cut across the nation at a time when we are in dire need of those professionals in dwindling supply. In a US News article, “an estimated one-third of the land in the United States is owned by the different federal agencies yet do not have enough botanists to manage the land with roughly a single botanist per 20 million acres of land. This greater need to fill positions yet decreased capacity to train botanists may threaten other linked fields such as conservation and forestry to food science, medicine and biofuel production” ([www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/11/12/the-academic-decline-how-to-train-the-next-generation-of-botanists](http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/11/12/the-academic-decline-how-to-train-the-next-generation-of-botanists)).

It is my position that UH Mānoa Botany is an indispensable asset at the University. In Hawai‘i, we are the endangered species capital of the world and we currently have limited resources to address critical issues of biodiversity loss, biological and cultural resource degradation, and climate change impacts. We need to continue training skilled personnel in local flora and socio-ecological systems.

UH Mānoa values include “aloha, collaboration, respect, integrity, service, access, diversity, innovation, and sustainability” ([www.hawaii.edu/about](http://www.hawaii.edu/about)). Our heritage, people and position as a bridge between east and west create a unique and favorable environment for study with opportunities for international leadership. UH Mānoa is now characterized by deeply diverse research projects and the National Science Foundation ranked it in the “top 50 public universities for federal research funding in engineering and science.” UH Mānoa is an “RU/VH (very high research activity) level research university” according to the Carnegie Foundation, and “extramural funding has increased by 18% over the past five years.” However, if HB 555 were passed, I believe this may lead to a decline in several key metrics. This would be detrimental to significant opportunities for our keiki, our students, university, community, and global ‘ohana. UH Mānoa focuses on global awareness and local responsibility. Please let us remain that way. I urge you to permanently shelve HB 555. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Tamara M. Wong

**LATE**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong opposition to H.B. 555, which seeks to abolish any undergraduate program which does not graduate at least 10 students per year. I believe this bill is both shortsighted and damaging to the very core of a strong public, research centered university such as the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). I was born and raised in Hawaii and attended UHM for both my undergraduate and graduate degrees. My undergraduate degree was a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies, with a major in Women's Studies. My major most certainly did not graduate 10 students per year at the time, and would, by your standards, be up for abolishment. I cannot tell you how valuable that major and that education was to me. I got a high quality, excellent education that was second to none. I was fortunate to be mentored by an internationally known researcher and scholar, Meda Chesney-Lind, who I both took courses with and did research for. That close work and mentoring helped shaped my career path and who I am today.

I currently work at UHM as an Assistant Faculty Specialist at the Study Abroad Center, and I have the pleasure of working with students and faculty from across the campus. I work with many students and faculty in majors that do not graduate at least 10 students per year and would be up for abolishment if your bill was passed. Frankly, I am appalled by H.B. 555. To measure a department's success by the number of majors it graduates per year is misguided, at best. Students choose their majors based on a number of factors, and to judge departments based on the number of majors it has it ridiculous. What about the question of resources? Some departments have a lot more faculty positions, which means more courses and possibly more majors. Some departments have very few faculty members, and as a result, offer fewer courses and can attract fewer majors. Is it fair to compare a resource rich department with a resource poor department? I also don't believe we should simply be championing departments that are self-supporting. I don't believe the university is above all else, a business. We are an educational institution, charged with educating the people of the state of Hawaii. Education is our mission, not making a profit. We shouldn't be judging the value of a course or a major based on how profitable it is. Education shouldn't be about the bottom line.

As a taxpayer, I believe Hawaii needs a strong public university that embraces all the liberal arts and sciences, not just the ones that are self-sustaining or money making. Our university should be educating the future leaders of tomorrow. Our state needs free thinkers and critical thinkers, ones who are versed in history, politics, arts, sciences, philosophy, languages, humanities, and literatures. We need creative problem solvers who can think beyond the current paradigms and who can challenge the status quo. We need those departments that may not graduate a lot of majors, but do add to the overall mission and quality of the university. We need to have the breadth of options that are to be expected at a major publically funded research university. Otherwise let's just become a vocational school and stop pretending otherwise.

Sincerely,

Allison Yap



**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:39 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** abigaillazo21@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Abigail Lazo        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and I take courses in and am seeking a degree in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 12:24 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** aagbanna@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM

**LATE**

### HB555

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By       | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Antonia Agbannawag | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                 |

Comments: Aloha Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and honorable members of the House Committee on Higher Education. Thank you for allowing me to offer COMMENTS ONLY on HB555. The loss of diverse courses that would be eliminated by this measure is a permanent diminution in the value of education offered by the University of Hawaii. Some of these targeted programs are what make UH a distinct, world-class university. The University of Hawaii's unique draw is the program selection that is uncommon to other universities. My decision to enroll in UH Manoa was driven primarily by the university's offering of the Indo-Pacific Languages program. Unfortunately, the program that brought me to UH would most likely be eliminated if this measure were to become effective. Programs that are targeted by this measure play a role in attracting diverse students to our campuses and keeping them in Hawaii. Although the program I took part in does not pump out degrees, the experience of the courses offered cultivates cultural awareness, shapes identity, and fosters community ties that extend far beyond campus. Many of my extracurricular, post-graduate and professional opportunities have arisen from participation in this program. Not to mention, the path to graduation would be a lot more lonely without the personal relationships students build in these niche cohorts. I acknowledge that granting ten degrees per academic year is a reasonable requirement for existing programs, however, student opportunities should not suffer at the expense of operational plights. While it is true that the University Hawaii System's budget crisis is severe, there are surely other aspects of UH that could be reigned in before eliminating academic programs. For example, electricity costs, underutilized facilities, new construction. Instead of compromising the enriching educational experience that students are already paying a premium for, perhaps the legislature can put forth a more stringent approach to managing the fixed costs of the UH system. Mahalo for your consideration of these comments and commitment to these issues! Antonia Agbannawag

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:35 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** cchun@midpac.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| celia chun wright   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I received my BFA/MFA at the UHM. All of our programs are important to our youth if we want them to continue to study here at HOME, in Hawaii!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:26 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** christopherkauai@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christopher Morgan  | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: This bill, and its limited and narrow view that would eliminate programs and majors that are "not in demand" short sighted, and of little benefit to the University and the larger community. An important role of higher education is to be a place of inquiry, discovery and innovation. If only "in demand" degrees are offered, than that leaves little room for these important aspects of education. In order for the University of Hawaii to be a viable and respected institution, a diverse array of programs needs to be offered. Programs that though small in number, are mighty in the depths they explore and inquiry they cultivate. For me, I'm especially advocating for arts programs, such as the amazing Dance program at UH. But many other small programs could suffer too. While it might be easy for some to dismiss the dance program, in a Native Hawaiian Culture that prizes dance as central to its perpetuation, the University system should reflect that value. I implore you not to pass this legislation. I conclude by quoting President John F. Kennedy. "I look forward to a great future for America, a future in which our country will match its military strength with our moral restraint, its wealth with our wisdom, its power with our purpose. I look forward to an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty, which will protect the beauty of our natural environment, which will preserve the great old American houses and squares and parks of our national past, and which will build handsome and balanced cities for our future. I look forward to an America, which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft. I look forward to an America which will steadily raise the standards of artistic accomplishment and which will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens. And I look forward to an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength but for its civilization as well."

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:46 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** dixiejcastillo.92@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dixie Jane Castillo | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:35 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** erniepro@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ernest Provencher   | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: Many programs are very important regardless of number of students graduating, even in light of financial stress on state education budgets, The Dance Department is one such, particularly in light of the program's representation of many types of dance with multicultural roots and outreach. Western, Asian, and Pacific Island forms are well represented and taught in the UH Dance program, which deserves full support for its artistic and cultural significance.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 4:57 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** terashita2104@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Futoshi Terashita   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a UH Dance/Theatre alumnus. I once took dance classes, and they broadened the way I look at Humanity and Arts. Learning is a privilege. So please do not take away learning opportunities from the students. There should be other approaches to meet financial needs. Aloha,

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EE HAAS <eehaas1@gmail.com>  
To: EE HAAS <eehaas1@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 4, 2015 at 7:55 PM

**LATE**

The intellectual and educational contributions of small programs to the university's educational missions cannot be measured by numbers of BA degrees alone. Specifically, eliminating or further curtailing the \*Classics\* program at UH would contradict the objectives of a meaningful Liberal Arts education. The Classics department at UH Manoa is and has always been a small but crucially important part of the university's mission, and is unique as the sole and single source for such education in the entire region. Please consider its important place that cannot be underlined emphatically enough.



**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:15 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** ghorita@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| GENE HORITA         | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a graduate alumni with a Master of Fine Arts of the University of Hawaii at Manoa Theatre & Dance Department. The arts have always been a difficult area of study. The rewards are small, but the work is excruciatingly long and physical. While many UH students have gone home to study and / or relax, UH Theatre & Dance students are often rehearsing late into the evening while still having to study for their major-related and core requisite classes after they finally arrive home. The arts are an important and integral part of the whole academic experience. For the benefit of future generations and the well-being of the community, I strongly oppose this bill's effort to close the Theatre & Dance department and I implore you to be more creative in finding an alternative solution. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:34 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** giannina@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Giannina            | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take courses in or am seeking a degree or certificate in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 4:51 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** guido@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Guido Carlo Pigliasco | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a Lecturer in the French/Italian Program at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, one of the programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve our students' educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 7:57 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** haleyz@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Haley Zdybel | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: I am a graduate student and I take courses in or am seeking a degree or certificate in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii. If these programs are discontinued, local Hawaiian students seeking degrees in art, music, languages, literature will be forced to go to the mainland for their degree, where their tuitions will be raised and where Hawaii and the amazing culture here will have no part in their studies. This means that fewer Hawaiians will have the means to pursue these forms of higher education. Taking away these programs would then mean outsourcing a great amount of these culture-related jobs. My degree is important, as UH offers the only graduate program for French Literature in the whole Pacific. Tahiti, French Polynesia, these are places that are still French-speaking and that have island culture and literature. The history, politics, economics, art history, etc. we learn from studying French literature enrich our education immeasurably. Also, the professors that have spent their careers here, or have moved here from far away (such as France and Belgium, like we have in our department) would be suddenly cut? No, these are amazing, intelligent, worldly, cultured people that make a huge difference to students at UH, and open their eyes to possibilities like Study Abroad, world travel, and learning a new language. Please do not throw away great programs and subjects of learning in the hopes of saving money, because it will tell local high school students that their artistic/linguistic goals are not worth supporting. There are other ways to save money, like cutting wasteful football programs that use a disproportionate amount of money and to whose games few students attend. Many universities thrive without a football team. This school is a lifeline for so many here in Hawaii, please do not cut the cord to some of us.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:26 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** harmsastar@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Harmony Turner      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Arts in Hawaii must survive! Please do not get rid of programs that help define Hawaii's unique job market and lifestyle. We need to remain active our dedication to all subjects regardless of graduation rate. Look to the people who ARE making a difference whom have graduated from one of the UH programs you're considering to abolish. Thank you.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:23 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jackieperreira826@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jackie Perreira     | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take a course in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii for my generation and for the generations to come.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:29 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** delsreys@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jason Delos Reyes | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: Dear House of Representatives, My name is Jason Delos Reyes and I am currently fourth year undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am currently double majoring in Computer Science and Filipino and I am glad to say that I will be completing both programs within four years. I believe that this bill should not be passed because it does not clearly explain exactly how the lack of students majoring in a program correlate to any financial deficits. Assuming that the bill corresponds to the number of graduating students in a given field, if the program still exists, there will be no savings in funds because resources will still be used to fund those classes. A degree is only a piece of paper that can be easily printed on paper, so most of the money should be going to education itself. If the money going towards education is the problem, I would like to inform you that in the Filipino program, there is actually an increasing number of students minoring in Filipino, one of the programs set to be cut, where the minor uses the same courses to fill a major. If the classes are then cut, a large number of students will be denied education to a specific program, and with that logic, the program with the most students should be cut first, since the sheer large number of educators' salaries will be cut to reduce money spent. In addition, with the Filipino program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa specifically, since we are the only university in the United States that offers a four-year degree program in Filipino, we will lose one of the programs that make our university stand out against the rest, thereby losing credibility, and potentially losing students who are willing to apply to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The reason I selected to go to UH was primarily because they had a Filipino program. If I wanted to just get a degree in Computer Science, I would have easily have gone to another university with a much better program. Therefore, the bill should not be passed because it doesn't make sense to remove a degree when you are still offering the classes that can lead to one. As you know, classes that are not filled to capacity are already being cut, so the university is already saving money by not offering those classes. If we are removing more courses, it will potentially decrease the four- year graduation rates of students, thus students going elsewhere, and making the university lose even more money in the long run. Thank you very much for reading my testimonial, and I hope that the best decisions are made for the future of higher education. Much Aloha, Jason Delos Reyes

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 2:51 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jdwild@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeannette Wild      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: It seems unfortunate that the criteria for retaining a major program at UH is predominantly on the number of annual graduates. I would hope that fulfilling a unique role in the education of our youth would also be considered. The Dance program in particular plays a unique role in the dance world. As my daughter was considering programs, she noted that she wished to be a choreographer. At UH the dance program offers courses in traditional Hawaiian dance, and frequently acquires visiting professors from other dancing traditions. In her tenure at UH she has studied traditional Indian dance, Japanese dance, Okinawan dance, and Hawaiian dance. As a perspective choreographer this experience will enrich her dance vocabulary in an extraordinary way. No other contemporary dance program in the US is poised to offer the same. The removal of this program would be a devastating loss to UH as well as the nation.

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:29 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jlabeau@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jillian LaBeau      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:38 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jonathan\_susa@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jonathan Susa       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:06 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kahanakitty@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| K`           | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: In STRONG OPPOSITION to HB555 Aloha kākou! As a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and lifelong resident of the State of Hawai'i, I am profoundly aware of the significance that the UH holds to our people. It is unconscionable to cut academic programs that offer studies in the very subjects, such as Ethnic Studies, Pacific Island Studies, and foreign languages, especially these being the very kinds of courses and programs that sets the University of Hawai'i apart from any other system in the nation, if not the world. It seems that other programs can get forgiven of debts of \$13 million dollars that have nothing to do with advancing the academic excellence and unique strengths of our students, faculty, and programs, yet this bill comes up to cut just such programs. I respectfully request that this bill be rejected as soon as possible, and instead, suggest that the funding for these academic programs receive funding priority so that they can grow and attract more students. Mahalo ā nui loa, i ka ha'aha'a, me ke aloha pūmehana K. H.

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**LATE**

My name is Kana Leia Veney and as an undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I am firmly opposed to any bill, such as HB555, that aims to abolish 33 respectable major programs. I understand that universities need to make budget cuts, but abolishing over 30 undergraduate programs is definitely not the solution! How does the University of Hawaii at Manoa expect to remain a respectable, accredited university without European languages programs (i.e. French, German, & Russian), Physics, Biochemistry, Plant & Environmental Biotech, Geology, a range of Secondary Education programs and more? Just because my majors, Management Information Systems and International Business, are on the chopping block doesn't mean I support this bill. I will graduate as a proud alumna of Shidler College of Business, not of UH Manoa, if this bill passes.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:47 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kananihr@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kanani Rose         | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

**Comments:**

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 5:48 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** holtkathrynm@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathryn Holt        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: As a graduate of the UH Manoa dance program, I can attest to the importance of the program within the university, the Honolulu arts community, and the country as a whole. The UH Manoa program is unique in its ability to offer quality dance education in a wide variety of dance forms. In particular, the offerings of Asian and Pacific dance forms are unique to the university, and the offerings of modern, ballet, and western dance theory and history courses offer students a strong basis to work in the dance field. Removing the undergraduate program from the university would greatly harm the dance community of Hawaii at the University as a whole. Additionally, many of the other programs set to be abolished by this bill, such as physics, biochemistry, and French, are integral to any well-rounded state university. Abolishing any of these programs would decrease the integrity and appeal of the university. I strongly urge the House to consider the implications of depriving students of these options in their education at UH. It is likely that the university will lose students to other state universities if this bill passes, which will damage the school and the state.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 1:40 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** km808@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kellianne           | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: It's important to consider the future implications such a bill might have. The importance of a subject does not lie in the quantity of those seeking a degree in it. It depends on the quality of those seeking the degree, as well as the subject matter and professors teaching the subject. Also, trends are consistently ebbing and flowing. To abolish a subject is to build a dam preventing a potential surge suitors from seeking access....And I valued all of my classics department courses. Latin is my favorite. As an introverted student, I would not have flourished in many other languages which require oral exams, and I would not have gotten as much from them.

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 7:01 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** pauka@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                 | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kirstin             | UHM Department of Theatre and Dance | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Threatening to cut over 30 "small" programs at UH is short-sighted, and does a great disservice to the University and the Hawaii community. Undergraduate and graduate programs are closely linked and faculty teach both, as well as various interrelated degree concentrations. Cutting a particular program would not save any money, since the courses are taken by majors, minors, and grads in many different degree tracks. What it would reduce is student enrollment and numbers and recruitment for graduate programs, for which these smaller undergrad degree tracks are feeder programs. To see the continuing attacks on UH by the State Leg. shows a continuing and systemic disregard for the vital role UH plays in the State as the only STATE UNIVERSITY. UH has countless excellent programs and should get enthusiastic support from our law makers, not constant threats to cut it to smaller and smaller pieces. This is shameful.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:08 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** lbasch@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| L Basch             | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Do not pass HB 555. It wil destroy the university which has other things it needs to fix!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 2:18 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** lbaron@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Laurie Baron | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                 |

Comments: Aloha Chair and Committee members, I am writing to oppose HB 555. The value of programs majors at the University of Hawaii should not be measured by the number of students that the department graduates. As a UH Manoa alumna, daughter of alums, and mother of a UH student, I really appreciate the tremendous blessing that is UH Manoa for those of us who can not or choose not to leave Hawaii. We need more than business majors and STEM graduates to make a healthy society. These small departments provide excellent programs at very little cost. The cost of professors and teaching assistants is negligible in context of the budget overall, but through their graduates, these programs give the community a breadth and depth that would be greatly missed were they eliminated. It would be akin to destroying a native rainforest with a single species monoculture, sacrificing diversity and resilience. Administrative posts seem to expand without end; some of them cost enough to pay for several professors! All over campus banners fly with images from past year's dance events, celebrating the rich cultural legacies from China, Japan, Hawaii and the world. Yet these very programs are on the chopping block based on a false economy. You don't have to look far to find good ideas to save substantial sums at UH. Please do not gut programs that took generations to build and that like a native rainforest, once eliminated, will never return. Please do not diminish UH. Please do not pass HB 555. Aloha, Laurie Baron UH Manoa 2009

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:34 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** leimomikekina@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leimomi Dierks      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

**Comments:**

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 7:34 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** trusso@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lilian Yamasaki     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Please reconsider this bill. Under the guise of a budget crisis, this bill seriously limits learning opportunities in an institution that should be expanding academics. Funds should be poring in to uphold existing programs, small as they may be, for their intrinsic value in terms of knowledge.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:31 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** lalesia02@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lindsay alesia      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I graduated from UH Manoa in 2011. It's a terrible thing to think that the things that make UH unique like pacific studies and such are being considered to be taken away from the university. All for money...what a shame.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 5:15 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** Iraass@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| LUSEANE RAASS       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Pacific Islanders have long been in different educational fields, but programs such Pacific Islands Studies have served to help peoples from this region specifically - with that said, please do not stop the growth of this region facilitated by peoples from within and without it do so. Many are invested but not all are connected to the ocean as those who come from it. This program and others are not under-performing so much as they are growing: please do not stop this. Understand that programs like these matter and rather than be cut down they should be assisted. Ma ka hana ka 'ike - in working, one learns- please do not stop our work. It is work for Hawaii, the Pacific, and all those within it. ke aloha nō.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:34 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** maseeh@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| m                   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: While I understand and fully support the need to monitor UH, I also know that this will damage our accreditation status as a university. This bill, and bills such as this, need to be consulted with professionals in the University system and other higher education consultants. This is another bill put forth by someone who is not an expert at what they are proposing. What our government and our University are doing together is completely ignoring our education! Please get rid of our costly Football team that damages our reputation as well as our funding. Thank you for your time and concern.

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:35 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** made.hood@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>     | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Made Hood           | University of Melbourne | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: The UH Manoa dance department has always been based on the quality NOT quantity of its graduates. Funding for such internationally reputable programs that bridge East and West approaches nurture understanding of cross cultural pedagogy. Without such programs UH will lose its place as one of the most ethnically inclusive dance programs in the world. Don't punish programs for not conforming to a corporate model...help it transition, nurture and support its development. Sincerely Assoc Prof Dr Made Mantle Hood, UH Manoa Graduate, University of Melbourne/ University Putra Malaysia

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:44 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** mwild@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Malia Wild          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: As a Dance student at UH Manoa I completely oppose the contents of this bill. There are other ways of reducing budget without compromising the diversity of our student body and the accreditation of our school. This bill will not only effect the students of the listed majors, but every individual here at UH. Majors like Dance give back to the community and help preserve Hawaiian and other Pacific cultures. Diverse university level education keeps Hawaii smart. How can we support a healthy tax-paying community by undermining their education? It is counterproductive. This Bill may reduce immediate costs, but in the future Hawaii will loose much more.

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:04 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** mherr@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| michelle            | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I strongly oppose HB 555. As an undergraduate student at UH Manoa, this bill would hurt more students and not benefit the UH budget in any positive way. There are better alternatives to conserving money at the university and I strongly recommend the Higher Education Committee find new ways to hold the university accountable for their budget problems. This bill is detrimental to our university and our uniqueness as a higher education institution. I hope that the Higher Education Committee and Chairman Choy are able to recognize the risks this bill poses to our university's students and faculty who work so hard to maintain these specialized programs and give our university an educational edge over others. Please consider the opposition submitted by all students and faculty and those associated with the university, if not this bill will have detrimental effects beyond just cutting some majors to save a minimal amount of money.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 2:45 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** michele1981plie@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michele Chamberlain | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 6:34 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kaelabrady@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| mikaela glass       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: The University of Hawaii provided me with the best college experience I could have wished for through their dance program. I received my BFA in Dance in 2008 and I was set up for a successful career making good money doing something I love. The dance professors are the most caring and educated they could possibly be. We need to keep the dance and all the arts programs alive. Thank you, I know I speak for many who could not provide a testimony.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:26 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** mromney4@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mike Romney         | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:28 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** noni@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Noni Abdur- Razzaq  | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take courses in or am seeking a degree or certificate in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:37 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** rachael\_allen@zoho.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| rachael allen       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:36 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** rlyell@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rachel Lyell        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take courses in or am seeking a degree or certificate in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:00 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** ohukaniohia@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sam 'Ohu Gon III    | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Minimum yearly graduation numbers are NOT a valid basis for maintaining or removing programs.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:24 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** yamamoto96734@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| shannon yamamoto    | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: As a alumni of the Theater/Dance department, at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, I feel strongly about the possibility of losing this program. I personally use my degree daily in my classes and it has pushed me to further my studies in our field. The professors are living legends in our field and NEED to share this information with the future generation of artists. You will not get a similar experience like this anywhere else, and we have produced many successful performers, who owe their careers to these experiences. It may seem like a frivolous path to most people but if you really look at what we learn and what we do in our program you will see that we are just as physical as athletes and learn kinesiology and anatomy like science majors. Dance and Theater are such important outlets to learning and it would be a horrible loss to future generations of students. I hope you take this into consideration when making your decision.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 9:44 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** soyounj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Soyoun Joo          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 8:22 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** sbivert@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sydney Bivert       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 6:06 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** tametra@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Timothy Metra       | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take courses in or am seeking a degree or certificate in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

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## ichiyama2-Brandon

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**From:** Melanie Kuroiwa-Steiner on behalf of Rep. Linda Ichiyama  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 8:42 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony in opposition of HB555

**LATE**

From: Travis Lockwood [mailto:traviswl@hawaii.edu]  
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 12:14 AM  
To: Rep. Linda Ichiyama  
Subject: Testimony in opposition of HB555

### Testimony in opposition of HB555 Minimum Graduates

Before the House Higher Education Committee, Hearing on February 5, 2015, 2pm,

House Conference Room 309

My name is Travis Lockwood, an MA student in the Department of Second Language Studies at UH Mānoa, housed in the College of Languages, Linguistics, & Literature (LLL). I have worked for the past two years as a teacher of writing at UH Mānoa, Kapolei Juvenile Detention Home, and a drug rehabilitation facility on the windward side. I oppose HB555 and would like to provide my insights about some consequences of this detrimental bill that would eliminate programs with less than ten graduating students per year.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has recently been classified as serving one of the most diverse student bodies in the United States.<sup>1</sup> This diversity is linked directly to the rich ethnic and linguistic diversity of the people who call these islands their home. Many programs in the College of LLL provide our diverse students with opportunities to develop skills in their community languages. In fact, UH often is the first place on students’ academic path where they can receive formal instruction in these languages. If HB555 passed, it would, for instance, be the deathbed for the Filipino and Philippine Literature Program at UH, where Ilokano and Tagalog are offered.

Some branches of the Hawai‘i State Government report that up to 40 percent of their services are non- or limited English language encounters. Ilokano and Tagalog are among the most frequent languages in these encounters<sup>2</sup> – languages that, under HB555, would be eliminated from UH Mānoa’s degree programs. UH has a mandate to serve our community – it is its kuleana to do so. This community is in dire need of people who develop the ability to speak diverse yet less commonly taught languages, understand the unique cultures of our

islands and the world, and use this knowledge to provide for themselves and for the people who live here. The proposed bill and its effect of eliminating language-learning opportunities from students would deeply harm the sustainability and the values of our diverse island community in the present and in the future. It would also deprive students from becoming global citizens who connect Hawai'i with the rest of the world. Neither of these values can be measured in graduation rates.

The utter disregard for the learning experience of the vast quantity of students who take language courses, but do not major in them is appalling. To assume that no future graduate of UH Mānoa will have any need to communicate in French or German as a contributor to a global economy is incredibly shortsighted. In this instance graduation rate is no indicator of overall service to the university and student body.

UH Mānoa attracted me as a student due the rich history of scholarly publication it has developed in the study of language learning. Indeed, it had earned the unofficial title amongst the mainland professors I consulted with across campuses nationwide as the best program in the nation for the study of second language acquisition. By dismantling the avenues for language learning available on this campus, no respect or heed is being paid to the rich scientific contribution this campus has made to the world's understanding of language learning and the insights it continues to contribute every single year. This proposed bill shows no familiarity with the reputation UH Mānoa holds and offers no support for its continued efforts.

Travis Lockwood

MA Student

Department of Second Language Studies

University of Hawaii at Mānoa

Email: [traviswl@hawaii.edu](mailto:traviswl@hawaii.edu)

1 Source: <http://college.usatoday.com/2014/08/07/top-10-most-diverse-colleges-in-the-united-states/>

2 Source: Office of Language Access, Hawai'i Department of Health

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~~~~~  
Instructor, English Language Institute (ELI)  
Head GA, Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism Lab (SLAB)  
Community Relations Vice President, Second Language Studies Student Association (SLSSA)

Department of Second Language Studies  
University of Hawai`i at Manoa  
1890 East-West Road  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Office: Moore 471



**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 6:01 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** stevenson352@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| William Stevenson   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 1:21 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** willowchang@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By        | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| willow chang alléon | Individual   | Oppose             | Yes                |

Comments: As a graduate of the University of hawaii at Manoa's Dance Program, and holding a minor in Music, I am personally beyond shocked to learn of the short sighted, irresponsible and unethical Bill 555 that has been presented by Representative Choy for consideration. To even suggest, let another consider closing all programs with less than 10 students per program, with in total include 26 diverse programs that range from history to the humanities, language arts to music and dance, would be detrimental to the University, it's accreditation, it's academic reputation, our ability to woo potential out of town and international students and well as deeply impact the quality of life for residents of the state of Hawaii. Higher education is now part of the collective fabric that comprises what we acknowledge as the American Dream. Opportunities afforded to better ourselves, be a part of the community and create a continuum, whether it the the lessons of elders, scholars or our fellow students, is essential to the growth of mind, spirit and community. In an era where the University is plagued DAILY with audits and reports of mismanagement of funds, from the "Wonderbluner" concert fiasco to the UH athletics running the in red, various coaches being fired or leaving (Jones, Arnold etc) and administrators like Marcy and Dobell, who have cost the Hawaii taxpayers MILLIONS AND MILLIONS of dollars, I can't possible this bill of ELIMINATING whole academic programs, could even be considered! With the economic downturn of 2008 far from having a solid of recovery paired with slow rates of travel and the possibility of military cut backs in Hawaii, we NEED education MORE THANE EVR to safeguard us from completely being at the mercy of remaining a service economy, pimped out to the highest bidder, I humbly but firmly implore you to KILL THIS BILL! Sincerely, Willow Chang Alléon, c/o 2002

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:35 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** ljaques@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lynda Jaques        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take courses in or am seeking a degree or certificate in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015 10:54 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** saraah@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sara Hayashi        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: As a graduate and current employee of UH Hilo, I can say that eliminating degree programs is NOT the solution. I had 3 majors during my undergraduate career, 2 of which would likely be considered "under-performing" by this bill. If I were still a student or prospective student, seeing that my degree program(s) were eliminated would make me look elsewhere for my education. Also, UH Hilo and West Oahu both have a much smaller total enrollment than Manoa. Holding them to the same 10 graduate standard will result in even more programs ending up on the chopping block. This makes absolutely no sense and directly contradicts one of the main selling points of a smaller campus - smaller classes and the opportunity for students to develop a personal connection with their professors. If this bill goes into effect, many of those smaller classes and more importantly, their corresponding degree programs will be eliminated. There are many other ways to solve this problem. The university should be offering academic opportunities for our students, not taking them away.

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**LATE**

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE BILL (HOUSE BILL 555)  
PROPOSING TO ABOLISH UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM  
WITH LESS THAN 10 GRADUATES PER YEAR

House Committee on Higher Education  
Thru  
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair

Sirs and Mesdames:

My testimony is in strong opposition to House Bill 555 that proposes to abolish undergraduate programs that have less than ten graduates per year.

I am Aprilei Ramirez, a student of the University of Hawaii Ilokano Language Program. I am now in the 200-level of language work and will soon move to my upper division courses in Philippine language and culture. In addition to another major, I am planning to also major in Philippine Language and Literature.

My decision to do a double major is in recognition of the fact that in the State of Hawaii, about 25% of the total population is Philippine or Philippine-descended, the number of Filipinos is growing. How we can serve the needs of the ever-growing number of our people with limited English proficiency is something that needs to be addressed, and the Philippine Language and Literature Program of the university is addressing this.

As an American of Philippine-descent, I am morally obliged to get to know what my heritage is, to understand and study the language of those who are here in the state but whose ability to speak English natively is limited. This obligation is not only moral but also legal. We have the duty to provide language access to our people.

I have decided to major in Philippine language and literature because this will give me the professional tools, skills, and expertise to serve the needs of our diverse people in Hawaii. The abolition of Philippine Language and Literature is not only contrary to our commitment to diversity but also deprives us to get to know and celebrate our heritage. It is only through this capacity to celebrate our heritage that we are able to understand what we are as immigrant Americans. Let me reiterate one last point: If you take away my language, you silence my voice, you deprive me of my culture, and you deny me of my existence.

Very truly yours,



Aprilei T. Ramirez  
915 Naopala Lane  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
[aprilei@hawaii.edu](mailto:aprilei@hawaii.edu) / 808-721-2055

EXPRESSION OF OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 555  
AS PROPOSED

**LATE**

4 February 2015

Representative Isaac Choy  
Chair, House Committee on Higher Education  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

This is to express my strong opposition to House Bill 555. The bill proposes to abolish the university's undergraduate courses that cannot meet ten graduates each year.

I am Dean Domingo, currently a graduate student in Educational Technology of the UH College of Education. I am a graduate of the university's Philippine Language and Literature. It was a program that I logically went into after deciding that I want to work with our immigrant population in Hawaii, serve our immigrant youths, and become an agent in translating into action our commitment to empower our immigrant communities.

When I went through the Philippine Language and Literature Program, I realized more fully in the round how important it was for me to learn, appreciate, respect, and celebrate my heritage in order to fully understand my civic duties as a local born American with Filipino ancestors. My having gone through the four-year curriculum made me understand better what American citizenship is all about, what is it to be a child of immigrants, and what it entails to be able to help those who are similarly situated as I am. I intend to finish my graduate degree by developing educational models and technological tools that will make this act of learning one's heritage more effective and efficient, more transformative and productive, and more committed and engaging.

The proposal to abolish undergraduate degrees defined in HB 555 affects the Philippine Language and Literature Program, and thus, will affect our capacity to provide public space to our immigrant Philippine population that is now about one-fourth of the entire population of the state. This, to me, is tantamount to the denial of the right of the immigrant population to their language, to their culture, and to their heritage.

In fine, I have become a better American because I was given the chance to know where my ancestors came from through my coursework in Philippine Language and Literature.

I hope that other children of immigrant Americans will be given the same chance as I did.

Respectfully yours,

  
Dean Domingo  
deand@hawaii.edu



TESTIMONY OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 555

**LATE**

February 4, 2015

The House Committee on Higher Education  
State of Hawaii

Sirs and Mesdames:

My testimony is in strong opposition to the House Bill 555, a proposed law intending to abolish undergraduate degree programs of the University of Hawaii that do not meet the criterion of ten graduates every year.

I am Allyson Arrieta, President of Timpuyog, the Association of Ilokano Students enrolled in various language and culture courses offered by the university's Ilokano Language, Literature and Culture Program. That program, in partnership with the Tagalog/Filipino Program, is responsible for the university's Bachelor's Program in Philippine Language and Literature.

I am writing this testimony in my capacity as leader of this association of students enrolled in the various courses, and in my capacity as a major in the BA Philippine Language and Literature.

As a student of the university, I have seen for myself the need to develop more and more the BA program in order to address head-on the needs of our immigrant communities. These needs are many, and the more prevalent is the need to address the limited English proficiency skills of our immigrant population. We know for a fact that about 24% or roughly one-fourth of the total population of the state is comprised of Filipinos. This number is ever increasing, and coming from Maui, I have seen up close the need to make it certain that our various communities are served with professionalism by way of the various linguistic and cultural skills we learn as Philippine Language and Literature majors.

I intend to pursue a professional career in social services and social work. There is no short cut to serving those people in need except to meet them in the best way they know how in expressing themselves. Through a thorough understanding of the complex dynamics of the immigrants' language and culture, we are able to deliver the public and professional services our people need. Lacking those linguistic and cultural skills would render us less professionally capable.

In my search for a major, I realized that Philippine Language and Literature is a major that could equip me with the skills and abilities I needed to become an effective professional involved in the social services sector.



I would not have been equipped with these skills and abilities I needed if I did not go through this program that this bill would not want to abolish because it is not able to graduate ten students every year. The reasoning in this bill lacks context.

This program is new. Recently gaining permanency, it is yet in its infancy, but now, it is being nipped in the bud. As a major in this program, this proposal to abolish it, to me, deprives us of the things that we should know to become better citizens of this country.

In a diverse country like ours, we need to recognize that the heritage programs like Philippine Language and Literature heightens our resolve to become citizens of this country.

It is for this reason that I strongly opposed House Bill 555.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allyson Arrieta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Allyson Arrieta  
President

**LATE**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards of HB 555.

My name is Crystal Ann Rambayon and I am currently a senior at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. For the past nine years I have been studying at multiple University of Hawaii campuses. I have experienced many different classes and enjoyed most of what the courses have to offer. One that I enjoy the most is the Filipino program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Being a Filipino-American, the Philippine Literature and Language program offers me insight and a deeper appreciation towards my heritage. The faculty and staff of this particular program are passionate and enjoy sharing the Filipino culture to society. What is unique about this particular program is that it is one of the most comprehensive Filipino programs in the world. The program itself helps perpetuate the Filipino culture and is uncommon amongst universities nation wide.

Unfortunately, this program falls under the category of the undergraduate-degree programs that have less than 10 students declaring as their major. With this being said, I am in **opposition of HB555**. It is understandable that the university is trying to cut budgets but there are other options instead of 'abolishing' certain programs that do not simply have enough students to declare as a major such as the Philippine Literature and Language. Seeing that the "university needs a lot of money" and "needing to economize" by cutting such programs, is not the best route. Not only the students will need to look elsewhere other than the University of Hawaii for these programs but the faculty and staff that worked hard in establishing these programs and keeping them alive will have to look for jobs elsewhere. In doing so, I have to disagree with the point of the students not being affected. In some degree, it may not hurt the students temporarily, but what about the long run? What about the future students that may want to enter into biochemistry, Filipino, Ethnic studies, French, and other programs that may be in danger of extinction due to low-demand? Not only HB555 will limit such goals for those students but it is going to endanger the accreditation of the university. Cutting these programs will be a travesty and may not replenish any potential income.

In closing, the discontinuation of low-demand programs available to students now and potential new students for the years to follow, leads to a strong opposition of HB555. Although it may be a short term solution, the university and lawmakers must try and find another alternative or solution to the problem at hand. It would be a tragedy and devastating for the university and for the future generations that will follow.

Thank you,

Crystal Ann Rambayon

February 4, 2015

**LATE**

**TO: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

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

**FROM:** Jessica Barangan Ignacio, MSW

**SUBJECT: IN OPPOSITION of HB 555- RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

**Hearing:** Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 2:00 PM  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** This bill requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished. Provides an exception for undergraduate programs that are self-sustaining. Authorizes the board of regents to extend the three-year time period to six years.

**POSITION:** I am writing in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of HB 555.

I urge you to consider that a small number of graduates from a program each year does not account for hundreds, sometimes thousands, of other students who take courses offered through a program to meet core requirements, to grow professionally, and/or to grow personally. According to a list of undergraduate programs that graduated nine or less students from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 at UHM, Ethnic Studies, Pacific Island Studies, Geology, American Studies, and Philippine Language and Literature are just a few of the programs that would be abolished. Courses offered by each of these programs fulfill at least one of the general education requirements needed to graduate.

I graduated from the University in 2013 with my Bachelors in Social Work, then again in 2014 with my Masters in Social Work. Although I did not major in Philippine Language and Literature, I took several courses in the program throughout my four years at UHM with the intention of reconnecting with my culture and to sharpen my language skills, in hopes to better serve the Ilokano population as a bilingual social worker—a valuable asset to the social service sector. I discovered that many of my classmates majoring in health, tourism, and social work had the same intention. Soon after I graduated with my MSW, I volunteered as a social worker in the Philippines for six months. Because I was able to understand and speak the Ilokano language, I was able to better serve my clients and their families. Currently, I work for DOH CAMHD as a Mental Health Care Coordinator. Because of my second language skills, I am able to better build rapport with clients and their families, and have a better understanding of my clients as my language comprehension permits them to explain their situation and needs in their mother tongue.

Again, I urge you to vote against HB 555 as it does not take into consideration the many students who take courses from the above-mentioned programs. Abolishing these programs would cause the University to lose quality courses that give students a variety of course options that fulfill their general education requirement *and* that have the potential of helping them develop personally and professionally.

Koon-Hui Wang, Ph.D.  
3050 Maile Way, Gil 310  
Honolulu, HI

**LATE**

Feb 4, 2015

Re: Oppose to HB555

Dear legislators,

I am writing this letter to oppose to the bill (HB555) that requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year be abolished. I am an assistant professor at the University of Hawaii. Under no circumstance can make me believe that this bill could solve the financial crisis of the University of Hawaii. While previous administration have cost the big financial crisis to the University, cutting undergraduate programs will mean cutting significant income to the University. At this moment, passing of this bill will mean termination of 30 undergraduate programs at the University of Hawaii. This bill shows the lack of appreciation by the senator of what the University has provided to the people in Hawaii. The senator should have more understanding of the interest of the people in Hawaii. Can a more productive idea be proposed rather than a punitive approach?

Sincerely,



---

Koon-Hui Wang, PhD.

Assistant Professor  
University of Hawaii

**LATE**

Testimony regarding HB555

I am a graduate of a small University of Hawaii program. It really isn't the number of graduates but the QUALITY of those graduates that make a strong university. There are also some very special programs at UH that one cannot find elsewhere and it would be a tragedy to lose them. It would also be a great loss to Hawaii as the loss of programs will mean local students will have to leave the state. In particular for me would be the dance program – which connects to theatre, ethnomusicology, music, and kinesiology. More links could be created – and the teachers certainly work across disciplines. The instructors and students also work within the community bringing expertise, and creating a value to Hawaii that lies well beyond any “number of graduates” - I urge you to find links between programs, and look to the greater value they have, rather than just cutting entire programs simply to save what is really only a few dollars.



February 4, 2015

**LATE**

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello. My name is Rhonda Bell and I am a graduate student in the theatre department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Though House Bill 555 may seem as if it doesn't apply to me, I assure you that it does. It affects many of the students and professors I have come to know and care about deeply in my time here at UH. As a future educator, I implore you now to consider the ramifications of this bill on the students, faculty, families, and greater community of all the UH system schools affected.

It is no secret that this country's education system is flawed. Higher education is no less impacted by this travesty than any other forms of education. I understand that times can get tough, financial crises can arise, and problems need to be resolved. Budget cuts are often necessary, but consider what you are saying to these students whose programs risk termination. You are telling students that their programs are not of worth simply because fewer people graduate from them. You are telling these students that their voices, talents, and contributions to the world are not important to you and your school system. You are telling them that they have to find somewhere else to go, that they must be dislocated from a place where they've established themselves, and that they do not belong at this institution of higher learning simply because money is a problem. You are telling them that they are not wanted or needed, that they are a detriment to the school rather than a much needed asset.

I ask you to think about the types of messages you are sending. A student's education should not be a numbers game. Just because one program has fewer graduates than another doesn't make it any less valuable. It can be a sign of rigor, a sign of devotion, and even more, a sign that our society is telling our students not to value these programs. And frankly, that is preposterous. Those 33 programs include Dance, French, German, many fields within Secondary Education, Physics, Biochemistry and many other crucial programs that can help make this world a better place. They are programs that help teach skills for global connection, culture, science, and more. And you're willing to throw those things out because the school is a little short on funds?

I believe that by removing these programs, you are doing a disservice to the community and to the students, their families, and the faculty of each institution. You are forcing them to give up on their passions, their skills, and their studies because you have given up on them. There are many ways to cut back on funds, but removing whole programs that are realistically beneficial to the greater good is not the best way nor could it even be conceived as a remotely good way. I plead with you to reconsider this bill, to step back and list out all of your options. Find ways to trim excess spending that doesn't involve pushing out students who have come here and pay for a quality education. Give these students a chance to earn their degree at the school they wanted and decided to attend just as I have been given that chance.

It would be a travesty to remove useful programs, sully the integrity of this otherwise well-rounded school system, and ultimately harm the UH institution of schools because you do not value your students and their chosen fields of study.

Thank you for your time,

Rhonda M. Bell

M.A. Theatre Candidate

UH Mānoa

**LATE**

February 3, 2015

Dear Representative Isaac Choy and Representative Linda Ichiyama,

I have the privilege of being an Assistant Professor of Dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing to oppose House Bill 555. Proposing to cut our dance program affects the lives and futures of many undergraduate dance students.

As a dance faculty member, I can share first hand that our program has an impact on artists not only here in Oahu but also on neighboring islands and internationally abroad. The Department of Theatre and Dance at UHM is internationally recognized for its unique inter-cultural approach to the study of Theatre and Dance. Its unique location in the middle of the Pacific allows for a rich exposure to theatre and dance from all over the world.

The dance experience at UHM is particularly rich because of its ethnic, geographic, and cultural environment, which enables students to work in the dance traditions of Asia and the Pacific as well as in those of Europe and the United States. Coursework is interdisciplinary and goes hand in hand with productions staged in the 600-seat Kennedy Theatre and the Earle Ernst Lab Theatre.

Students come from around the globe to study dance at UHM. The Dance program encourages students to focus on many areas of dance. These include the study of various styles of dance technique, choreography, performance, history, critical theory, kinesiology, movement analysis, ethnology, education, and visual media. The program is unique for offerings in Asian and Pacific dance.

Annual concerts include two to three productions in the Earle Ernst Laboratory Theatre that feature the work of student choreographers, and one Kennedy Theatre main stage production with choreography by faculty and guest artists. Productions feature newly created, classical and indigenous dance from a wide variety of traditions. Additional Asian and Pacific dance and music events include end-of-semester student presentations in Orvis Auditorium in the Music Department complex.

Dance scholarship emphasizes an interdisciplinary base for innovative research in the field of performance and cultural studies in dance. The program emphasizes practice as research and the theoretical consideration of dance. Students focus on scholarship in choreography, movement analysis, heritage, globalization, technology, ethnography, education, corporeality and embodiment.

Graduates of the University of Hawai'i Dance Program are now:

- performing internationally, on the mainland and in Hawai'i;
- teaching dance, composition and choreography, creative dance, dance history and theory in public and private schools, and universities;
- directing and choreographing for their own companies and administering their own schools in Hawai'i, on the mainland, and abroad;
- writing scholarly articles about dance that are presented at conferences and published in journals;

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

College of Arts and Humanities  
Department of Theatre and Dance

- administering arts organizations;
- pursuing graduate study and earning Ph.D. degrees in Dance

The Dance program also offers the Asia Pacific Dance Festival summer program in collaboration with the East Center and the Outreach College. The Asia Pacific Dance Festival showcases the finest dances, dancers, and choreographers from Asia and the Pacific. Centered on a series of performances, the Festival includes such activities as workshops, university course offerings, public lectures, forums, and community demonstrations. These activities foster diverse and dynamic types of interactions leading to opportunities for dialogue that increases cross-cultural understanding and respect for what we know and what we come to know.

Because the values and belief systems of people are embedded in their dances, dance is an ideal window through which to expand our understandings of others and to gain insights into our own worldview and those of others. Our dance program recognizes similarity and diversity, and honors the past, the present, and the future by enhancing exposure to, and understanding of, many of the rich forms of dance from Asia, Pacific, and around the world. I invite you to please offer your support for the many artists, students, faculty, staff, classes, productions, and degree programs in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Aloha,



Kara Miller, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Dance  
[karamill@hawaii.edu](mailto:karamill@hawaii.edu)  
808-956-2596



**LATE**

My name is Alexandra Hughes and I am an undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance Theatre. I strongly oppose House Bill 555. Not only would this bill affect students such as myself, but the repercussions will also be felt all throughout our island communities.

Without these 33 programs, the University of Hawai'i Systems will be left without accreditation. This potential loss will be detrimental to the future of education in Hawai'i. And where does that leave the current students, graduating classes, and alumni? Long-term effects of this will include more students choosing to pursue collegiate degrees off island. This in turn, will lower the amount of students attending UH Systems, leaving its mark on the quality of life for current residents and the future of Hawai'i's economy.

Yes, budget cuts need to be made, but I can tell you as a student directly involved, the answer does not lie within cutting our programs. With higher education, its objective is to produce **quality** minds and perpetuate a future society of specialized and diversified individuals; not a **quantity** of compliant graduates!

Hello. My name is Brittany. As of now I am a part of the undergraduate dance program and University of Hawaii at Manoa. This is my senior year as a Dance Major and I am very sad that I will be departing from this program very soon. But I am writing to defend the Dance program for future generations to come. This program has made a huge change in my life. Not only is this the only University dance program in Hawaii, but this one of the most diverse dance departments in the nation. Our program ranges from hula, to Japanese dance. We have such a huge diversity in cultural dances within our department. Our dance program is very significant and special, there is no other dance program like it.

This dance program at UH is more than a program, it's a family. If you decided to get rid of this department, not only are you getting rid of a program, you are breaking a family a part. Coming to UH has been the best thing in my life, it's due to this dance family I have met. The professors are so caring and loving to the students. They are the most encouraging people I've ever met, and they only want to be the best you can ever be! Dance is more than just a word, it's a life style. Many people who become a dance major has their own reason and testimony for it. My reason was because I felt called by God to. My dream is to open up a community center for high-risk teens to come and express themselves through the arts, to have a place where they can belong. A place they can escape to when things get tough in life, a place they can release all the hardships of life through physical form without hurting others. I want to get kids off the streets and bring them to a place they can call home, a place they can be themselves with no judgment being made towards them. If I never came to this dance family, I would have never found this dream that has resonated within my heart.

This family is so special, bringing new and creative ideas to this world. To be able to use dance as a way of expressing one's self is something that gives me joy. To be able to bring dance into elementary schools and high schools in a way that the students can become very engaged with the spoken/written knowledge they are learning. When you physicalize the things you are learning through the brain, it sticks more than having knowledge being spit at you. The reason for that is because you actually experience the knowledge physically and you remember it better that way. An experience goes much farther than a fact said to you, because you learn through experiences within life. Also dance can be a part of big corporations by being a tool of understanding one another, working together, and learning to trust one another. Dance as a way of therapy is becoming a very huge thing nowadays, being able to receive healing emotionally through movement. Even married people who are having a hard time getting along, dance can be a way of understanding a person without using words that could hurt. So many different ways dance can completely influence this world.

I speak from experience when I say dance is very healing. Dance is a way I am able to express the feelings I hold back. I am not the greatest in speaking how I feel because words are not my strongest subject. I was never great at reading and writing, but dance has given me so much confidence in myself. I was the type of person who would totally freak out if I had to read aloud, but gaining the confidence to dance in front of people is just the same. You gain the confidence to do it, and just like in reading aloud I have gained that confidence I would have never found anywhere else. Dance has helped me to stay emotionally sane. This past week, I had a chance to reconnect with my father for the first time since I was 5 years old. When I go to class these people within my dance family give me encouragement and the strength for things going on within my life. I've been through my hardest years of my life these past years and this dance program has made me stronger than I could ever be. Not only do I get a great education, I get a life changing experience every time I go to class. So I ask you, please don't break this family apart!

**LATE**

I am a student and I take a course in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii for my generation and for the generations to come.

**LATE**

I am a teacher at UH Manoa and I teach in two of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555.

I oppose this bill for several reasons:

1-The UH administration is already working towards several measures to counter the current budget crisis.

2- Cutting entire programs based solely on the number of graduates is a very reductive and unfair measure if one considers the educational potential of many smaller programs at UH, such as the languages programs.

3-The bill proposes a big disservice to Hawaii's students, who deserve an academic environment with large breadth of knowledge and many educational opportunities, such as the ones currently offered at the University of Hawaii.

**LATE**

I am very much alarmed by the way our state governance is handling the growing administrative problem of the University of Hawaii. Eliminating the degrees is not the answer to save the unbelievable money pit that UH has become. This problem started with the mismanagement of the funds, starting off with paying these administrators ridiculous amount of money (which apparently they do not deserve because UH won't be in this position in the first place if they were doing their jobs correctly!). There is the botched Wonder-Blunder, scandal facing the UH basketball team, misprojection of costs of the UH Medschool and Cancer center, the cost of paying a tremendous amount of money to a football coach, and the remodeling of many buildings and walkways around campus.

So many people have been affected by this situation. A lot of the lecturers and teaching assistants (the persons who really do the legwork of teaching) have lost their jobs. Even lower level clerks and technicians were not renewed to work this coming semester. I heard, some of the Service labs of the university are even closing down. Now, even the students are going to loose the degrees they have been working so hard for???? Why do you have to punish the students who have been slaving away to pay their tuition loans to earn a degree? What about the department employees and the professors they will loose their jobs too? Why punish all of these people when it was the mistakes of the powerful few who were trusted to lead them???? It is their poor constituents who are the ones who have been outrageously short-changed by their shenanigans.

These problem falls upon the responsibility of the UH administrators and the board of regents. Why did ex-prexy Greenwood and her company given all her benefits when they plunged the school in such dire straights??? How about Carbone??? He is going to get all his benefits too??? The Basketball coach too! They all acted without honor. Is that what the university should be teaching to its next generation? That you can get away with all of it so long as you can deny it to death???? No shame? What sort of Americans will they be? Maybe students from the Hawaii would indeed benefit more in studying in other states where they will get a better and justified treatment compared the disappointment that UH has become. And the elimination of the many degrees in this bill may be the push that would drive many young adults to study away from their home state or even interested foreign students to study someplace else. And it would create an even worse scenario, less enrollment, less tuition, less money, more employees laid off..eventually the UH system collapsing on itself.

The wrong decisions of the powerful few led to suffering of all the others while they enjoy their retirement money and all its dividends. And who knows whatever else they pocketed. Why not investigate them instead and strip them of their benefits and fine them for the mistakes they have cost the university community and the state of Hawaii? They should be held accountable.

**LATE**

Aloha mai kākou, ‘o Phillip (Kaponu) Aiwohi-Kim ko‘u inoa. No Moloka‘i mai au.

Hello everyone, my name is Phillip (Kaponu) Aiwohi-Kim. I am from Moloka‘i.

I just want to say that Dance has always been apart of my life and I can't remember a day where I would not dance. Every time I hear music, sounds or words, I move to the rhythm, beat, and sounds because my body is so use to moving around and I just love it. Anyways, the Theater and Dance program at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has always been a great ‘ohana to me and I see them as my ‘ohana and it's grown throughout the years that I have been here. I transferred from Kapi‘olani Community College in Spring 2012 and I have always participated in either Dance or Theater productions. I am a double major in both Dance and Hawaiian Studies and I am also participating in the very first Hana Keaka (Hawaiian Production) called Lā‘ieikawai coming up in just two weeks. I was very excited knowing that we will be apart of history to present the very first Hana Keaka ever to presented to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

All I can say is that if this bill was to pass, I would not want to walk down the aisle with just my Hawaiian Studies degree because I will be very upset that I came here to accomplish not just my goals, but also my dreams. My dream is to become a choreographer and to perform, I love to perform and its like my passion. How would you feel if someone was to rip away your passion from you? I'm pretty sure you would be very disappointed. So I will stand with all my friends and ‘ohana at that hearing to fight for what is not right and to also stand up for what we believe in. This is not right and I feel like taking about the 33 programs is not the ho‘oponopono (to make right) way to do this.

**LATE**

Aloha,

My name is Roxanne Takaesu and I am in opposition to the bill HB 555. This is mainly because I am thinking of my instructors and the interests of future students who have the same aspirations that I have. I am currently a senior BFA Dance major at UH Manoa. There have been so many opportunities in my life made available because of dance and even more so after being apart of the UH dance program for 3.5 years. I have traveled, learned life skills (i.e. things not necessarily learned in a traditional classroom setting), and I have most importantly learned teamwork from being in this particular program. I chose to pursue my passion in college and it makes me upset thinking that students after me will not have this same opportunity. Even more so, my professors will not have a job without my major. They have helped me become the person I am today, and I don't think their jobs should be cut because of that. I believe that they should be praised for how much they have taught/given me all of these years in college.

UH Manoa's strategic plan states, "Central to this mission is faculty dedication to a fertile, engaged, and ethical learning environment characterized by a free exchange of ideas, shared intellectual resources, cutting edge scholarship, and high academic expectations. With its unique geographic location bridging East and West, Mānoa serves as a portal to an exceptional educational experience while striving to improve quality of life in the region through collaborative partnerships that support innovations in education, health care, social development, culture and arts, earth, space, and ocean sciences, sustainable land management, and technological advancement." If UH Mānoa wants to list all of these different benefits that are supposed to come from the school, why take away the majors that are associated with gaining these benefits? That is something that I don't understand. Why take away from the students actually seeking to improve health care, social development, culture and arts, etc?

This should be an aid in determining that HB 555 should not go any further. For the sake of instructors and future students of UH Manoa, I strongly oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Roxanne N. Takaesu

I am a student and I take a course in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii for my generation and for the generations to come.

**LATE**



**LATE**

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

To whom this may concern,

I, Vanessa L. Schlegel, am a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I've been attending the university since the fall of 2012, after graduating from Honolulu Community College with a degree in the Liberal arts. I am a French major and have been selected as a candidate to teach French 101 at UH Manoa (through the grant assistantship), which has been a dream of mine since middle school. Since the second grade, I've always dreamt of becoming a teacher, but was never determined what to teach until I first started learning French on my own in the eighth grade since the middle school's I had attended on Maui and in Oahu did not offer it, so I took Spanish as an elective since I've always had an interest to learn foreign languages.

French was also not offered in my High School, so I had to wait until college to take it. Kapi'olani Community College offered French 101 to 202, and after taking the placement exam, I placed directly into 201. I couldn't wait to graduate from community college, so that I could declare French as my major.

I have family who live in French Polynesia, France, Canada and Algeria; therefore, I have a French background. I didn't meet my biological mother until the age of 14, who currently resides in Tahiti. Once I started taking French courses at KCC, it was at this moment that I was determined to learn French as a second language so that I could communicate effectively with my family.

Learning French at the UH Manoa, has helped me to truly find myself. I've developed a deep passion for the French language and culture, especially in France and in French Polynesia. I've traveled to two French-speaking countries since I've attended UH Manoa. In the summer of 2013, I studied abroad in Annecy, France, which was one of the most achieving experiences of my life. I did everything possible to make it there, including selling my car. I recently studied in Tahiti, French Polynesia for my last semester as an undergraduate, so the fall of 2014, which allowed me to connect with my family.

I am finishing my studies at UH Manoa to pursue a Master's Degree in French because I want to teach French and possibly teach English and live in France and in Tahiti in the near future. I also enjoy teaching French 101 to students at UH Manoa and am very grateful to have been given this opportunity. It has been a dream come true, and my friends and family are also very happy for me. I enjoy seeing students at this level progress, and I hope that one-day, they too, can use the French they have learned for traveling or communication purposes as well as for a job or career.

We cannot allow undergraduate programs such as French to be removed from our system. Not only is it the second most taught language in the world or spoken in over forty countries, but will prevent students such as myself from achieving their dreams. If French, wasn't offered as a major at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, I do not know where I'd be right now, and I honestly don't think I would have been able to afford to attend school out of state.

Sincerely,  
Vanessa L. Schlegel

*Representative Choy, Representative Ichiyama, and members of the Committee on Higher Education, I am Laura Chakravarty Box, Ph.D., M.B.A., an alumna of the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa Department of Theatre and Dance currently residing in Waterville, Maine, and I am writing in opposition to HB555.*

In the current economic and academic climate, the default move for colleges and universities in financial trouble is to cut academic programs, particularly those that cost more money than they bring into an institutions' coffers. Streamlining a supply or delivery chain makes good business sense, but only if it improves the product or service being offered. Such a move should not be undertaken as a quick fix for the short term. Academic timelines are written in the long term, and such destruction is not easily reversed.

While an academic institution cannot be all things to all constituents, massive state systems like the University of Hawai'i must attend to both the breadth and depth of their offerings. If the University of Hawai'i does not hold the line by protecting its smaller or more expensive programs from elimination, the quality of a UH degree will be degraded, UH graduates will be less desirable to employers, and the State of Hawai'i's economy, quality of life, and reputation will eventually suffer.

The assessment of the monetary value of a program depends on how parameters are set: do we count only graduating majors, do we include students progressing toward an undergraduate degree, or do we consider gross enrollment in classes offered by a program or department? In my own case, which involved a lateral move within my own department from a focus on Japan to one on North Africa, being able to take classes in French—a program now under threat from HB555—proved invaluable. Ultimately, this led me to publish the first book on North African woman playwrights ever written in English. I was not an undergraduate French major. The French program, within the parameters set by HB555, would not get credit for my enrollment were I there today. Yet, I could not have done what I did without those classes.

The UH system is unique. Its geographical and cultural features provide an environmental richness and texture that cannot be found anywhere else. I am living proof: Hawai'i, with its vital debates about its own history, sovereignty, and future led me to comprehend how North African countries are struggling to shape their destinies after the demise of the colonial era. I walked a long path to this understanding, taking classes in sociology, languages, theatre, dance, and women's studies as I went. In a post-HB555 UH system, a student like me would not have such an opportunity. Did I cost UH more than I brought to its coffers? Perhaps, but look at where I took UH. How can you deny Hawai'i's own youth, the undergraduates of today, the quality of education and the wealth of possibility Hawai'i gave to me as a graduate student twenty years ago?

Eliminating educational breadth and depth is not the way to make an institution of higher learning a more efficient business. I implore you to find another method of addressing your budgetary shortfall.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this testimony.

**LATE**

**Testimony Strongly Opposing House Bill 555  
Abolishing University of Hawaii Undergraduate Programs  
With Less than 10 Graduates Per Year**

4 February 2015

The House Committee on Higher Education  
State of Hawaii

Thru

Honorable Isaac Choy  
Chair

Sirs and Mesdames:

We are writing this testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 555. The bill intends to abolish undergraduate degree programs of the University of Hawaii, programs that do not graduate ten students every year.

We are the coordinators of this two-track program in Bachelor of Arts in Philippine Language and Literature. Both of us have witnessed the growth of this program since its inception in 2002.

This program has been given permanent status by the UH Board of Regents by virtue of its significant contribution to the academe and the community. It is the only bachelor's degree offered in the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures and is the only degree on Philippine Language and Literature in the United States. The Ilokano track of this program is the only one in the world, the only one in the state, and the only one in the United States. It has remained peerless, and continues to be the model for Ilokano Studies in the Philippines and elsewhere.

Our strong opposition to this bill is based on the following:

1. The BA degree in Philippine Language and Literature is not a cost center. Rather it generates income for the university through students who take 100-200 language courses, general education courses, minor, and certificate programs. The undergraduate degree is thus sustained by all these courses offered to students of the university. We meet the academic and pedagogical needs of approximately 300-400 students every semester.
2. The faculty assigned to teach the courses for the major are the same faculty members who are already teaching language and general education courses. There are only 6 full time teachers and 3-4 lecturers in the program that serve the needs of 300-400 students. The cost for these courses is therefore not high. The non-major courses we offer provide revenues needed for the whole undergraduate program including surplus amounts.

3. Filipinos are a significant segment of the Hawaii community. The state population speaks of about one-fourth as comprised by Filipinos. Thus, this program addresses the needs of community members who have a long history in Hawaii, and who have made valuable contributions to the welfare and development of this state. It is but proper that this population's languages, cultural expressions, and heritage are formally studied in a university setting.
4. The BA degree prepares students to become professionals engaged in public and social services. In the long run, these students are the very same individuals who will shape society and will become leaders in their field. The skills, values, expertise, and abilities they learn from our program are the very things they will need in their work among our people and with our various communities.

Please permit us to express a last note: the bottom line of education must not be about dollar signs. Education must be concerned about the welfare of students and their contribution to their community and society.

Mahalo nui loa for considering this testimony.

Aurelio S. Agcaoili, PhD  
*Coordinator, Ilokano Language and Literature Program*  
Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
aurelio@hawaii.edu

Pia C. Arboleda, DA  
*Coordinator, Filipino Language and Literature Program*  
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**LATE**

Claire Whitley, Esquire  
7122 Towner Trace  
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Hawaii State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015  
Committee on Higher Education

Re: HB 555  
Relating to the University of Hawaii

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you to express my opposition to House Bill 555, Relating to the University of Hawaii. In 1996, I graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a Bachelor's Degree in Dance. I am now a licensed attorney in the State of Florida. Between 1996 and now, I have danced professionally, instructed children and seniors in the art and exercise of dance, worked as a human resources and business manager, and owned my own restaurant business.

My experience and education at the University of Hawaii was instrumental in giving me the confidence and skills to venture into such a broad range of professional endeavors. My dance education has not only piqued interests in every one of my job interviews, but has set me apart and highlighted my qualifications compared to other candidates.

I credit my dance education with teaching me the value of hard work. A dance degree does not merely require students to attend class, write a few papers, and pass an exam. It demands hours and hours of hard work and dedication, it requires absolute team work, and it accepts no less than showing up 100% to each class, each rehearsal, and especially each performance. There is no faking it, no last minute cramming. The only method that leads to success and accomplishment is putting in the work. Not only does the level of investment reflect upon the student, but also on every other valuable student and faculty member on the stage, in the wings, and behind the curtains. This level of work ethic, which I have applied to each of my professional roles, has rewarded me with incredible opportunities and successes.

My experience at the University of Hawaii is unique in many ways from the collegiate experience of my peers. The University of Hawaii's focus on diversity and cultural awareness has significantly shaped my perspective of the world around me. My exposure in this regard has helped me build genuine relationships both personally and professionally. I am able to better appreciate differences, to understand opinions, and find common ground in difficult situations. Integral to my developing this outlook was the University's diversity of people, cultures, teaching methods, and class offerings. Dance,

Theater, and other less traditional studies are part and parcel of the University's value that it offers students. I enrolled in classes that opened my mind to new ways of thinking, exposed me to different passions, and help shape the person I would become. These programs define a University beyond what can be quantified in numbers or statistics. These programs are what make my eyes light up when I talk about where I went to school. These programs are what make me proud to be an alumna and recommend the school to anyone that inquires. These programs have influenced people that constantly amaze me.

Although these programs may not be "in the black" standing on their own, the school – as a whole – would suffer greatly without their presence. I encourage you to consider the unique position this school is in to capture both the hearts and minds of its students and ask you to continue supporting programs such as Dance.

Sincerely,

Claire Whitley, Esq.

**LATE**

My name is Kendrick Go and I am a junior at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I stand in firm negation to HB 555 which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduates less than 10 graduates per year.

Cutting programs that contribute to the diversity of the University of Hawaii at Manoa is an easy way to avoid the real issue of how administrative officials handle the University's budget. There wouldn't be a budget crisis if the administration and management of our University were, simply put, better. The powers at play in the management of UH have created a system that the public and the Legislature do not have confidence in, which is why we are in the situation we are today. Therefore, it is unfair that certain undergraduate degree-programs would suffer being abolished due to the precedence in the University's management which is being scrutinized heavily only now through HB 555. The undergraduate degree-granting programs such as Philippine Language and Literature contribute to the diversity of UHM that must be maintained as part of what makes UHM a unique institution. If languages and other programs were to be cut, it would send a message to the younger generation of students that culture is expendable. Low cultural awareness and not contributing to society (such as voting in elections) is already something that is permeating in my generation, and all HB 555 would do is encourage that belief. Also In high school, STEM curriculum was encouraged as what would lead to a solid career, so is it a surprise that programs in the languages and arts aren't attracting hundreds of students with the possibility of having six-figure incomes? Clearly they're not, but that doesn't mean that they are not important.

So I humbly ask the Legislature to focus on better management of UHM and reassess how the budget is allocated because faculty such as Dean William Ditto of the College of Arts and Sciences and Interim Associate Dean Steven Robinow are listening to the students and making difficult decisions on how to run the department as best as they can based on how the officials above them decide to run the University. To focus on management instead of cutting programs is a daunting task, but it is the right thing to do compared to what HB 555 plans to do.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**LATE**

Aloha,

My name is Monica Belding and I am strongly opposed to bill HB 555. I graduated from the University of Hawaii- Manoa in 2011 with my Bachelors in secondary French. The University of Hawaii- Manoa was the only university on the island that offered such a program and allowed me to pursue my life-long passion of learning and teaching a foreign language. As a former student at UH, I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the French language through the variety of French courses offered as well as French extracurricular activities. I am grateful for these experiences which have broadened my horizons. Currently, I teach French at Radford High School to students grades 9-12. My fear is that if the French program is cut, high school students will have fewer opportunities to study a foreign language. Students will be limited to studying either Spanish or Japanese and may not be able to take 3 or 4 years of the language because of a shortage of language teachers. This will dramatically affect their college and career prospects and limit their educational experiences. I humbly ask that you carefully consider the ramifications of cutting the French program from UH Manoa. Mahalo nui loa.

Sincerely,

Monica Belding



**LATE**

These comments are in opposition of proposed measure HB 555, forcing the abolishment of undergraduate programs that graduate less than 10 students a year. I find this proposal to be ill-conceived for several reasons. First of all some programs actually benefit from graduating a large number of students. Not everyone will go on to become, for instance, a biogeochemist – and yet biogeochemists are needed in Hawai‘i. By reducing the diversity of program offered at the University you are inherently reducing our ability to supply future locals to fulfill such needed positions in the state. Do we need a lot on biogeochemists in the state? No. But that is all the more reason why we do not need to graduate more than 10 students in that major a year. But we do need to graduate them.

Secondly, I feel any cuts to our education system is a failure. Our public education is already underfunded, and discounts the potential of our future generations to succeed and achieve a better future. We are spending billions of dollar on the rail system, hundreds of millions of which are already unaccounted for, and yet we cannot find the money to provide decent education and educational options to our children? This is a shameful direction of funds into a shortsighted treatment, rather than a long term remedy.

Third, if you are going to make forced cuts at the Univeristy, why cut the academic programs, which are the essence and purpose of the University, instead of athletics, which are an extraneous purpose as well as a much more significant drain on University assets? Unless the purpose is to have a sports education, it would seem apparent that sports should go before academics.

Fourth, there is nothing within the bill that considers students or staff involved with the programs that might be cut.

Fifth, cutting these programs will not necessarily reduce the budget shortfall, but rather the students and staff will be absorbed into larger programs. This is only forcing increased administrative difficulties for the University, and may even result in additional costs through working out of the issues that this measure might cause (e.g. broken contracts, renegotiation of tenured professors, etc.).

Finally, I find the meddling of government officials in the University’s affairs very troublesome. If the legislature feels that the UH needs to make financial cuts, then cut the budget and let the University administration figure out what specific programs need to be cut, rather than applying an external, blanket approach that does not consider the true necessity and place of these programs within the Univeristy’s overall structure.

I make these comments as citizen of Hawaii, a native Hawaiian, and a PhD academic who has used my education (in a field deemed to be cut no less) to bring millions of research dollars into our state economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Noa Kekuewa Lincoln

**LATE**

HB555

At first, I was just outraged that the program I graduated from was on the chopping block. Then I read the entire list of programs that would be cut, should HB555 pass, and my outrage turned into sadness for our community. Languages, Sciences, and Performing Arts are on the chopping block? You should feel ashamed for even considering such a travesty.

Consider for a minute the implications of cutting a program such as Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences. The program only produced nine graduates last year. In terms of long-term investments, it would be in our best interest to continue allowing the dedicated few to specialize in studies that would benefit us in terms of sustainability and self-sufficiency. Consider all the Secondary Education programs being cut. Hawaii has one of the poorest performing school systems in the nation. Wouldn't it be in our best interest to try to fix that? Across the board, the programs being cut if HB555 passes are programs that produce quality graduates rather than quantity. By shutting the door to those who enrich our community you are taking a gamble with our island's future.

I received my BA from UH Manoa and am currently enrolled in a graduate program there. As someone who has spent tens of thousands of dollars, and five and a half years, so far, at UH, I want a say in how my money is spent. Millions of dollars were spent on the new gym, a completely unnecessary construction. And now scholars are being turned away because of a budget crisis. That is neither right nor just. Is this the message we are sending to potential applicants? Our state cares more about athletics than education. No! Because of our state's uniqueness both geographically and culturally, nowhere else can students have the same opportunities that they can get through UH. We need to keep that door open.

**LATE**

As a graduate of the University of Hawai'i, I oppose HB555 because it is not in the best interest of the University. Some majors will always have many graduates, while others, such as dance and languages will have fewer as a function of their nature. Decisions regarding which majors to support should be carefully made in relation to other factors than numbers of graduates alone.

**LATE**

On the subject of HB555,

This bill seeks to address the budgeting crisis faced by UH Manoa, and the entire UH system, but is in fact the single worst possible solution that could be applied. We, the students, already pay exorbitantly high tuition rates for what we receive, and cutting out majors is simply another way in which the students would be paying for the university's shortcomings. Among the proposed majors to be cut are Dance and Theater, which is unsurprising given how the trend among American schools is to cut the arts before cutting programs such as athletics. This is a sickening trend, and as a school that is well-known for its art programs it is our duty to fight against this trend and maintain arts majors at all costs. However, not only are art programs being put on the chopping block, majors such as French, German, and even Physics are being cut. What self-respecting university doesn't offer classical languages and physical science majors? It is ludicrous to suggest that the school will somehow benefit from the removal of these majors.

An even worse threat to the university's future is the fact that these cuts could cost the school its accreditation. An undergraduate degree from an unaccredited college is essentially worthless. Losing accreditation would irreparably harm every single student, both alumni and presently attending, undergraduate all the way to doctorates, and every single major, not just the ones that are getting cut. Not only will we, the attending students, suffer greatly as a result of this bill, but future enrollment rates for the college will plummet. Nobody wants to attend an unaccredited school if it is at all possible for them to avoid it, so if UH loses its accredited status then it will lose vast amounts of future tuition from students who don't want a worthless degree. The amount that we, the students, already pay to attend this school is vastly overpriced for what we actually receive. If suddenly the school completely loses its accreditation, then all of that money and all of the hard work that we, the students, have put forth will be an utter waste. Don't waste our money and our time, don't pass HB555.

The issue with the university's funding lies not with majors that graduate less than ten students per semester. Responsibility for the university's gross overspending of our tuition lies entirely with the administration and their misplaced priorities regarding where the money goes. It is well known that our athletics teams are not top-tier, and in fact our football team has such a dismal record that it has become common practice for the administration to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to play schools that we know we can beat in order to boost our numbers. This is the kind of ridiculous practice that harms the school and causes the issues that HB555 seeks to solve. If cuts are to be made anywhere, it should not be to majors, it should be to athletics. While we do appreciate such works as the Recreation Center, and that is the sort of project that is a worthwhile expenditure of the university's money, our failing sports teams are not as vital of a resource. As a university, UH should focus on education, not wasting student's money bribing other colleges to lose to our football team.

The solution to the university's funding issue lies in either replacing the administration or forcing them to rearrange their priorities so that the students don't have to suffer in order to attend, and that education doesn't take a back seat to athletics. As a university, education should always be the absolute top priority. If the school can't afford to hire lecturers and instructors so that students can graduate on

time, but can afford to spend hundreds of thousands to boost the football team's record, there is something seriously wrong. Keep college about education, don't pass HB555.

Sincerely,

A concerned student

**LATE**

The proposed cuts to education at UHM are unconscionable. Our university and our community are made stronger by the smaller programs at UHM. Our cultural and intellectual lives are enriched by Dance, American Studies, and options to study a variety of languages. Vote NO! Support education in the state of Hawai'i.

**LATE**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a 2012 graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa from the Dance Theatre department. I am currently living in New York City and working as a freelance dancer, aerialist and model. I have been able to find work as an artist using the tools and education I have gained at the University of Hawai'i. The variety of dance styles that are available at this University are unavailable anywhere else and have been instrumental in helping me find work.

Dance in particular is incredibly important in preserving our culture. Not only hula and other polynesian styles, but ballet and modern too. The creativity of using all of these styles can only happen in such a diverse place such as Hawai'i. And by so doing, advances the dance community into new territory and ways of expression. This is why I chose this college over any other in the United States.

If we consider other schools such as Juilliard, Purchase, the Ailey school or even The London Contemporary Dance School and how many graduates in dance they turn out a year, we would see that they turn out many dancers. But - a year or two later we would see that over half of them have given up a career in dance to pursue another life. The graduates from the dance department at the University of Hawai'i reflect the amount of jobs in the artistic field that are available. I don't believe it is wise to cut a program simply because the graduates are few. The ones that do graduate carry the name of the University of Hawai'i internationally and continue to work hard for their career throughout their lives.

Of course, I speak mostly for the sake of the dance department because that is where my expertise and passion lie. But I urge the committee to consider what cutting these programs will do. It will prevent the University of Hawai'i from moving forward. The graduates have much to offer the world and if the university becomes a corporation only looking at dollar signs, there will be fewer and fewer graduates to make a difference in the world. Of course, the university does need to manage it's budget well, but I believe there are other and better ways of doing that than cutting courses that preserve our culture.

Sincerely,  
Cassandra Glaser

**LATE**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to tell you how incredibly against HB 555 I am. As a current University of Hawaii student I am actually appalled that this bill is even under consideration. Cutting education should never be an option. Especially if it loses the states flagship university's accreditation. This, in the long run, would not actually save the University any money. It would destroy the university. Without accreditation why would students from other states apply to the University. Especially with Honolulu being difficult to get to and one of the most expensive cities in the entire country. Why would students spend all the money to get to and live in Honolulu to attend a University who lost their accreditation? I'll give you the answer: they wont. You will also lose local students who will leave the island and attend a University with accreditation. One that might actually help their careers in the future. This bill will destroy the university. Besides cutting a single program you are attempting to cut is a harrowing insult to the University, the culture of Hawaii, and every member of the Hawaiian community. Education should never be threatened in this day and age and that is what this bill is doing. Not only that it will eventually destroy an educational base that people have worked so hard to form in Honolulu. As a current doctoral candidate and former undergraduate theatre major I beg of you to reconsider. Remember education is about quality and not quantity. The amount of students a major graduates each semester shouldn't even be a discussion. It doesn't matter. You, as educated individuals, make the right choice and choose education. Vote no on this draconian bill. I would be there in person to oppose this bill but I currently finishing a Fulbright grant and conducting my field research in Indonesia. All thanks to my theatre degrees.

Mahalo for your time,

Kristina Tannenbaum  
Doctoral Candidate  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Department of Theatre and Dance



**LATE**

Strongly oppose HB555  
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Committee on Higher Education  
February 4, 2015  
Hawai'i State Capitol

To: Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and members of committee

From: Librado Luab Dumanjug III  
91-823 Aikanka Road  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Subject: Testimony in strong opposition of HB555

My name is Librado Luab Dumanjug III, a prospective graduate of Leeward Community College with an Associate's of Arts in Liberals Arts degree by fall of 2016. Upon completing my time in the community college and I plan to pursue my Bachelor of Arts in secondary English Education. I also plan to do it all in University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Before I tell you why I want you to keep these programs to stay, I just wanted to give background information about myself. I grew from Ewa Beach and I graduated from James Campbell high school in the year 2011. The reason why I choose secondary education in English is because of three reasons. One English was my favorite subject back in high school, I love reading stories and understanding another person's perspective. Two when you're teaching someone, I have always enjoyed seeing the faces of when that person comprehends that material. Last I was influenced by an old teacher from Campbell.

Many people had stories of how teachers influenced them in a good way, but I had it different I had a teacher who wasn't a good influenced. This teacher didn't teach anything at all on his subject, he would let students do their own thing. He would pick on students because they were different from the rest. I remember when I needed help on big decision of life after high school; he would push me away and send me back to my desk. He wasn't there for his students.

Loosing these programs would mean that I wouldn't be able to give to my community. It would mean that I wouldn't be able to replace those bad teachers, who are corrupting our kids and that is plummeting our education system. It would mean that I wouldn't be able to be there for students who need guidance and direction in their lives. It would mean that the government would need to find outside source to teach our local kids.

That's why I strongly opposed this bill, I believe keeping these programs I and many other students can make a difference in our community. I believe we can have our own set of teacher from Hawaii teach our very own kids.

These programs are important to the community and without this bill it can help keep many dreams alive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Librado Luab Dumanjug III

Dumanjug@hawaii.edu

**LATE**

To Rep. Choy and members of the House Committee on Higher Education,

I am a resident of Ewa Beach and I am writing to oppose HB555 in the strongest possible term. HB 555 bill proposes to cut programs that graduate less than 10 students a year from UH Manoa, UHWO and UH-Hilo. If the measure goes through, no doubt it will impact the Arts and Humanities the most. Cutting programs that serve students academically as a money saving measure is not just short sighted; it is actually counterproductive to the long-term health of the higher education as well as the state economy. Arts and Humanities programs, although their majors are small in number, serve a vital function in meeting the missions of the higher education: providing students of all majors, career tracks or otherwise, a well-rounded education. Just imagine, if the UH system, the only state university system in Hawaii, were forced to eliminate mostly the Arts and Humanities programs, what then would be left in the higher ed? The liberal arts education would be a thing of the past and a UH student would no longer be submerged in our shared great literary and creative culture as a well-rounded person should be. And since the UH system is the sole state university system, the state of Hawaii then would be the first state in the union fails to deliver the hallmark of the higher education - the liberal arts education - and thereby would cripple its higher education to the detriment of its long-term economic health. A state that is unable to deliver an education system that fosters thinking and creativity in its highest level of education is sure to fail economically as well. Hence I urge you and the legislative body in the strongest term possible to reject HB 555.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Rosenlee,  
Ewa Beach Resident

I oppose the HB555 bill due to a number of reasons.

First off, these majors are very crucial to the students and the future. Without the language, culture, and arts programs, we would lose touch with the world around us. Hawai'i is a very special place because of its diversity and we need these programs to remind us of the other people and cultures that are here with us. This place is one of the most accepting places in the world. Abolishing these majors will hinder these relationships in the future.

The education majors are also very crucial to the future of the children since we need our university to produce great teachers, inspirations, and role-models for them. Having the type of patience that the education majors have is hard to find and we need them to keep children moving forward in life.

Seeing the science majors on the list really upsets me the most because I am very involved in these programs. Science pushes us to be great innovators and it pushed us to get where we are with technology and the world. Physics, the program I have been in, is really crucial since this was where many of the natural sciences. Seeing technology and engineering on this list is also very upsetting because, as I mentioned earlier, these majors have so many aspiring innovators. Like many in STEM, I want to make this world a better place. I am aspiring to become an astronomer, researcher, and inventor one day. This would not be all possible without the programs that the Physics department has provided. They were the ones that gave me so many opportunities to explore what is out there and there are a lot, however, it is very competitive. If these science programs did not exist, I would not have had an opportunity to work in research labs and do internships at other universities. These programs are very fundamental in not only my growth, but also to the world.

This bill hits me very close to home. I am an immigrant from the Philippines and like many Filipinos, we would die for an education. I came to this country thinking that I will have so many opportunities for education because they said this was the land of opportunity and it was where dreams come true. For me, an education is very important because it will help me in my career and future. I love learning and it was why I chose to go to a university. I did not choose to go to school to lose out on opportunities and cutting these majors out will cause many to become distraught and discouraged. After hearing this, I felt so many of my dreams slowly slipping out of my hands. All that hard work that I have put in to finally go to a university is fading and no student should ever feel that way. Cutting these majors out will leave many students out. A university is supposed to offer its students many choices and I believe that this will hinder the school when students thinking about coming to school will not see what they want to study.

Learning is my passion and life. I am never usually one to speak out about my thoughts, but this is such a big deal to me. It affects me in so many ways. I think about the future of children because education is very important in their growth. Where would they be if it were not because of strong role-models and inspirations? What would the future be like without creativity, thinking, and innovation? All I know is that it will not be as easy to move forward.

**LATE**

I wish to oppose the house bill, HB555 to lower cost at the University of Hawaii. The legislation to cut under populated degrees is not a way to ensure fiscal responsibilities.

The university exist as a entity of higher learning, where students can pursue knowledge and life skills to become participating individuals of society. The pursuit of a degree in the Liberal Arts and Humanities allows a well rounded individual who will have many views from their experience. The closure of the un-populated degrees would lessen the perspectives that could be gained.

By removing the programs deemed under populated you are creating holes in the educational system; you are creating a less complete university. The fiscal responsibilities fall to the Regents and should not penalize the students. There are other places to make the cuts needed for the budget.

Sincerely,

Nathan K Lee  
MFA/BA University of Hawaii class of 1996/1993

**LATE**

I oppose this bill ~ these undergraduate programs, although small, have a large impact on the graduates in Hawaii and abroad. I graduated from the BFA Dance Program in 2008 and earned a living in NYC as a professional dancer for 5 years following graduation. I was able to sustain my lively hood BECAUSE of the small and intimate program UHM offered. I grew beyond measure during my four years in the BFA program. The educators, the island, the Aloha has given me more than I imagined when I enrolled. Having a small program made my education special. This is what UHM should be striving for ~ not getting rid of. Education is not about the numbers it's about the quality. Quality.

Please, reconsider this.

Aloha,  
Sarah Renny

**LATE**

While I completely understand the current crisis of higher education and the financial stresses which UH operates under, the passing of the proposed bill HB555 would be a catastrophic loss to the university. In no way do I want to suppress the evolution of the educational system by clinging to departments that have waned in popularity, but UH, being a research university is obligated to maintain an atmosphere on campus which promotes discovery and risk taking. We must be brave enough to allow some departments to operate at a loss so as to remain a well rounded institution. As we monetize all aspects of our lives, as our arts and culture morph from physical constructs to content on youtube, as we quantify "necessity" as "hits" and "likes," we drift from the core of our educational values and thinking.

If even one person has the passion to devote their undergraduate lives towards these majors offered, we most certainly have the means in terms of qualified teachers and/or grad students to fulfill our commitment to their passion. Perhaps a revisiting of the method of dissemination is called for, but I emphatically say creating a blanket policy that eradicates these departments would be a grievous error which will have calamitous consequences for the well being of UH as an institution. It would set a precedent that puts economy over enlightenment.

Let me reiterate, I have no desire to see UH languish in a non-sustainable mode of operation. I most certainly acknowledge that there are fractures in our system, but fractures need to set and given time to heal, not amputated. Once they are gone, they don't grow back.

**LATE**

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2015

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

To: House Committee on Higher Education

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Re: Opposition to HB 555 Relating to the University of Hawaii

My name is Brian Jyriel Boado and I am a undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I am writing in strong opposition to HB 555 which, unless the undergraduate program is self-sustaining, abolishes undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduates less than 10 graduates per year.

What separates the University of Hawaii at Mānoa from other universities is its vast cultural diversity. Many students are of various ethnicities and some of these students have a need to gain cultural awareness for themselves. I for one am one of these students. I am senior majoring in Information and Computer Science, as well as majoring in Ilokano, one of the majors in the programs listed that may be abolished and the decision to cut this and many other undergraduate degree programs is a wrong decision. As a computer science major, taking away these programs is an inefficient way of saving money.

There are other alternatives to finding a solution other than eliminating something important to our university. From a student stand point; this bill is putting these programs "under the bus". This bill is said to not harm current students, but that is inaccurate information. One of the reasons I have chosen to be an Ilokano major is to help my community be stronger education-wise. It is not the quantity of degrees but the quality of it. Finding one's identity is an essential part in our community's future because it influences people to stand up for themselves. These programs (for my perspective, Philippine Language and Literature program) help us gain strength by not only understanding our language, but our cultural history, and how we use our past to help shape our future. Without the ability to understand our previous generations, we will not, as students, have an identity. We will have not be diverse, we will be merely people with just a degree.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Jyriel Boado  
Email: [bjboado@hawaii.edu](mailto:bjboado@hawaii.edu)  
Phone: (808)679-7505



**LATE**

February 4, 2015

Hawaii State Legislature  
Testimony on proposed HB555

The University of Hawai'i is the primary educational institution for the state of Hawai'i and has the responsibility to provide the educational opportunities sought by its citizens. The University of Hawai'i at Manoa also has a national and international reputation that draws students and faculty from all 50 states and over 100 countries.

If the university is to preserve and to merit that reputation and continue to provide full educational opportunities, it must continue to provide the fields of learning and research expected in any major state institution. Smaller units with smaller numbers of majors yearly (some programs with no majors at all) targeted by this bill provide expert training in their fields to many thousands of students yearly. They form Hawai'i's high school educators, they provide trained specialists who go on to careers in hundreds of fields: government agencies; the consular services; international banking, business and travel; advertising; museums, theater and fashion; academia; agriculture; engineering; nursing and medicine; the military and the transport sectors, to name a few.

Some of the units targeted to be "abolished" based only on the number of majors they graduate yearly, are internationally renowned for the breadth of their course offerings or for research. Others are home to the most decorated of the system's educators, those who inspire students here at home and who draw other students from around the world. Others are the leaders in making new knowledge and connections among the citizens of the state of Hawai'i and its neighbors throughout the Pacific and Asia. A vibrant, varied, and wide selection of fields--knowledge that is complex and has breadth--is what is expected at any great state institution. U.H. must maintain that if it wishes to keep its reputation, to provide students with the educational opportunities they deserve. Faculty, accrediting boards, outside reviewers and university review boards work constantly, as they do in any educational institution, to ensure that is what happens.

I have taught at the University of Hawai'i for the past 22 years. This state and its children are important to me. I thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn A. Hoffmann  
Professor, Division of French and Italian  
University of Hawai'i-Manoa

**LATE**

I am a student and I take courses in or am seeking a degree or certificate in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

**LATE**

Aloha,

My name is Jon Omuro and I am a current student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As a former student in the Secondary Education Program with concentration in English, and as a current student pursuing the study of English, I strongly urge you not to cut the invaluable programs currently at Mānoa such as foreign languages and various Secondary Education programs. UH Mānoa, as the UH system's flagship campus, has produced some of the most inspiring and driven teachers I have had the privilege of studying under. Cutting Secondary education programs will limit the options of future teachers, creating a trickle-down effect that will have a negative effect on Hawai'i's students. In addition, foreign languages such as French and German allow students such as myself to garner invaluable knowledge not easily procured elsewhere that is applicable to all fields and disciplines. Cutting programs merely for having less than 10 graduates is irresponsible and could have widespread effects across all fields of study. With much of UH's finances spilling into other departments, such as athletics, UH has no excuse for condoning such an egregious bill. How can we stymie the education of our University's supposedly "valued" students in lieu of cutting funds from programs and departments that have repeatedly been shown to squander money? Therefore, I oppose HB555, and strongly urge UH and politicians to rethink their priorities before proposing such solutions to UH's financial issues.

Thank you for your time.  
Jon Omuro

My name is Sandra Fong and I would like to submit my testimony in opposition of HB 555. I am a 1996 University of Hawaii graduate, with a bachelor's degree in Dance. The dance program is a small-but-mighty department at the University of Hawaii, and the program changed my life.

I spent several years at Leeward Community College aimlessly taking classes, because I did not know what I wanted to do with my life-then I found dance. On a whim, I took a dance class at Leeward and found out I could get a degree doing something that I loved to do.

As soon as I was able, I transferred to UH and found my way to the dance department. I was awkward as a high school student, and didn't have many close friends. My UH Dance Ohana embraced me with open arms, and the positive bolster to my self-esteem was priceless. It was through the environment created by faculty and students, that I discovered myself, and led me to my current occupation.

The creative and nurturing atmosphere made me the artist that I am today. The dance program at UH allowed me to discover other facets of theatre and dance. Through my studies at UH, I was able to explore lighting design, stage management, costume design, and technical production. The experiences that I had at UH, put me on a path to earn a master's degree in lighting design from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

What does one do with degrees in dance and lighting design? These degrees have allowed me to travel the world on tour, work for one of the largest concert producers in the music industry, and work for one of the largest convention /trade show producers in the U.S. I have worked for Peepshow and Stomp Out Loud, large-scale professional theatrical productions on the Las Vegas Strip. I currently work as the lighting designer/production manager for The Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater (an up-and-coming professional dance company), and I also work for Cirque du Soleil.

Having a strong background in dance has given me a professional edge when applying for theatrical production jobs. The techniques, ideals, and practices that I learned at UH have followed me throughout my career and helped me to succeed. The encouragement and learning opportunities that the faculty provided cannot be measured, other than in gratitude. I have been consistently working in theater and dance for almost 20 years. If not for the UH dance program, the faculty and classmates, I don't know what I would have done with my life or career. I am proud to say that I am a University of Hawaii alumnus with a degree in dance, passionately working in my chosen field for almost 20 years.

With these thoughts in mind, I ask you to reconsider House Bill 555 and not eliminate small-attendance degree programs at the University.

**LATE**

February 5, 2015

To the Hawaii State Legislature :

My name is Kayla Goldsmith, and I am an alumni of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. I am writing today to strongly oppose the bill HB555 in regards to eliminating undergraduate degree programs that graduate less than 10 students per year at the University of Hawaii. Eliminating over 30 undergraduate degree programs is not a solution to fighting the budget crisis that the university faces. Students not only would suffer, but the faculty of these departments as well, negatively impacting so many people. Academics should come first in a university to provide the students more options in a field of study, especially if they pay ever increasing costs for their education.

Academia is the most important aspect of going to college : to broaden our horizons and not to limit our opportunity to grow. For example, studying a language is very important to me and many other students. Learning a foreign language opens the gateway to cultures around the world. I am currently residing in France, following my dream, and thanks to the French department at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, I was able to achieve this. I also gained great teaching experience as a graduate assistant and lecturer at the university, which would not have been possible without the undergraduate degree that I obtained there in French. By cutting over 30 programs, students' passions would be taken away from them.

Students are continuing to pay increasing tuition costs every year, and by limiting their choices, they would likely take their education elsewhere. It is not fair to take away programs from students who are paying so much to attend the school in the first place. Cutting so many programs affects not only students, but professors and instructors in these areas of study would also feel the negative effects. The professors in these fields work so hard in researching and teaching courses, and by getting rid of over 30 degrees, this would impact more than just the students. To add, many of these

degrees considered for the cut are not new programs; they have existed for so many years at the university. These departments have influenced generations creating a large community of former and current students. There must be more cost effective ways to cut back spending at the University of Hawaii, such as energy efficient actions (air conditioning, use of lights, etc.) or better distribution of funds, instead of cutting out degree options altogether.

I am strongly opposed to the bill HB555 proposed to eliminate undergraduate degree programs at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. I am asking you to please consider other options before cutting so many degree programs, for the sake of expanding knowledge and furthering the progress in these departments. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kayla Goldsmith

**LATE**

I am a student and I take courses in French. I am also seeking a degree in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:42 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** amy@redmond dance.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amy Redmond Waran   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I attended the University Of Hawaii graduate dance program Sept 2005 - May 2008. Attending the dance program at UH was one of the best decisions I have made in my life so far. The program, class offerings and instructors are of the highest quality. I learned more in just 1 year of my studies in the UH dance department than I did in the 4 years I attended undergraduate studies at another university. I now own and direct a dance program in my home town and am actively involved in local community theatre programs. I make a difference in the lives of children in my community everyday through arts education. I strongly believe I would not be doing what I do today without the education and support I received at UH. Cutting the dance program would be a HUGE loss to not just the UH community but the communities of future graduates who would miss out on the wonderful faculty, programs and facilities the UH dance department offers. Note to mention that the beautiful new facility the dance and theatre department now has would go to waste. My graduating class fought to have those facilities built even though we new we would not be the ones to enjoy them. Don't let our hard work go to waste!

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:40 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** amotteler@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anna Motteler       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: My name is Anna Motteler, RN, BSN and I oppose HB 555. I am a dance instructor at Queen Emma Ballet and Diamond Head Theatre. In addition, I have been a Registered Nurse for the past 20 years. As a UH Manoa graduate of the School of Nursing 1995, I truly benefited from the balance that the Department of Theater and Dance undergraduate programs provided me while a student at UH and beyond. The dance and theater classes I took during college allowed me to train for professional employment with local ballet and dance companies while working on my nursing degree as well as secure future employment with local dance studios and community theaters. That balance between the arts and sciences was vital to my success as a nursing student and to my career as a nurse, performer and dance/theater educator. Please do not pass this bill.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 9:26 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** bfwbrown@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ben B               | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take a course in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii for my generation and for the generations to come.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 9:19 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** camaronm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cameron Miyamoto    | LGBT Student Services,<br>UH Manoa | Oppose                    | Yes                       |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:22 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** clmb10292@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

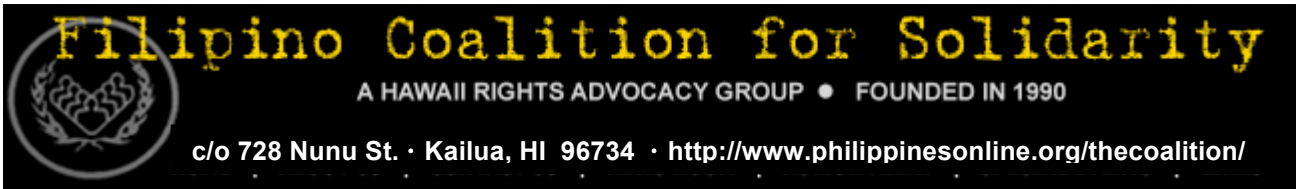
Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carolyn             | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: As a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I am fully against the passing of this bill. I believe that more work needs to be done to explore alternative options to improving the UH budget problems.

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House Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
February 5, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITON TO HB 555**

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education

From: Jovanie de la Cruz, Chair, Board of Directors, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Jovanie de la Cruz. I am an Executive Board of Directors Member for the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. The Coalition strongly opposes HB 555. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

In your earnest quest as public servants, please do not resort to a short-sighted fiscal formula to determine the value of a degree or department. For example, as a former Filipino language instructor in the University of Hawai'i Philippine Language and Literature Program, I can attest to the importance of supporting, not severing this program. My students in multi-disciplinary fields of science, technology, engineering, nursing, medicine, public health and more have minored or majored in Filipino. Because of their language and cultural assets, they possess competitive and knowledge-based skill sets that are highly valued and expected in global, national and local arenas in their respective fields. Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our opposition from the Filipino community.

Respectfully,

Jovanie de la Cruz, Chair  
Executive Board of Directors  
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:22 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** clhartigan@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cindy Hartigan      | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: When I received my degree at The University of Hawaii, I was pleased to have a small group of students in my program. The professors were able to give us a lot of one-on-one attention and I never felt like a "number" lost in a large group of students. As a result of the smaller group, I had several more opportunities available to me that I may never have had at a larger institution. UH focuses on quality not QUANTITY. Changing this approach can only have a negative impact on the effectiveness of the programs offered at the university. UH would become just another "cookie-cutter" college, churning out carbon-copies of new professionals. I am saddened that the Hawaiian government would even deem to entertain this proposal. It will only serve to tear the legs out from under the foundations of many great university programs.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:29 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** dfurumoto@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Furumoto      | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: Please do not eviscerate UH, I am a graduate of the theatre and drama program and currently am on the faculty of the theatre and drama department at the U. of Wisconsin-Madison, one of the great strengths of UH is its prominence in the study of Asian/ Pacific studies, crucial to that is the study of dance, theatre, music and languages. this is a dangerous move to losing that. It may seem that you are saving money now but the long term damage will be irreversible. You are only looking back one year, how about looking back 10 years and then add up the numbers. Do not follow the awful path which is occurring here in Wisconsin, do not turn Hawaii's center of higher learning into a mill churning out obedient worker bees. An example, shut down your undergrad program in dance, lose the supporting study of movement for theatre majors, you lose the teachers of the various ethnic dance classes, you start losing the soul of the very cultures that make Hawaii, Hawaii, I am proud of being a graduate of UH do not start destroying a great institution for temporary budget savings.-david furumoto, professor theatre and drama University of wisconsin-Madison, BA and MFA from UH-Manoa

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:39 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** ejb8@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Evelyn Coffey       | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take courses in AND am seeking a degree in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii! Sacrificing my department and others targeted by HB555 is not the answer to solving the University's financial problems. The effects of closing these departments would be disastrous not only for me but for the hundreds and thousands of students each year that fulfill their language requirement by taking courses through our department. This would delay graduation for many and prevent people like myself from being able to finish their degrees at all. I urge you to strike down HB555 and preserve the diversity of intellectual thought and exposure to other European cultures offered at UH.

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**LATE**

Hawaii Legislation:

I am a second year graduate dance student at UH Manoa, and am writing in opposition to the bill which proposes to cut my program (HB555). The UH Manoa dance department has roots in the university from 40 years ago and it has and will continue to greatly enrich the culture of the university, the city of Honolulu, and the body of students which it serves, which extends internationally.

Though there are dance programs offered in other states, UH Manoa's opportunities to study and practice traditional Asian dances makes the program invaluable. Dance students cannot study Okinawan, Japanese, Filipino or Korean dance (to name a few) just anywhere, let alone, choose a degree emphasis in them. Cutting the program would be cutting an opportunity for UH to be known as a university which preserves the rich traditions of these Asian countries.

Cutting the program would mean cutting a dance degree in Hawaii altogether, and robbing opportunities from many bright and talented local, national, and international students who have plans for their dance degree. Additionally many of the department's classes contain students who are looking to develop their performing arts skills while pursuing another degree. Courses are always *filled* not only with dance students, but with students representing a variety of majors who value artistry and creativity, values which define these courses. This artistry and creativity will consequently greatly inform and enhance whatever career pathways they may choose. Choosing to cut the program would disallow UH's students from receiving the best, well-rounded education they could get from UH.

Cutting the program would mean cutting the many dance productions the university produces, which reaches more than just the university community. UH's dance productions have been attended by faithful patrons and donors for years. Nowhere else in Hawaii is there a steady, contemporary dance movement, and the university department has been and will continue to cultivate that movement within our wider Hawaii community.

As I write I am remember all of the students, of which I will be one, who carry UH dance's roots with them, and have succeeded in carving careers in the dance sphere. The UH dance faculty and staff are part of those roots, and have given out of their own rich experiences in dance. The faculty has committed their life's energies to serving at this specific university, seeing students grow and succeed, and providing opportunities for the students through their network. The faculty represents a wide range of professional experiences in the dance realm, and offer even more for their dancers through their network in the form of guest lecturers, choreographers and teachers. Cutting the program would be cutting a long legacy the department has built.

These are only some of the reasons the UH dance program is invaluable to the state of Hawaii. I insist the legislation really think of the implications of what it would mean for the state of Hawaii if the program is cut.

Faith Im

[Type text]

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 555, Relating to the University of Hawaii

**Date:** Thursday, February 5, 2015 **Time:** 2:00 PM **Place:** Conference Room 309

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

**LATE**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Franalyn Subia Galiza. I was born in Kalihi, housed in Waipahu and raised in Waianae. I am currently a student in the Master's of Education program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and have also received my undergraduate degree at the University. I am truly honored and blessed to have had these opportunities to be a part of the University of Hawaii ohana.

University of Hawaii at Manoa has constantly quenched my thirst to embody knowledge about myself, our community and the world that we live in. I have taken courses in Ethnic Studies, Philippine Language and Literature and Pacific Island Studies that have taught me how our histories and cultures have been destroyed when our people, Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Samoan, Hawaiian were forcibly brought to or held prisoner by America in chains to be acculturated and assimilated into the American way. At times my thirst to drink more of this knowledge would diminish because carrying this had come with a heavy burden of pain, anger and frustration.

But then there were also times, that I was eager to drink more and so I drank more. I have petitioned to open closed courses and create organizations and communities at the University that have replenished my peers and I's thirst for continued pride in and expression of my, our, histories and cultures of being Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Samoan, Hawaiian and living here in Hawai'i.

Every day we preach to and struggle with ourselves, our students and our communities to affirm that education is the beverage that we drink to revive and cultivate ourselves, our histories, our cultures and our communities so that it will empower us to change the world.

Hence, I strongly oppose HB 555 because when we plan to cut courses and programs at the University, one by one, year after year, it will drain our glasses until it is empty and it will leave us, thirsty. It will deprive us of our development to learn, sustain and embrace our histories, our cultures and our communities, but most importantly HB 555 strips us the chance to change the world.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story and considering my opposition.

Franalyn Galiza

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:48 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** pueomanoa@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gail Baron          | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: I am speaking out against HB555 as a long time citizen of Honolulu, graduate of the University of Hawaii and business owner. My daughter and grandson graduated from there as well. While I realize the University has budget concerns, the actions proposed in HB555 would gut the heart of our home University, and therefore the future of our children. Please look elsewhere to balance the books. I am not an activist, but I can tell you that the legislature passing a bill like this will force me to become one.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:57 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** guenthj2@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jaclyn Guenther     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take courses in or am seeking a degree or certificate in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:01 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** ahlgrenjl@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jennifer williams   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a graduate from the University of Hawaii, and I am shocked that anyone would want to take education away, especially from a state that has limited resources due to it being an island.

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**LATE**

Feb. 5, 2015  
Jenny Mair  
Graduate Student of Dance  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

To the Hawaii State Legislature:

I am writing to address HB555, which cancels many undergraduate programs at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, including my field of study Dance. Cutting such a valuable program at the university will be a detriment to the Humanities and Arts College here, as well to the faculty, staff, and students who are pursuing such subjects in Theatre and Dance.

While it may look like a solution to save money, cutting these programs will cut into the accreditation of the university and its programs, as well as losing a vital section to the function of the university as a whole. The Department of Theatre and Dance produces Asian-Pacific and Western culture performances that pull in the outside community and give notice to the university on an international and national level.

Arts in education are vital in a well-rounded approach of learning. This applies on the level of kindergarten through high school, and university levels.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa has a substantial role in the educational progress of Hawaii and the students from Hawaii and elsewhere that attend the school. I am from Utah, and came here to study dance as a graduate student. Cutting the undergraduate programs cuts the lifeline for my work as scholar and artist as graduate student as well.

Do not cut these programs at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. While it looks like a good idea on paper, the affects will be a detriment to the educational system in Hawaii. Instead, support the university and fund it so the programs can grow and continue to become nationally and internationally acknowledged.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Mair  
Second Year Graduate Student  
UH Manoa  
MFA Candidate Dance

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:05 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jgorre@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joseph Gorre        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a junior at UH Manoa. I am a double major in Philippine Language & Literature and Ethnic Studies. My education has enabled and empowered me to be active in my community. Being introduced to my history, language and the progressive struggles of my people is what is driving my studies as an aspiring educator. To cut these programs is robbing students like me of the finding, access and continuity of our dreams.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:40 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** katiealm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katie Almeida       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take courses in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

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**LATE**

2/05/2015

Dear Chair Choy, Vice-Chair Ichiyama, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 555. I am currently a graduate student in the Spanish program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. One of our requirements is to have knowledge of two years of study in another language besides Spanish and English at the college level.

I took French 102-202 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and was amazed at the Faculty's passion in teaching and promoting the French language and culture in the classroom. They also work extremely hard to provide many extracurricular activities (cultural demonstrations, conversation table at lunch, weekly film showings) that make the program exceptional and exciting.

My experience with learning French at the University of Hawaii at Manoa continues to be a very positive experience in my life. It would be devastating not to have this program and other language programs available to students. Please preserve student's educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Khari Nordmeier

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 8:09 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** Kcompoc@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kim Compoc          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Shame on you Rep. Issac Choy. I oppose this bill for many reasons. 1. We need bilingual people in our schools, hospitals, and courts. Actually we need these skills throughout society. We need these classes at the college level to combat the backward English-only education most of our students get in the public schools. If anything, the legislature should be subsidizing these students' education and helping these departments expand. 2. These statistics are misleading. I know there are many undergraduates who minor in these languages, or who get Master's Degrees. Getting a major is not the only measure of how popular a department is. 3. These departments are doing vitally important research. Language diversity is being threatened worldwide, and budget cuts like these are part of the problem. It does not make sense that we have a library with a Pacific collection and no major in Pacific Island Studies. Filipino languages are also vitally important, given that the state is home to nearly 20% Filipinos. These programs should be getting more funding, not less. The idea of cutting them altogether is an obscenity. 4. This bill is an attack on education. Stop making students and teachers suffer. This "business model" you are trying to impose is draconian and an embarrassment to the state, again. I agree that UH has problems. But help us retrofit our buildings to bring down our energy costs would be a much more productive way to get our budget into the black. Thank you, Kim Compoc Ph.D. candidate English Department UH Manoa

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:46 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kpauka@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kistin Pauka        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: HB555 is ill-conceived and assumes a one-size-fits-all business model, which is antithetical to the mission of a university and its diversity. Two programs mentioned in HB555 are of particular concern: foreign languages and the dance program. Foreign language instruction provides service courses for the entire university and ensures an educated (not just trained), globally aware, and internationally competent individual; the number of graduating majors is less relevant. The dance program has produced outstanding international creative artists, such as choreographer Peter Espiritu Rockford (University of the South Pacific, Fiji) as well as international scholars such as Prof. Mohammed Anis Mohammed Nor (University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur). Statistical quantification is neither the only nor the best measure of excellence for any university and especially for UH. This BILL would, in effect, eliminate most if not all of the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages & Literatures and, in consequence, make it impossible for UHM to obtain major federal funding from the US Dept. of Education, which it has received since 1988 for its National Resource Centers (NRC). NRC grants for Asian and Pacific languages and area studies bring in over 7 million dollars in grant money each for each 4 year cycle. To state that these programs cost too much money and do not bring in any external funds is ill-informed, ignorant, and damaging to UHM.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:07 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** lola.santos.gu@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lauren santos       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Hello, my name is Lauren Santos and am an alumni of the UH Dance & Theatre Department. It is small in size, but it is by no means lacking in heart. From the teachers to the students, we all work so incredibly hard to be there day to day. Even when we wait 30 years for a health approved studio space or the lack of support we receive outside of the studio when it comes into comparison with that of sports. We stay fighting. Why? Because UH becomes the last chance for the extremely talented kids that maybe can't leave home for reasons ranging from financial instability to family responsibilities. You take the dance department away and you take the stepping stone for any artist looking to pursue it as a profession. I currently reside and pursue that profession in New York along with a good number of my classmates and have found success thanks to this department. Please take a chance on this department. With the new space it has already jumped so high in its respect and caliber and I believe its only getting started. In everything I do out here it is my end goal to come back and share with the island and that includes opportunities at UH. As many occasions result in, the arts take the short straw, but in Hawaii art is everywhere and so is dance. It expresses culture and tradition, and is no different in this particular department. I oppose this bill for all the other departments that also have changed the lives of so many students that are now able to confidently pursue life outside of UH.

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**LATE**

Ofagalilo Lise  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa Senior  
Pacific Island Studies Undergraduate

I am opposing this bill because as you can see I am a Pacific Island Studies undergraduate. I am of Samoan descent being born and raised in Hawai'i. Growing up I always questioned my samoanness and what exactly it meant to be Samoan. When I came to the University of Hawai'i I enrolled in PACS 108 an introductory course. I felt as if I was home. I was surrounded by islanders just like me, I broadened my scope and have come to the realization that yes I am a Samoan. And no I don't need to prove that to anyone. And further more I am a Pacific Islander I am a daughter of Oceania and I am one of many. As the late Epele Hauofa stated most beautifully, we are a sea of islands. The ocean the moana is what connects us. This major is very much needed; it has pushed me to explore my history and to work hard in writing my own. Like Albert Wendt said, we must write our own histories and not let others write our histories for us. If you take away this major know that that will be what you are doing. You will be letting others write the histories of Pacific Islanders. This is the University of Hawai'i. Hawai'i, not Nebraska not California, Hawai'i and Hawai'i is in the pacific. Why should we not be allowed to learn about our own scholars, writers and intellectuals? Let us write our own Histories and begin our own journeys of decolonization. Mana over money always!

Thank you for your time.

Lise

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:31 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** marevami@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mareva Minerbi      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Aloha Legislators, Please do not pass measure HB555. This will cut over 30 very important programs at UH. I am currently an MFA Dance Candidate at the University of Hawaii. UH's Dance program is the only program in the nation that offers Asian and Pacific Island dance. It is also the only campus on island to also offer a degree in dance. It is very important for me and my fellow classmates that this program is not cut. The other programs listed such as: Botany, Environmental Studies, Secondary Language Edu. are all also very important. As State University, it's important that these programs exist and that students can study these majors here in Hawaii. Please do not let HB555 pass. Mahalo!

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:27 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** meadmatt@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| matt mead           | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: I am a student and I take courses in or am seeking a degree or certificate in one of the University of Hawaii programs targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please preserve my educational opportunities and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 9:22 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** mppang@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael Pang        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: SUBMITTED: "Graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Dance Program, Masters in Fine Arts" I am personally beyond shocked to learn of the short sighted, irresponsible and unethical Bill 555 that has been presented by Representative Choy for consideration. To even suggest, let another consider closing all programs with less than 10 graduates each year per program is short sighted, irresponsible and detrimental to the fabric of the universities not to mention our community. HB555 include 26 diverse programs that range from history to the humanities, language arts to music and dance, would also be detrimental to the University, it's accreditation, it's academic reputation, our ability to woo potential out of town and international students and well as deeply impact the quality of life for residents of the state of Hawaii. While the number of majors in certain programs maybe low, many of the classes offered through these various departments are meet core requirements, which serves the pursoe to educate individuals on life time learning. UH system already has a reputation of not having enough core requirment classes for students to take each year; which inturn extends the education years behind the a four year program and discourage many to complete their undergraduate degree. DO NOT let BILL 555 pass as it will kill the Univeristy System!

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:44 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** mgomez7@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Miranda Gomez       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 9:39 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** psookkas@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| pahole sookkasikon  | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

**Comments:**

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**LATE**

TO: Legislative Committee  
FROM: Peggy Gaither Adams  
RE: HB 555

It is incomprehensible that the state would would cut university arts programs that are inherent to upholding and supporting Hawaii's traditional arts present in Hawaii and the contemporary study and development of those forms. The dance program curriculum at UHM supports the cultural presence of Okinawa, China, Japan, Philippines, Korea, India, Indonesia as well as Hawaiian and western traditions not only in its curriculum for our students but in the way the dance program in the Department of Theatre and Dance supports the presence of those forms in our greater community. The university dance program feeds and supports many dance entities in the community including but not exclusive to Iona Dance Theatre, Tau Dance Theatre, Phoenix Chinese Dance Theatre, the halau, the presentation of Okinawan, Korean, and Philippine dance groups, the the public and private schools as well as our community colleges. This does not even touch our presence nationally and internationally.

The dance program curriculum must be thought of as integrated for both undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The two undergraduate degree programs serve student needs since the two majors and the minor degree programs can be tailored to students' ongoing intentions in regards to educational, cultural, and/or professional careers.

Results of the work accomplished in the dance program and its curriculum serves our community (Hawaii, national and international). Although a small program, it provides a strong visual and interactive presence in the community. Please have a look at the University of Hawaii's mission and the way that the dance program fits into that mission.

**LATE**

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** Melanie Kuroiwa-Steiner on behalf of Rep. Linda Ichiyama  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 8:21 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: TESTIMONY: OPPOSITION to HB 555

From: Raymund Llanes Liongson [mailto:rliongson@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 1:43 AM

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy; Rep. Linda Ichiyama; Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino; Rep. Kaniela Ing; Rep. Ken Ito; Rep. Sam Kong; Rep. Matthew LoPresti; Rep. Takashi Ohno; Rep. Calvin Say; Rep. Roy Takumi; Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Andria Tupola  
Subject: TESTIMONY: OPPOSITION to HB 555

**The Committee on Higher Education**  
House of Representatives

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru, Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Cliff Tsuji, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

My name is Raymund Liongson, associate professor of Asian/Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii-Leeward CC. I like to register my **strong opposition** to HB 555, which requires that any undergraduate degree-granting program that graduates less than ten graduates per year, except for those that are self-sustaining, be abolished.

It is terribly unfortunate that academic programs designed to contribute to the development of a total individual and to the formation of an educated and functional society have to become pawns of commercially oriented mindset.

At UH Manoa alone, the following programs would be drawn to the chopping board for graduating nine or less students:

- American Studies (9)
- Dance (3)
- Dance Theatre (4)
- Philippine Language and Literature (6)
- Classics (5)

- French (7)
- German (8)
- Russian (4)
- Botany (4)
- Biochemistry (4)
- Physics (6)
- Ethnic Studies (7)
- Pacific Island Studies (1)
- Geology (2)
- Geophysics (5)
- Meteorology (2)
- Secondary Education, American Studies (1)
- Secondary Education, Biological Science (1)
- Secondary Education, English (6)
- Secondary Education, French (1)
- Secondary Education, General Science (3)
- Secondary Education, Japanese (2)
- Secondary Education, Mathematics (4)
- Secondary Education, Music (6)
- Secondary Education, Physical Education (5)
- Secondary Education, Psychology (2)
- Apparel Production Design & Merchandising (4)
- Biological Engineering (5)
- Plant and Environmental Biotech (1)
- Plant and Environmental Protection Science (7)

- Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences (9)
- Medical Technology (4)

(Source: [www.hawaii.edu/institutionalresearch/home](http://www.hawaii.edu/institutionalresearch/home)  
Data as of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014)

Instead of supporting such programs to grow and flourish, they are being threatened to be nipped by income and profit-oriented dogma.

Honorable Representatives, these courses are vehicles for our youth to develop discipline and character, skills and talents; critical, scientific and aesthetic abilities. They foster their sense of identity, understand their roots and heritage, that in the end they are able to optimize their contributions to the new home and community that they now embrace. These programs are essential disciplines in the arts and humanities, as well as in the physical and social sciences. They are also vital preparations for our youth and our society to become optimally productive and competitive in this increasingly diverse yet interdependent global life.

Honorable Representatives, we owe it to our young people and their future that we provide them with the broadest, most far-reaching quality education. Let us not short-change them; let us not cripple or limit their dreams and aspirations. Let us provide them the wings to soar, to explore, and to discover. Let us provide them the tools, no matter how rare they may be now, to carve and create that future which we may not be even able to imagine, not even in our dreams.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Raymund Llanes Liongson, PhD

Arts & Humanities

University of Hawaii-Leeward

91-892 Nohoihoewa Place

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

(808) 381-4315

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:32 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** tropicalvelvet@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebecca             | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**LATE**

HB 555 Submitted testimony 2/5/15 Ricardo D. Trimillos

HB555 is ill-conceived and assumes a one-size-fits-all business model, which is antithetical to the mission of a university and its diversity. Two programs mentioned in HB555 are of concern: foreign languages and the dance program. Foreign language instruction provides service courses for the entire university and ensures an educated (not just trained), globally aware, and internationally competent individual; the number of graduating majors is less relevant. The dance program has produced outstanding international creative artists, such as choreographer Peter Espiritu Rockford (University of the South Pacific, Fiji) as well as international scholars such as Prof. Mohammed Anis Mohammed Nor (University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur). Statistical quantification is neither the only nor the best measure of excellence for any university and especially for UH.

Ms. Rona Lee Gallardo

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair  
Committee on Higher Education



Dear Representative Choy and Committee on Higher Education,

As a student seeking a degree in one of the programs targeted to be abolished at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I am in strong opposition to HB 555. I am a French major and have been studying the French language since my time as a student at W.R. Farrington High School. I am also currently a Mānoa Peer Advisor at the Colleges of Arts & Sciences Student Academic Services and advise majors under this proposed bill.

I was given the delightful opportunity to speak to about 200 students at the French Day event at the University this past November and spoke to them about the benefits of the French program at Mānoa and of pursuing any language major, encouraging them to continue their studies. If this bill were to be implemented, these potential students would be deprived of a quality education. This will not only affect future students, but HB 555 will also greatly impact current students and faculty. The faculty within the French department at the University are highly qualified, intelligent, helpful, and passionate people. The French program is by no means under-performing, as quality over quantity is essential in higher education.

The students and faculty should not be held accountable for the incompetencies of the University's administration concerning budgeting issues. Although it is evident that the University of Hawai'i system is facing a grave financial crisis, academic programs such as those which the committee plans to abolish are not at the root of this problem. This bill will definitely hurt many students with its implementation. As representatives of the state of Hawaii and it's people, please take responsibility by taking students such as myself into consideration and by preserving our educational opportunities.

Sincerely,  
Rona Lee Gallardo  
Student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Ronald Gilliam  
1811 East-West Road #932  
Honolulu, HI 96848 (212) 767-9086

Testimony of the Ronald Gilliam  
IN OPPOSITION OF HB555, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I  
Before the House Committee on Higher Education  
February 5, 2015

House Bill 555 requires the abolishment of programs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with fewer than 10 graduates per year and, while this bill might reduce the budget costs of the University in the short term, it's effect to the overall quality of life on our island home will be negatively impacted. Many of the programs on the list provide specialized education to individuals who will add to the cultural value of the state and their worth cannot be determined monetarily. A number of the proposed programs to be cut are in the Humanities and one can argue that a clear understanding of the Humanities is key enriching the human experience, expanding cultural awareness, and building a strong economy.

Economically, the development of culture has been tied to the strength of local economies. Richard Florida, in his important work, "The Rise of the Creative Class: And How It's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community, and Everyday Life," writes about how a strong cultural class attracts top talent to cities and in turn allows the cities to prosper economically. I have personal experience watching this theory in action as Indianapolis used many of Florida's ideas in the mid 2000s. By investing in culture and the arts the city attracted top talent and professional artists/creatives flourished. Currently Forbes lists Indianapolis as the #22 in Best Places for Business and Careers and #46 for job growth. Honolulu ranks much poorer at #97 in Best Places for Business and Careers and #66 in Job Growth. I believe Hawai'i can learn much from Richard Florida's important research.

Rather than cut smaller programs whose value can not be determined in short term economics, why does the committee not recommend better fiscal oversight on programs like the Cancer Center and/or Athletics program? These programs have proven to be a drain on academic initiatives at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at UHM. In addition, the University of Hawai'i is extremely bloated with unnecessary upper administrative positions that can easily be trimmed without diminishing the educational experience of students. These are areas the committee should be researching rather than attempting to cut smaller programs.

Therefore, I urge the committee to oppose HB 555 and to look for other solutions to the budget crisis at the University of Hawai'i.

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 9:29 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** ryanozawa@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ryan                | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: We cannot seriously be considering cutting small academic programs that contribute to the diversity of our community before considering cutting massive, unprofitable sports programs first.

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**LATE**

My name is Ryota Iwasaki and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing this testimony to strongly oppose to HB555. I am aware that UHM is under financial challenges and difficulties, but cutting degrees and cutting funds for the education for students are not the solutions.

If HB555 is passed it would get rid of five language departments from the university. What makes the University of Hawaii at Manoa appealing and unique is the fact that UHM has a variety of departments and fields. HB555 will not only removes departments but also removes its uniqueness that contributes to students' educational opportunities to learn and find their passion.

Instead of cutting departments and funds, UHM can do things like turning off lights off in the building at night because lights are still on at night even though nobody is using the room or the entire building. UHM can also close gym for specific day to save money.

Respectively,

Ryota Iwasaki

**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:40 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** afewpennies@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sarah Gibson        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: The arts are an indispensable contribution that helps maintain a vibrant society.

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:20 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** madan2@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sasha Madan         | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

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**ichiyama2-Brandon**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 11:08 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** yumi.chastain@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB555 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*



**HB555**

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yumi Chastain       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

**Comments:**

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**LATE**

Aloha,

My name is Blythe Stephens and I am graduate student pursuing a Master of Fine Arts Dance Choreography and Performance. I strongly oppose House Bill 555. Not only would this bill affect students such as myself, but the repercussions will also be felt throughout our department, the other departments under fire, University community and all throughout our island communities and beyond. In fact, I believe that such a measure would ultimately be disastrous to the University, both financially and educationally.

Without these 33 programs, the University of Hawai'i Systems will be left at risk of losing its accreditation. This potential loss will be detrimental to the future of education in Hawai'i. And where does that leave the current students, graduating classes, and alumni? Further, part of the University's responsibility is to perpetuate these fields of study, such as Pacific Island Studies- where else can students obtain such a rich education in unique areas such as this?

Long-term effects of this bill could include more local students choosing to pursue collegiate degrees off island and fewer students being drawn to UH from the mainland and internationally. This in turn, will lower the number of students attending UH Systems, leaving its mark on the quality of life for current residents and the future of Hawai'i's economy.

Respectfully, the University leadership and Board should remain in control of what programs and services need to be reduced to meet our budget, not sweeping legislation. For me, one of the great draws to the University of Hawai'i was the diversity of its academic programs and students. Certainly I would not be here if the dance programs were cut (and I took 11 undergraduate courses alongside my graduate coursework to meet prerequisite deficiencies).

Thank you for your time and consideration of the abominable loss that cutting these programs would create.

Mahalo Nui Loa, Blythe

Blythe Stephens

**LATE**

As an Assistant Professor of Classics at UH Manoa—one of the programs that would be cut by HB 555—I want to state my strong opposition to the bill, which is reckless in its over-simplicity and will certainly have a negative impact on the students who attend the University of Hawaii.

HB 555 adopts the simplest possible standard for measuring the quality of programs—the number of degree recipients per year—while ignoring a number of other important factors. A few things to consider might be:

\*\* The ratio of instructional staff to yearly graduates. In academic year 2013-14, 5 students received a B.A. in Classics. Classics has 4 full-time faculty, resulting in a faculty-to-graduate ratio of 1:1.25. It should also be noted we expect this ratio to improve and that stronger ratios exist in departments that are “on the chopping block”, e.g. French (1:1.5), Russian (1:2). One finds lower ratios in several departments with supposedly larger graduation “rates”, e.g. music (1:.88); women’s studies (1:1.625); chemistry (1:1.625); philosophy (1:1.38). This is just a random sample, but it clearly shows that, if one is only concerned with financials, it makes more sense to eliminate these larger programs, which graduate students at comparable or less efficient rates than smaller programs.

\*\* The contribution of small programs to general education and, hence, to time-to-degree. To again use Classics as an example, although relatively few students received a Classics B.A., in AY 2013-14, the Classics program offered some of the largest classes in the College of LLL and the University, including World Myth (92 students), and 2 semesters of Greek and Roman Myth (approximately 75 students per course). Furthermore, these and other classes offered in Classics fulfill basic graduation requirements (FG, DL, WI). Such classes are in low-supply at UHM and eliminating programs that offer them will harm students by extending time-to-degree.

\*\* Small-programs contribute efficiently to the rich, diverse education offered at UH. If HB 555 is passed, it would completely eliminate Classics, German, Russian, French, the many languages taught within IPLL, among other programs. Let us imagine the consequences if Classics were cut. Neither Latin nor Greek would be taught. Nor would students be able to take classes in-translation in which Homer, Sophocles, Plato, Virgil, or Ovid were read. If this were the case, UH would scarcely be able to call itself a university, so greatly would the education it offers be diminished.

**LATE**

As an alumna of University of Hawaii at Manoa, I strongly oppose HB555. I graduated in Spring 2013 after double-majoring in French and Dance. I can attest to the quality of these undergraduate programs and how much they, along with the other programs at risk, encourage the diversity of the student population to flourish. If these 30 undergraduate programs were to be eliminated, the repercussions would not only affect the past, current and future students but the entire university community and the islands of Hawaii as well. I firmly believe that education is power; investment in these programs will allow for our generation to make positive changes to our world. To prevent this from happening would be such a foolish act and a step in the wrong direction. Without these key programs that enhance the pursuit of knowledge of diverse cultures, what will remain is a university without any value or appeal. Enrollment will drop drastically and the future of Hawaii's economy will suffer as a result. I strongly urge the legislators to explore other options to address the budget crisis issue, as HB555 is NOT the solution.



**LATE**

## *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)

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House Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
February 5, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

### **TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITON TO HB 555**

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education  
From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDA, President, NAMI

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am submitting our strong opposition to 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 community research partners and mentors with University of Hawaii Filipino students who are first to go to college in their family, low income, and under-represented in higher education, NAMI has seen firsthand the successful track record of student achievement. We are outraged that academic freedom is being threatened and justified by fiscal measures on the backs of students and parents. Philippine Language and Literature majors, for example, should be retained. Health disparities persist, partly because of significant factors such as lack of cultural competency and language barriers of doctors and the health care system. This demonstrates that critical thinking is needed, in addition to bookkeeping, to assess cost savings measures and the value of academic offerings at UH. Rep. Choy, please look beyond dismantling degree programs and ruining accreditation for UH departments.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to strongly oppose passage of this harmful bill.

Sincerely,

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

# Filipino American Citizens League

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

House Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
February 5, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

**LATE**

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITON TO HB 555

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education  
From: Jake Manegdeg, President

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong,  
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti, 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 Maegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and House Committee on Higher Education Members:

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our strong opposition to 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.

Our Coalition is enraged that your focus on academic degree programs for cost savings and best management practices threatens the academic freedom within our University of Hawai'i system. To ask our students and families to pay more for a college education in exchange for less is incomprehensible.

Your time in the House Committee on Higher Education would be better spent figuring out how to ensure accountability in basic UH contracts to protect our students and tax payers from "Stevie Wonder Blunders" and UH officials who leave their jobs with millions in their pockets and a big mess that hinders student achievement. Don't pick on students. Instead, draft policies to save UH money from hundreds of thousands of dollars in preventable litigation.

Thank you for the opportunity to tell you this bill is wrong-headed and should be opposed.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

**LATE**

To: House Committee on Higher Education  
Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair  
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Re: Opposition to HB555 Relating to the University of Hawaii

My name is Katie Pham and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing in strong opposition of bill HB555 which wants to abolish undergraduate degree-granting programs that graduates less than 10 graduates per year. The bill might save the university money, but it will also hurt the student body academically, as cutting four language and literature programs (French, German, Classics, Russian) will affect graduation rate. The bill is ignoring the fact that students need to fulfill a language requirement up to the intermediate level to graduate, and that all classes offered by these departments are filled every semester. Another aspect that the bill is ignoring is that since we are an accredited research university, cutting programs could hurt us financially as well, for we might lose grants and even accreditation. I am writing in support of striking down this bill HB555. Please preserve the educational opportunities of Hawaii students and the breadth of knowledge offered at the University of Hawaii.

Sincerely,  
Katie Pham

**LATE**

I am a teacher as well as a former student in one of the University of Hawaii programs that is being targeted to be abolished by HB555. Please reconsider taking away the educational opportunities that were available for me, it isn't fair that a student cannot choose to pursue a degree because only X amount of people graduate from the program. Cutting back on the number of programs will only hinder the diversity of students' backgrounds. Students should be graduating from the University of Hawaii with degrees in a wide array of subjects because they are the next generation of Hawaii's workforce. This idea of abolishing programs based on the number of graduates is a short term solution to a long term problem.

**LATE**

OPPOSE

I am a graduate of the UH system and I strongly oppose this bill.

- I and many of my classmates took classes outside of our home departments, including departments that I worry could be cut under the provisions of this bill.
- This exposed us to a range of scholars/scholarship that I had not even considered or known about beforehand. This kind of professional breadth at the university is one of the ways that an in-state school like UH can stand among some of the larger, better organized, and more fiscally responsible institutions on the mainland. I was able to attend UH without feeling like I had sacrificed the quality or range of educational possibilities.
- Given that the mission of the university is an educational one, it is **very** problematic that departments (and consequently the professors within) are on the chopping block. It is also unclear/unknown what efforts have been made to reduce those administrative, legal, and other costs not directly related to the role of teaching students.
- Perhaps the state of affairs that results in repeated occurrences of notoriously expensive contract payouts for high-level administrative/sports-related employees should be further examined before we consider cutting off the people who actually do the teaching at the university.
- The faculty, student, or joint faculty-student organizations on campus would be excellent parties to consult about what those who provide/consume educational services see as potential and effective ways to go forward.

Thank you.



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION \* HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE

IN RE: House Bill 555 \* 05 February, 2015

**LATE**

I am Stephen O'Harrow, Coördinator of the Vietnamese Language and Literature program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. My undergraduate degree is from the University of Michigan in Far Eastern Languages & Literatures, my master's degree is from the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, and my doctorate is from the Sorbonne [the University of Paris]. I have taught at UHM since the fall of 1968 and I am the senior member of the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages & Literatures.

My testimony to the House Committee on Higher Education, with regard to House Bill 555 will be short and to the point. The gist of my testimony is that the bill in question, while probably well-intentioned and concerned to increase efficiency in a time of budget shortfall, has been drafted without adequate information as to how instructional programs at the University of Hawai'i inter-relate and how graduation rates in any single program are not, in and of themselves, accurate indicators of educational effectiveness or fiscal efficiency, when considering the overall BA/BS graduation rates at the university as a whole.

For a total of ten years, 1997-2003 and 2010-2014, I was Director of Southeast Asian Studies at UHM. I was in charge of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies [CSEAS], which is a federally-designated and largely federally-funded "National Resource Center." It is one of only seven such centers in the United States and it is the largest and most comprehensive center in America for the study of Southeast Asia. I am sure the committee members are aware that our state has very significant populations, Filipinos and Vietnamese for example, with deep ancestral and cultural roots in Southeast Asia and those populations are well-represented among out UHM student cohort.

CSEAS attracts approximately \$2.5 million in federal funding on a quadrennial basis, the vast majority of which goes for student scholarships. However, no federal funding is available to any center at any university that does not demonstrate a commitment to teaching the languages of the world region in question. That means, in the case of UHM, that we teach languages such as Vietnamese, Filipino, Cambodian, Indonesian and Thai as not only a matter of wishing to maintain our status as one of the top institutions in America for the study of Asia, but also because if we did not do so, we would not be eligible for federal funding. However, with the exception of Filipino & Ilokano, these languages are taught as a part of what is essentially a service program and only lead to a very few BA degrees in those subjects each year as a liberal studies option – ten BAs *per annum* have never been produced in my rather long career. Indeed, many of the languages that are taught at UHM [the university with one of the largest selection of foreign language offerings in the country, backed up by a world-class Department of Linguistics and what is widely recognized as the top-rated Department of Second Language Studies in the world] do not graduate 10 BAs per year, but without them, other programs that do graduate 10+ *p.a.* and several federal centers would be out of business.

In addition, as I am sure the Committee on Higher Education is fully aware, UHM has a two-year foreign language requirement for graduation in all subjects in the Arts & Sciences and a number of other fields, as well. The effect of HB 555 would be to eliminate most of the options students have for fulfilling that requirement and lead to their taking much longer than four year to finish their undergraduate education, if at all. And our position as a leader in Asian Studies would cease to exist.

Thank you for your attention to my testimony on HB 555.

**LATE**

**Testimony Regarding House Bill 555, February 5, 2015  
Hawai'i State Legislature, House Committee on Higher Education**

My name is Andy Sutton and I have been Dean of the School of Pacific and Asian Studies at UH Mānoa since moving back to Hawai'i in 2013 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I taught for 31 years and served three terms as the Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. I received my M.A. degree at UHM in 1975 and PhD at the University of Michigan in 1982. I was drawn to do my MA at UHM because of its excellent reputation in Asian Studies across many departments, and to accept my current position here because of the consistent level of excellence in Asian Studies for which UHM is rightly recognized across the U.S. and internationally.

My testimony today regards House Bill 555. As a dean, I am well aware of the need to scrutinize every corner of our budget for potential savings. I do so regularly and relentlessly. I understand that the measures proposed in Bill 555 are intended to help the UHM in its efforts to trim costs, but the effect of its adoption would do a disservice to our current students, deter the interest of potential future students, and severely damage our reputation in Asian Studies, which depend very directly on our treasure of faculty excellence in Asian literature and language instruction—areas of excellence touted prominently in our UHM mission and vision statements.

Most directly, the offering of multiple years of instruction in Asian languages, including the small-enrollment languages such as Thai and Vietnamese, for example, is an absolute requirement in the national competition for funds from the U.S. Dept. of Education, which recognizes top universities with generous grants for student fellowships ("Foreign Language Area Studies" Fellowships) and area studies centers ("National Resource Centers") serving their universities, local communities, and national outreach. Applications in East Asian Studies, Southeast Asian Studies, and Pacific Islands Studies from my school won all six grants applied for—each received funding as an NRC for the next four years (2014-2018) and each received funding for FLAS Fellowships for the same period. Seen from the standpoint of student enrollment in individual language courses or number of student majors, the offering of some languages naturally looks less cost-effective than large-enrollment classes and programs. However, the net economic value for the UHM is substantial (leaving aside the larger issues of intellectual value, the need to educate global citizens, the future edge that foreign language ability provides in the globalized economy, among others). From the U.S. Dept. of Education grants alone UHM is receiving \$1,766,750 this year and for the four-year cycle (2014-2018) a total of \$7,067,000. Without the language offerings, this figure would be 0.

Our excellence in Asian languages and Asian Studies are also the reason for our ongoing success in fund-raising from private donors and public and private foundations in the U.S. and across Asia. I urge the House to consider seriously the damaging impact the adoption of Bill 555 would have on our great university.

**LATE**

Aloha,

My name is Zack Pilien, home is Kāne`ohe, and I am currently a student at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa studying Plant and Environment Protection Sciences, one of the departments which has been proposed to be abolished by this bill. The University of Hawai`i system was founded on agriculture, a history and tradition which is carried on through departments such as Plant and Environment Protection Sciences and Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences. These fields focus particularly on local environment and agriculture which are still important topics in Hawai`i today, particularly for moving towards greater sustainability in the islands. We cannot expect to become sustainable without providing our communities with the education and skills to do so. I would have never remained at the University to pursue my bachelor's degree if I had not found my current major, and the same goes for many other students currently attending the University of Hawai`i. Keeping these majors is important for keeping those prospective students who are searching for something they would like to study and may choose not to attend the University of Hawai`i if they cannot find anything of interest to them. I found my passion in my major and to take away these majors means robbing someone's ability to find their passion in studying at this University. These are fields and degrees which are unique to Hawai`i and hold knowledge and tradition which are specific to local life. Abolishing these majors can only be detrimental to the University system and to the local communities who will be deprived of this knowledge and these educational opportunities.

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 555

Submitted by Dr. Jeffrey Boeckman, Assistant Professor of Music at UH-Mānoa  
To the House of Representatives Higher Education Committee  
On this Thursday, February 5, 2015, 2:00pm, Conference Room 309

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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Honorable Higher Education Committee,

My name is Jeffrey Boeckman. I am Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, where I direct the UH Bands program.

I am grateful to Chairman Choy and the Higher Education Committee for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 555, which was introduced just last week.

I teach courses in the music education program, and am very concerned about HB 555, which proposes to abolish any undergraduate degree-granting program at the UH-Mānoa, UH-Hilo, or UH-West Oahu that graduates less than ten students per academic year.

I will limit my testimony to the Secondary Education program, which provides the necessary licensure (as required by the Department of Education) for public school teaching. This bill would abolish ten content concentrations, including. Following the logic of this bill to its end, beginning in 2017, UH-Mānoa's College of Education will graduate no more credentialed teachers in English, Mathematics, Japanese, or Music for our public schools.

The Secondary Education program in the College of Education offers multiple content concentrations, including Biology, General Science, and Physical Education. Students in these diverse areas come from their area majors (where they take the majority of their courses) to the Secondary Education program for general education courses common to all areas (such as Multicultural Education and Psychological Foundations). This is actually a very cost-effective way of offering these common core courses. Enrollment for these courses includes students from all content concentrations, not just Psychology, or French.

If each department were required to offer these general education courses in house – that is, in their own department – lecturer costs would skyrocket. Small, duplicate courses in secondary education would need to be offered in all ten affected departments for their own secondary education students.

More, these larger secondary education courses offer students from diverse fields an interdisciplinary model of education. They encourage an exchange of perspectives and ideas from different areas, which educational research has demonstrated is critical to student learning and retention.

The UH system is in muddy financial waters, and I am confident the UH faculty would be very grateful for the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the Higher Education Committee to explore our budget shortfalls. If there is one thing professors enjoy doing, it's professing. But I must express my opposition to this bill. It imperils too many important programs, and risks jeopardizing middle and high school teaching throughout the state.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer testimony on this important issue.

House Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
February 5, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITON TO HB 555

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Private Citizen  
728 Nunu St., Kailua, HI 96734

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair Isaac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and House Committee on Higher Education Members:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. I strongly oppose this bill. I am testifying as a private citizen, but I belong to various Filipino organizations and work at the University of Hawai'i in the office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity. I also served as an appointee to the Board of Education by former Gov. Neil Abercrombie.

What is the price of academic freedom during prosperous and austere economic times? Please do not dismantle academic programs with an "uku comb" designed to cull out one-dimensional numbers that do not reflect the value of scholarly work and knowledge that bears significantly on understanding and addressing the complex and urgent challenges facing our civil society.

Over 43 years ago as a University of Hawai'i undergraduate, I participated in my first civil disobedience act, when students, faculty and community supporters conducted a sit-in inside the office of the University of Hawai'i president. Our purpose was to save the UH Ethnic Studies Program from the budget chopping block and save the Ilokano language program. We also marched from UH Manoa to the state capitol with our demands. At the time, I was a student in the first Ilokano class ever offered by UH, a Filipino Ethnic Studies class, and a Filipino American Studies class. Student choices for a mandatory language requirement were limited to euro-centric languages and courses like Latin, French and German, Japanes, Chinese and Spanish, but no Philippine languages. While Filipinos comprised the third largest ethnic group then, there were less than 3 percent Filipinos enrolled at UH Manoa.

I respectfully caution you to consider not falling into the unintentional logic of institutional racist policies, under the "good intention" forced by the arm of fiscal stewardship of limited resources. It is unethical and unjust to tamper with academic freedom by keeping students from learning their language, culture, heritage and literature. In the past, mainly Euro-centric language classes were offered to students like me, with no Philippine language or Native Hawaiian classes, even though Filipinos and Native Hawaiians comprised the largest number in Hawai'i public schools.

Fiscal formulas like the ones proposed in this bill do not address education disparities, nor do they offer a capacity building model of prosperity for generating revenue or avoiding skyrocketing litigious cases related to misguided UH executives. I am not an accountant, but the solution, I believe, lies in empowering our system for student achievement and protecting academic freedom from budget cuts. Thank you for the opportunity to oppose HB 555.

Respectfully,  
Charlene Cuaresma

**LATE**

My name is Leora Kava - I am a second year graduate student at the UH Mānoa Center for the Pacific Islands Studies. In pursuing my graduate studies, I applied to UH Mānoa - and UH Mānoa only - in order to have the privilege of being part of the Pacific Islands Studies department at this university. Without the space of the Center, its work with undergraduate and graduate students, as well as its dedication to the communities in Hawai‘i and the greater Pacific, I would not be the person I am today. I graduated from Brown University with a degree in East Asian Studies in 2012, and admittedly, was undecided as to my future endeavors after my undergraduate work. However, after reading about the work of the Pacific Islands Studies department, its legacy in Hawai‘i, and its dedication to service and engagement with the broader Pacific, I found my path and my purpose. Having a place at UH Mānoa where I could study and serve my Tongan communities, while also engaging with the culture, histories and wisdoms of the Kanaka Maoli, has been a defining aspect of my academic and personal life.

With humility, I would remind my university leaders and legislators present here today, of the ultimate foundation of a university. The fundamental ideal that grounds the space of a university is the diversity in, and access to, knowledge. Integral to any university is the implementation, integration, and celebration of all forms of knowledge - and here I refer specifically to the knowledges - or “majors” - that would be potentially abolished from my campus. How can one consider abolishing a form of knowledge? How can one consider abolishing a diversity of knowledge, which by its very nature, is the foundation of a university?

The majors that are considered to be “losing money” - as this bill states - are not a detriment to this university. Ethnic studies, Pacific Islands studies, geology, geophysics, French, German, Russian - to name just a few - would be considered for “abolish[ment]” from the UH system under the parameters of this bill. They would be abolished because of their lack of relevance to the university and the wider community based on a measure of relevance measured in how many students graduate in these majors every 3 years. I believe these majors are being considered disposable because we are losing sight of what the university is meant to be. In essence, we are allowing ourselves to measure the value of opportunity and access to knowledge in terms of money. I believe we can all agree that the value of knowledge and access can never be measured, by money, or by any other means.

The access to a path of study, and the opportunity to graduate with a degree in a field of your choice, is of immense and vital importance. It is the underlying foundation of a university, reminding our current students, and - I believe more importantly - the generations of students who will consider and attend the University of Hawai‘i that they are not, and will not, be limited. There is a pride and privilege in holding a degree that you have worked toward for so long, even if you are the only one who represents that knowledge as you walk across the stage at graduation.

I want my university leaders and the legislators present here, to consider the overall damage that will be done if a precedent is set with the signing of this bill. A precedent that says the diversity of and access to knowledge at the University of Hawai‘i is contingent upon an arbitrary number of graduates every few years. How many graduates does it take to measure the value of knowledge? How many are students are we willing to limit with the erasure of an opportunity?

Furthermore, what are we telling our students and future generations about how knowledge is valued - indeed, how the minds and well-being of our students are valued - should this bill pass?

I stand in full opposition HB 555, and hope that the leaders of my university and the legislators present here will do the right thing and stand in solidarity with the students, professors, staff and community

members who value the diversity and access to knowledge at the University of Hawai'i. Let us uphold the ideal of this university and hold on to the diversity of opportunity in knowledge at UH.