



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 2:00 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman
Chancellor

and

Lori Ideta, Ed.D.
Interim Vice Chancellor for Students,
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 843 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of HB 843, which would provide resources for the system wide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. The word "Pamantasan" is a Filipino word meaning "higher education". The Pamantasan Council, established in 1987, is open to all students, administrators, faculty and staff from the various UH campuses.

The Pamantasan Council addresses issues of representation, curriculum and research, partnerships with public schools, universities in the Philippines and other states, workforce development and community services. The Council holds annual and periodic workshops to identify priority issues and needs consistent with the University's commitment to access and diversity. On February 20, 2015, West O'ahu campus will be the host campus for the annual conference. Even with limited resources, the Pamantasan Council has successfully supported University initiatives including the Maui College exchange agreement with Philippine Universities, the Leeward Community College Sulong Aral federal transfer project, and the recent hiring of a UH Hilo Philippine Studies faculty member.

The Pamantasan Council needs resources to implement (a) recommendations of the 2008 SCR 120 report to the Legislature regarding Philippine language courses, teacher training and certification; and (b) Pamantasan conference recommendations such as developing courses for articulation between community colleges and 4-year campuses. With additional funding and positions, UH and the Pamantasan Council can provide necessary expertise and energy to increase the University's national leadership in Philippine Studies (UH Mānoa and Leeward CC are leaders in offering academic programs). In addition the appropriated funds will be used to support on-going recruitment and retention efforts (federal programs such as GEAR UP at Waipahu high school) to increase the number and success of Filipinos at each campus, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs, faculty, staff and administrators. Also,

the funds will expand the curricular content on Philippine language, Philippine Studies and Filipino American Hawaii ethnic studies, which at this time are very limited or not available at the various campuses.

HB 843 includes information on recent census, UH and DOE data on Filipinos (second largest group in the state and the department of education) and their under-representation among college graduates, and current UH students, staff and faculty. The University thanks the Legislature for introducing this bill and for its continuing support for access and diversity.

The University supports the intent of HB 843 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pamantasan Executive Council

DATE: January 29, 2015

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Rep. Choy, Chair
Rep. Ichiyama, Vice-Chair

FROM: Christine Quemuel, University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council
(808) 956-8059

RE: Supporting HB 843, Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Tuesday February 3, 2015, 2:00 pm, room 309

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Higher Education hearing on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 in strong support of HB 843 relating to the University of Hawai'i, to provide resources for the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai'i and the largest immigrant group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education.

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

Funding for Pamantasan positions and projects will ensure that the state champions educational equity and diversity in higher education. We thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for their continued commitment to diversity to ensure that underrepresented communities in Hawai'i are supported. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support HB 843, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

Pamantasan Council members:

Amy Agbayani, Director, Student Equity, Excellence & Diversity, UH Mānoa
Aurelio Agcaoili, Ilokano Languages and Literatures, UH Mānoa
Patricio Abinales, Acting Director, Center for Philippine Studies, UH Mānoa
Erica Balbag-Gerard, Academic Counselor, Honolulu Community College
Jason Cifra, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Hawai'i Community College
Rodney Jubilado, Philippine Studies, UH Hilo
Ramona Kincaid, University Center and Academic Support, Kaua'i Community College
Roderick Labrador, Ethnic Studies, UH Mānoa
Ernest Libarios, Sr., Counseling and Advising, Leeward Community College
Ernest Niki Libarios, Jr., College of Education, UH Mānoa
Raymund Liongson, Philippine Studies, Leeward Community College
Christine Quemuel, Women's Center, UH Mānoa

Filipino American Citizens League

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

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
February 3, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 843

Appropriates \$225,000 in general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity.

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. Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair; and House Committee Members:

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

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

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

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

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

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 843

Submitted by Kabataang maka-Bayan, Pro-People Youth O'ahu

2:00PM

House Conference Room 309

To: 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. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

From: Kabataang maka-Bayan, Pro-People Youth O'ahu - Joseph-Lorenzo Manalo Gorre, Vice Chairperson

Re: Testimony for HB 843: University of Hawai'i; Appropriation; Hawai'i Pamantasan Council. Appropriates an unspecified amount in general funds for positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity.

We are Kabataang maka-Bayan, Pro-People Youth O'ahu (KmB), a progressive student and youth organization accountable to our community. KmB strives to unite and empower the youth of Hawai'i to be a voice for our communities and to realize their capacity to incite change by providing resources to educate and mobilize their peers around sociopolitical issues.

We believe education to be a crucial means for equity. We envision our communities rooted in our histories and committed to caring for the land and people of Hawai'i and the Pacific. Filipinos along with other Pacific Islanders are largely marginalized, underrepresented, and even misrepresented in higher education. This marginalization parallels our positionality within the socioeconomic strata of Hawai'i. Limited access to higher education has historically and continuously debilitated our community's capacity for collective upward social mobility. Thus, access to and diversity in higher education institutions like the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa are necessary, as they foster academic and personal development for Filipino youth.

Appropriate funding is an essential step in the establishment of adequate representation of Filipinos and other Pacific Islanders in higher education, and in the creation of equitable and viable opportunities for our people.

We thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for their continued commitment to diversity to ensure that underrepresented communities in Hawai'i are supported. As Filipino youth of Hawai'i, we strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support HB 843, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

Sincerely,

Joseph-Lorenzo Manalo Gorre

Vice Chairperson

Kabataang maka-Bayan, Pro-People Youth O'ahu



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

*Bea Ramos-Razon, RN,
FACDONA
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Edel Matias, RN, CM

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Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

February 3, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 843

Appropriates \$225,000 in general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity.

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: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, President, NAMI

Dear Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair; Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair;
and Senate Committee Members:

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

As 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. Funding for the Pamantasan Council will ensure there is an infrastructure at UH that will more than return our investment today for a thriving professional work force tomorrow to benefit all of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

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

Date: January 29, 2015

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Rep. Issac W. Choy, Chair
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

From: Leslie Cabingabang, University of Hawai'i Alumni

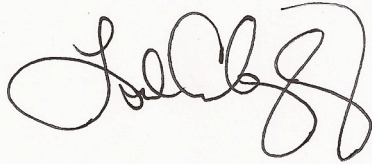
Re: HB 843: Relating to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council

I am a proud Filipina, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa alumni and currently work as a faculty specialist in student affairs. I write in strong support of HB 843 which would provide resources for the system-wide Pamantasan Council.

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

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

I thank the House for introducing HB 843 and hope that through its passage, Filipino students and faculty can continue to thrive in higher education. I support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Council. I strongly encourage the passage of this bill.



Leslie D. Cabingabang

Date: February 02, 2015

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

From: Sabrina Fallejo

Re: Testimony In Support of HB 843
Relating to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council

I am a proud Filipina, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa current graduate student, alumni, and currently work as the Judicial Affairs Operations Coordinator at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I write in strong support of HB 843 which would provide funding and resources for the UH system-wide Pamantasan Executive Council.

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

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

I thank the House for introducing HB 843 and hope that through its passage, Filipina/o students faculty, and staff can continue to thrive in higher education. I strongly support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Executive Council.

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

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

DATE: February 2, 2015

TO: 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. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

FROM: Ashley Galacgac, Research Fellow
Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training
University of Hawai'i Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity
2600 Campus Road QLCSS Rm. 413
Honolulu, HI 96822

Subject: Supporting HB843, Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Meeting: February 3, 2015, 2:00 pm, House Conference Room 309

My name is Ashley Galacgac. I write to you in strong support of HB843. I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) and currently a graduate student in Educational Foundations and a Research Fellow of a student mentoring program at UHM Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity program. I have received an invaluable education from UHM.

Pamantasan Council has contributed to my academic and personal journey at UHM. Born and raised in Hawai'i, my ancestors are migrants from the Philippines. The opportunity to learn the Ilokano language and to take Filipino culture and history classes allowed me to strengthen ties with my family, peers, and the greater community in Hawai'i. This learning extended beyond the classroom into my co-curricular activities in student-led organizations that partnered with non-profits and schools in Kalihi and Waipahu. These organizations provided support at UH where Filipinos are underrepresented. I am indebted to the Pamantasan Council who mentored and nurtured the growth of many young people. They have provided tools necessary to navigate college and provided preparation to take on professional and leadership roles on campus, in the work force, and in the community. I have attended the annual Pamantasan Conference where I am reminded who I am accountable to. This accountability guides all that I do as an aspiring educator committed to access and diversity in education for underrepresented communities.

In closing, thank you for your time and allowing me to express my support of HB843. It is my hope that with the passing of HB843, the work to support Filipinos and other underrepresented groups succeed in higher education will continue. I believe it is important to build the leadership capacity of emerging Filipino youth leaders, like myself and my peers, who want to contribute to the prosperity for all communities in Hawai'i.

Aloha,
Ashley Marie Ancheta Galacgac

January 29, 2015

Testimony

HB 843: Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

To whom it may concern,

As a Filipino who graduated from Leeward Community College, the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UH Manoa), and as a current faculty member at UH Manoa, I strongly write in support of HB 843 that will provide resources to support the University of Hawai'i system wide Pamantasan Council.

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

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

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

Filipinos have a rich and valuable history in Hawai'i and those with the desire and capacity to succeed in higher education need to be supported. With their ever growing numbers, all of Hawai'i will benefit through the work of the Pamantasan Council to improve the condition of Filipinos.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,

Niki Libarios, Ph.D.

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 843 Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

February 3, 2015, 2:00 pm
Hawai`i State Legislature
Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 309

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

From: Agnes Malate, MEd
armalate@yahoo.com

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in strong support of House Bill 843 to fund four full-time positions for the system-wide Pamantasan Council, including instructional faculty, student personnel, and graduate assistantships. I am a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action and a Faculty Specialist at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa (UHM). I have devoted my career to increasing diversity in higher education and the health field and I am currently pursuing a PhD in Educational Foundations at the UHM.

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

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

In recent years, the UH institutional support for Filipino students and scholarship had languished. As the second largest ethnic group in Hawai`i, it is critical that attention be given to the challenges faced by this population and funding be provided to support the efforts of the University of Hawai`i. I am grateful to the Committee for strengthening the University of Hawai`i's and the Pamantasan Council's ability to respond to the growing needs of the second largest ethnic group in the State and urge you to pass HB 843.

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

February 2, 2015

House Committee on Higher Education

In strong support of HB 843

Feb. 3, 2015, House Conference Room 309, Hawai'i State Capitol

To: 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. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, REp. Andria P.L. Tupola

From: Mychal Elizabeth Menor Ozoa

J.D. Candidate

William S. Richardson School of Law

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and Members of the House Higher Education Committee:

In 2014, major Hollywood companies produced and distributed a film chronicling the life of Mexican-American labor leader, César Chávez. What many don't realize, however, is that the success of the United Farm Workers Movement is due, in great part, to Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz, Pete Velasco and Andy Imutan— "The Delano Manongs," the forgotten heroes of the UFW. Growing up Filipino, this heart-rending Hollywood snub comes as no surprise.

As Filipinos in Hawai'i, we never learn the historical strength of our people. We are not taught of the many countrymen and -women who fought off Spain for independence, only to be greeted with another war by the U.S. We don't grow up seeing people like us in positions of power. Hollywood doesn't support movies about Andrés Bonifacio, Gabriela Silang, or Teresa Magbanua. Our teachers never look like us. We make up the largest ethnic group in the islands, though we are greatly underrepresented in the UH system as students, and even more so as faculty.

I am a recent cum laude graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and first-year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law at UH Mānoa. I am also, above all else, a proud pinay. However, this was not always the case. For a long time, my Filipino heritage was not the source of pride; rather, it was the root of deep shame and self-hatred.

Through my work in the community, I have come to realize that this sense of shame is common among most Filipino children in Hawai'i, and I find it completely heartbreaking. If not for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I might never have overcome these feelings of shame, for I would never have learned the true history of my people. Though I was not involved with Pamantasan, I greatly admire the work that they do to empower the youth and strengthen our communities and I support every effort to increase diversity in our schools.

I graciously thank the House for introducing HB 843. Education is the most powerful weapon we have in this fight against self-doubt and internalized oppression. It is my hope that through the passage of this bill, the resources provided to the Pamantasan Council would help to create the diverse higher education environment necessary for Filipino students and faculty to thrive.

Sincerely,

Mychal Elizabeth Menor Ozoa

Testimony in Support of HB 843
Committee on Higher Education
February 3, 2015
Hawai`i State Capitol | Conference Room 309

To: Honorable Chair Issac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama
Members of the Committee: Rep. H. Aquino, Rep. K. Ing, Rep. K. Ito, Rep. S. Kong, Rep. M. LoPresti, Rep. T. Ohno, Rep. C. Say, Rep. R. Takumi, Rep. C. Tsuji, Rep. L. Matsumoto, and Rep. A. Tupolu

Dear Honorable Chair Issac Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Committee Members,

It is with great respect that I submit my testimony in support of SB 327. My name is Vanessa Pulido, a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Natural Resources and Environmental Management. Besides being a student, I am a student coordinator for a program directed towards first year students attending UH Manoa, a program assistant for a program geared towards college awareness for middle and high school students, and an Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART) research assistant. I am also a fellow under the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity.

Due to my father's involvement in the Filipino community, I grew up learning a lot about my Filipino culture and where my family came from. Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaii, many youth that grow up in Hawaii are not exposed to many aspects of their cultures. I was embarrassed to tell others that I knew how to dance cultural dances and often did not share my knowledge about my background. It was not until I began attending UH Manoa where I developed an appreciation for my culture. I was given the opportunity to share my experiences and had a safe environment where being Filipino was not something to be ashamed of.

I believe that the creation of a University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council will give students an opportunity to express themselves and learn more about their culture and where they are from. At many times, we are caught up in doing well in school and ensuring that we continue to help our families. I feel that the UH Pamantasan Council could be a group that focuses on bridging students with the community. With this, we can encourage mentoring, educational guidance, and other important concepts that many students need in order to find a pathway towards success.

I would like to thank you for your consideration of SB 327. Your decision to provide funding that would support the creation of a UH Pamantasan Council will impact the lives of many students and assist them in developing professional relationships that will lead them to success. Thank you for your time and continued dedication.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Pulido
2600 Campus Road, QLC 412
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

February 2, 2015

House Committee on Higher Education

In strong support of HB 843

Feb. 3, 2015, House Conference Room 309, Hawai'i State Capitol

To: 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

From: Rouel Velasco, Kapolei, Hawai'i

Sariling Gawa Youth Council

National Federation of Filipino Americans Association Region XII

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair; and Members of the House Higher Education Committee:

I am a proud Local-Born Filipino, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa alumni and currently work as a student affairs professional at the University of Hawai'i - West O`ahu. I write in strong support of HB 843 which would provide resources for the system-wide Pamantasan Council.

Since 1987, Pamantasan has strived to enhance the Filipino experience in higher education by bringing together Filipino faculty, staff and students. The State of Hawai'i, Filipinos comprise majority of the immigrant population, however Filipinos remain underrepresented in the University of Hawai'i system. Pamantasan addresses issues of representation as well as retention of Filipino students.

I have personally benefited from the connections and opportunities Pamantasan has built as an undergraduate student and as a professional staff member. The Filipino community in the University of Hawaii has been supportive of many efforts to empower young Filipino student leaders. I know, because I was one of them. I was a participant of Pamantasan to actually coordinating Pamantasan conferences several times. I have met many of my mentors through this close-knit community. This connection allowed me to further my participation in the Filipino community outside of the university and into the the general community. For this reason, I am proud to be a Local-Born Filipino. I carry this pride with me in my involvement with community-based organizations focusing on Filipino empowerment. This affirmation in my identity and being valued at the university allowed me to actively take part in university-wide programs. For this, I am eternally grateful.

As a student affairs professional at the University of Hawai'i-West O`ahu, I see the growing need for such programs to be available there as Filipino-Americans comprise the second largest student population behind Native Hawaiian. No programs currently exist. As such, I am providing support to the current Filipino Club on campus to further empower our student leaders to develop programs and become actively and civically involved at UH West O`ahu. This bill, HB 843, will give an opportunity to the students at UH West Oahu and other UH

campuses the opportunity to further explore and affirm their Filipino identity, meanwhile, making connections with other students and professional staff culminating in achieving student success.

I thank the House for introducing HB 843 and hope that through its passage, Filipino students, professional staff members and faculty members can continue to thrive in higher education. I support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Council.

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 4:20 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: jeffrey.acido@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 3, 2015 14:00PM



HB843

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Acido	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Good Afternoon, I am testifying for the need to fund the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity in higher education. The issue of higher education among underserved and underrepresented peoples, especially Filipinos has been a very important issue in my life. I know that I owe many to the great work of Pamantasan Council, with the very little resources (mostly volunteer time). When I was a young undergraduate student, I attended a conference they held at Honolulu Community College, that was about a decade ago, back then you could fit all the Filipinos who work at the UH system in one room and all the Filipino students in another. With very little resources I see now that we have increased Filipino students and faculty—but not nearly enough. I want to ask you to imagine what more we could do with a little bit of help. Imagine how many more students from Kalihi, Waipahu, Waianae, Waimanalo, Kau, Hanamaulu, can attend higher education. Me going to college was just an imagination—and today it is a reality. Let's start imagining Pamantasan, Mahalo, Jeffrey Tangonan Acido

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 843

Franalyn Galiza

MEd student, Educational Foundations

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

February 3, 2015

2:00 PM

State Capitol Room 309

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Franalyn Galiza. I was born in Kalihi, housed in Waipahu and raised in Wai'anae. I was also born to a working class immigrant Filipino family. It was because of the places that I was raised in and people like my grandmother that played a vital role in teaching me Ilokano (Filipino language) and my Filipino culture. My grandmother made sure that I was provided with the right nourishment and knowledge so that I would not forget my Filipinoness. But in 1997, my grandmother had a left-sided brain stroke that resulted in paralysis of the right side of her body, speech and language deficits and sadly, memory loss.

At this point she could only mumble and mutter sounds that I could not understand. She could no longer speak words. No words in Ilokano. No words about Filipino. But her physical presence and non-verbal cues still gave me hope and pride of being a Filipina. My hope and pride of being a Filipino only lasted for so long. In 2001, another unexpected turn came; my grandmother. Before I knew it, I completely lost my identity and connection to my Filipino culture that Kalihi, Waipahu, Waianae and my grandmother had given to me.

It wasn't until I had attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa that I regained my Filipino identity; taking courses to recover my Ilokano language and history. If it were not for the UH Pamantasan council to provide this access to regain my culture identity, I do not know if I would have re-capture that Filipinoness identity into me.

With that said, is my full support of HB 843 to to be able to be support emerging Filipino youth leaders, to build and sustain the Filipino identity that they are a part of.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Franalyn Galiza

House Committee on Higher Education
February 3, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 843

Appropriates \$225,000 in general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity.

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. Cliff Tsuji,
Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

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

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

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

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

Very Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 12:16 PM
To: ichiyama2-Brandon
Cc: Melanie Kuroiwa-Steiner
Subject: FW: TESTIMONY: HB 843



Just wanted to make sure this makes it into the testimony packet?

From: Raymund Llanes Liongson [mailto:rliongson@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 10:21 PM
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: HB 843

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 UH-Leeward Community College. I want to register my **strong support** for **HB 843** to appropriate general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity in the University of Hawaii System.

I am very much familiar with the Pamantasan Council. This body has been instrumental in the successful creation of academic programs that have contributed to the enrichment of the University System's curriculum. It has worked on opening the doors to many underserved youth, and underrepresented groups in the University faculty and administrative staff. The Council has also endeavored to organize the annual Pamantasan Conference, attended by faculty and students across the UH system. In most of these undertakings, the UH faculty and staff, in their commitment to educational access and diversity, have employed tremendous energy and personal resources to realize this aspiration. Imagine how much the Pamantasan Council can do with resource assistance from the state. I would like to see our youth be provided with the optimum opportunity for higher education. The Pamantasan Council is one entity that can contribute significantly to this end.

Thank you for hearing and passing this bill.

Raymund Liongson, PhD
Associate Professor
University of Hawaii-Leeward CC

House Committee on Higher Education

February 3, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 843

Appropriates \$225,000 in general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity.

To: Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair; & Rep. Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members: Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Ken Ito,
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Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Rep. Cliff Tsuji,
Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

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

Dear Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair; Rep. Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair; and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 327. I am speaking as a private citizen. My name is Davelyn Quijano, president of the Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii. I also serve as the secretary of the Anak ti Sinait of Hawai`i (Children of Sinait), and the Oahu Filipino Community Council. Our alumni association prides itself in volunteerism both in Hawai`i and the Philippines, where we perpetuate our culture, join in disaster relief efforts, finance medical missions to the Philippines, foster good health through outreach programs to our Filipino community, empower our youth through scholarship programs, offer aid to deceased members and their beneficiaries, and engage network opportunities to contribute successfully to Hawaii's economy through entrepreneurship. Our alumni association was established in 1995 and has grown to 60 members in Hawaii.

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

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

Warmest regards,

Davelyn Quijano