



Date: Tuesday February 3, 2015

Time: 2:00pm

Place: Conference Room 309

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

Re: Support of HB 811 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Michelle Tigchelaar, and I am writing on behalf and as the President of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Graduate Student Organization (GSO). The GSO represents the approximately 5,000 graduate students at the UHM campus. I am writing in support of HB 811, which appropriates moneys for two full-time time equivalent graduate assistant positions at the Hawai'i educational policy center (HEPC) at the University of Hawai'i.

HEPC provides research and analyses to UH and the State of Hawai'i that can aid them in making data-driven decisions. For example, HEPC recently conducted a student survey on student tuition, debt, and cost of living in Hawai'i. The study showed that financial reasons increasingly drive students' decisions to leave the university. This kind of information is crucial for the state legislators and UH administrators who set the university's budget and tuition levels. Funding two graduate assistant positions at HEPC will therefore add support to this important research center, while at the same time providing additional funding and learning opportunities to two graduate students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB811.

Sincerely,

Michelle Tigchelaar
UH Mānoa Graduate Student Organization, President

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HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER TESTIMONY

**Presented by Jim Shon, Director
Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center
February 3, 2015**

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair
Tuesday February 3, 2015 2:00 pm, Room 309

RE HB 811 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

HEPC APPRECIATES LEGISLATIVE INTEREST EDUCATIONAL POLICY

HEPC does not have a sustainable source of funding within the University. How or if the University or Legislature chooses to fund or not fund the center is a decision for others to make. However, in the past the excellent work of graduate students has provided an energetic, professional, and highly motivated “staff” for the center.

HEPC believes this bill serves two purposes: first, to support graduate students, many of whom struggle with the cost of attendance and future debt. Second, to create a form of sustainable staff for the center. HEPC would have no objections to this approach.

In the last year, our Ph.D. student, Ms. Shannon Hillman, has made significant contributions to HEPC studies on English Language Learners, UH tuition issues, UH student views on tuition, school empowerment, and other issues. In addition, she also manages the HEPC web page.

HEPC focuses on public educational policy that is data driven, research based, and thoughtfully implemented. Generally, we try to avoid advocacy. In order to assist you in addressing the subject of this bill, please see the following summary of HEPC.

What is HEPC?

The Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) is an independent policy research organization created in 1999 by the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa.

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (RCUH) serves as the fiscal body for HEPC and administers funds on its behalf. The responsible UH administrator is the Dean of the College of Education. While RCUH serves as the administrative home for HEPC, it cannot accept funds directly. Supporting funds for HEPC are transferred to RCUH as they become available. In past years HEPC received funding from the College of Education and

contracts from agencies seeking to use its services. Currently, HEPC does not have a sustainable source of funds or contracts.

HEPC's Mission

- Provide timely, concise, relevant and objective policy briefs, reports, articles, studies, forums, and workshops that reflect the needs and requests of Hawai'i policy makers.
- Become a trusted partner with policymakers in efforts to understand, nurture, improve, and adopt the best and most appropriate policies for our life-long learners in Hawai'i.

HEPC Assumptions

- There are numerous educational studies, theories and information that need to be analyzed and evaluated for quality and application to Hawai'i's situation, policies and practices.
- There are important information and research gaps that need to be filled.
- HEPC can make a difference in Hawai'i's education system. Through a network of researchers, educators and institutional collaborators, HEPC complements existing efforts and provides timely and targeted information to assist lawmakers, administrators, and educators in their educational decision-making.

How Does HEPC Serve Policymakers?

- Works with policymakers to identify what information they need.
- Reviews, collects and distributes information on existing research on issues relevant to Hawai'i.
- Provides concise, objective, independent analysis of research.
- Provides timely, targeted, interpreted data, briefings and testimony for policymakers.
- Maintains a website with links to cutting-edge research and policy.
- Commissions a range of policy briefs, articles, studies and reports that generate new knowledge and insights that inform policy decisions.
- Conducts, facilitates, and participates in educational forums and workshops.

Initiates research on emerging and enduring issues that affect the quality of schools and the quality of learning.

Recent Policy Work

In the last year, HEPC has produced policy studies on English Language Learners, University of Hawai'i tuition issues, and school empowerment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this brief overview of HEPC, and to support our graduate students.

HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER
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<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/hepc/>

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 9:49 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: afterschoolart@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB811 on Feb 3, 2015 14:00PM

HB811

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 3, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bob Grossmann	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Given the appropriations to the UH and DOE, funding independent analysis justifies this investment in research staff.

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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LATE

Testimony for Public Hearing

Mary Chang
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Honolulu, HI 96848

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair

DATE: Tuesday, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 309

RE HB 811 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Position: **In Strong Support**

Dear Members of the Committee on Higher Education: I am writing to testify **in strong support** of HB 811.

As a current University of Hawai'i student, I consider the intent and scope of HB 811 to be a beneficial contribution to our educational community. Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) conducts research that is critical to understanding the impact of educational endeavors and programs. They have a broad scope of work including research on issues related to Common Core, early learning, STEM, tuition, among many others that are relevant not only to students but the public as well. They conduct research within a broad range of levels as well, such as K-12 and higher education.

Support for two new graduate assistant positions would help HEPC not only sustain research in its current areas of interest but also more robustly encourage and support new initiatives such as exploring civic education in Hawai'i. It would also be an excellent way to support graduate students (financially and experientially) to complete their studies by providing them opportunities to analyze and learn about a wide range of educational issues and policy-making.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this bill, and continue to help HEPC pursue its mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Mary Chang
2/1/15