



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 9:00 am

by

Jan Javinar

Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Hawai'i

### SB 325 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

SB 325 appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i to pay student employees at new or expanded worksites on each of the campuses.

The University of Hawai'i System supports the intent of SB 325 especially as articulated in Section 1 of SB 325. On campus employment for college students benefits both the students and the campuses on which they are employed. For students, employment provides funds needed to cover rising college costs and affords opportunities to gain critical workforce and life skills as they matriculate and learn. For the college campuses, on campus student employees serve as a talented workforce, performing a myriad of critical functions that enables each campus to meet the needs of the campus community.

In addition, national research findings show that students who work on campus perform better academically than those who work off-campus. They also persist toward graduation at higher rates. The University of Hawai'i System recognizes that it is in its best interest to have our students work with us, and for us, in order to improve their persistence towards degree completion.

In summary, the University of Hawai'i System welcomes the financial support offered by SB 325 provided that this support does not adversely affect the University's priorities as articulated in its budget request. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB 325 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I -STUDENT  
EMPLOYMENT

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 25, 2015 at 9:00am. Conference Rm.211

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the committee:

Students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa can benefit greatly by being employed on the campus because they can earn money and adjust their work hours to fit their academic schedule. In addition these students will acquire job skills that will benefit them as they join our workforce or lead our economic growth. Finally, our students have many skills that can be used to benefit those that they serve. Whether it be tutoring in a subject that they have mastered or using their multi-lingual and multi-cultural skills to assist someone in need, our students are prepared to be of service.

In 2013-14, Mānoa Student Affairs programs used funding to hire students to help us recruit more Hawaii students to attend UH, to help students apply for financial aid, and to help students do well in their courses. This student employment bill helps students fund their education and acquire necessary employment skills.

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

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

**Relating to the University of Hawaii**  
**Hearing Date Feb. 25, 2015, 9 am, Conference Room 211**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 325**  
**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**To: Honorable Chair Sen. Tokuda, Vice Chair Sen. Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:**

My name is Aovai Cole. I am a full time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in biological studies. I wrote this testimony to show my complete support of the senate bill NO. 325. Even though I am only a freshman I have found that in my short time as a college student I faced more challenges than I have ever experienced anywhere else. Not only does the weight of student loans cloud my consciousness on a daily basis with their looming threats of bankruptcy, I also have the added stress of having to make money to support my studies while still being a full time student. The job I have with the OMSS office allows me to do just that. My job and my classrooms are all within walking distance of each other and I don't have to worry about being late to either one. I save gas, money and time. Being able to work on campus is a blessing in that sense but also in the sense that I have employers who know exactly what I am going through. They give me advice on where to get internships, what clubs I'd be interested in joining where to get cheap supplies that a struggling college student can afford and basically just how to survive university as a whole. You were probably all in my position at some point so please remember how it was for you back then, it hasn't gotten any easier.

Thank you for your time.

Aovai Cole

P.O. Box 4521  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
**Hearing date: Feb. 25, 2015, Conference room 211, 9 am**

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 325  
Committee on Ways and Means

To Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ashley Cachero and I am a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am pursuing my degree in Social Work. I am also a single parent. Balancing being a mother, work and school is not easy, but having an on-campus job definitely makes all these things more manageable and less overwhelming.

I have worked for the University of Hawaii at Manoa Child Care Center and currently work for the Women's Center on campus. Both on campus jobs have provided me with the exact balance needed to attend to my school requirements, my daughter and work for the much needed income for all necessities. On campus jobs offer the opportunity to learn from their jobs as well as earn an income on top of it. As in my case, while working at the Women's Center, they have provided me with practical hands on experience and resources related to Social Work.

SB 325 in the long run could be considered a reason why more students are able to graduate as it will allow students to keep priorities straight, as on-campus jobs and employers identify the values of being a college student and are very flexible around school schedules, knowing how tough it is to have a healthy balance between school, home and work life.

Pursuing higher education is essential to be able to thrive in the real work but it is not easy to attend school when there are other areas that also need ones

time such as working to pay for necessities. In any other situation you would have to leave campus to go to work at jobs that are less likely to be understanding of the time needed for school. By supporting the passage of this bill, it will allow more student employment, which means more students being able to focus on studies and work when their own schedules allow it.

I highly support this bill and I ask for your strong consideration.

Ashley Cachero

[acachero@hawaii.edu](mailto:acachero@hawaii.edu)

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 325 – FEB.25, 2015 9 AM ROOM 211**

From: Debieh A.R. Miguel (Debieh@hawaii.edu)  
Sulong Aral, Leeward Community College (Rm: DA-204)  
94-045 Ala Ike Street  
Pearl City, HI 96782

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

To: Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee

My name is Debieh Amberlyn R. Miguel, I am currently a student at the University of Hawai`i at West Oahu (UHWO). I'm expecting to be graduating in the spring of 2016 with my Bachelor's in Social Science concentrated on Psychology. Once I obtain my Bachelor's, I will be moving forward into my Master's degree on Psychology at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa (UHM). I'm planning on becoming a High School Counselor or Teacher of Psychology.

I am the second generation of my family that is born and raised in Hawaii. My parents are originally from the Philippines. When they came to Hawaii, they had realized it wasn't easy. They worked for minimum wage to provide for our family and their family back home. During my upbringing I never fully understood why it was so important for my parents to constantly work and have multiple jobs. They made daily sacrifices so I can have everything I need, including education. I realized that as I got further into my education, the costs were increasing. I knew that I needed to make my own sacrifices.

In April 2014, a program called "Sulong Aral" hired me. It is a federally funded program that supports students of Filipino ancestry to move forward in their education, which provides help to transfer to UHM. Our main goal is to increase the percentages of Filipino Leeward Community College students to transfer to the UHM to pursue their Bachelor's degree.

My experiences with the program were more than I imagined. I expected employment and I gotten much more. I became close and well connected to educators of the UH system, community members, faculty members, other student workers, and UHM and LCC students. I've also gained multiple skill sets such as communication, networking, time-management, organizing educational and cultural events and professionalism, which all contribute towards my academic journey and job career.

During my time with Sulong Aral, I was able to attend school and help my parents provide for our family. It was very convenient to be employed at the same campus your attending school. Based on my experiences I strongly support this bill. It will give other students the opportunity to develop as a person by building and learning new connections within the UH system, also giving the students the chance to support himself/herself financially, and being able to balance education and work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
**Hearing date: Feb. 25, 2015, Conference room 211, 9 am**

Testimony in Support of SENATE Bill No. 325  
Committee on Ways and Means

To Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Diane Yang, and I am a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, majoring in Travel Industry Management and minoring in Chinese and Business Administration. When starting college, I discovered that it was difficult to maintain my off-campus job due to conflicts with timing and flexibility. Having an on-campus job has been very important and beneficial to my college career. Being able to work on-campus has proven to be extremely convenient as the hours I work are flexible and there is little time wasted in terms of commuting from one place to another. With less time wasted, I am able to devote more of my time to my studies. Another advantage of an on-campus job is the support it provides in my educational expenses, such as with the costs of tuition, books, and transportation. This greatly helps to lessen the burden of the rising costs of college on my family and I. Working as a student coordinator for the Office of Multicultural Student Services has not only immensely improved my communication skills, but also my ability to network with others, making it a great privilege for me.

Having an on-campus job is a wonderful opportunity and provides countless benefits and advantages for students. I am greatly in support for this bill, and thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Yang  
768 Lawelawe St.  
Honolulu, HI 96821

**SB325**

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB 325 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII—STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
**February 25, 2015 at 9 am Conference Rm.211**

To: Honorable Chair and members of the committee.

Aloha,

My name is Jefferson Remo and I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. I am currently in my second year and pursuing my degree in Molecular Cell Biology. Being able to attain and hold an on-campus job is something that I think I take for granted. In the past year and half that I have worked for OMSS I have gained so much more than whatever figure my paystub says. I have become a leader within my peers. I would have not been able to grow as student and a person without this experience. It taught me the importance of student affairs and the crucial role it plays in allowing the young scholars to reach amazing heights in terms of their education, extracurricular, and within themselves. That is what having an on-campus job can provide. It can let young ambitious students set roots into an amazing institution so that when it is our time to blossom and reveal ourselves to the world, we will be ready to catalyze a change.

Jefferson Artajo Remo  
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RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 325

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 25, 2015 Conference Room 211, 9 AM

To: Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee

My name is Juanito Moises, Jr., a first-year and full time-student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Civil Engineering and a student assistant at the UH Manoa GEAR UP Office. Although I have just started working during the beginning of 2015, working on-campus has made me learn an important life skill that I believe will be very useful as I continue to grow up into adulthood. I was able to learn what it means to manage my time wisely with work, classes and other responsibilities. I am so thankful for the opportunity to work on-campus because I was able to work my time around my class schedules. Most importantly, I was able to learn how to work formally with the staff and other adults around me, which is really beneficial for all the UH Manoa students to learn while they are still in college that they will be able to carry on to their professional career; communication, respect, and teamwork are essential in the professional world. I would highly encourage all the UH Manoa students these on-campus job opportunities, however I highly request for you to support in maintaining these beneficial resources in succeeding student's education and professional career. I am grateful for this opportunity; I support this bill and highly ask for your consideration.

Juanito Moises, Jr.

94-386 Oililua Pl

Waipahu, HI 96797

juanitom@hawaii.edu

## **SB 325 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII—STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 25, 2015, 9 am, Conference Rm. 211

To: Honorable Chair and members of the committee.

Aloha,

My name is Justice Kaseli and I am a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor's of science degree in Electrical Engineering. When I made the transition from high school to college, I immediately discovered the expenses of college, and the struggles that came along with them. I knew that in order to afford these expenses I would have to find a job. I spent a while in search of an off-campus job, but unfortunately I could not find one that agreed with my class schedule. Working on campus has many positive advantages for being a student employee. The employer's On-campus are much more lenient and understanding, because they understand that education will take precedence over work. On-campus jobs and employers are very flexible around school schedules, they understand the importance of developing you as a person and not just an employee. I am always granted sufficient time between working and classes to study and work on assignments. As a commuter from the west side of the island, I value time greatly. With a minimum of three hours inside of a bus or at a bus stop, I appreciate when my employers allow me an extra hour to work on school assignments. I have experienced and learned many things as an On-campus employee that will definitely benefit me in my career and future. I am very privileged to be a student employee of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I appreciate the time you have given me to speak on my experiences. I support this bill in its entirety, and I hope you may take this into consideration. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

Justice Kaseli

94-1103 Nalii Street  
Waipahu, HI 96797

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RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 325**  
**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Hearing Date:

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2015 Conference Room 211, 9 am

Dear Honorable Chair Sen. Tokuda, Vice Chair Sen. Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Makerita Luani, a full-time student at the University of Hawaii Manoa majoring in Sociology and a student employee at the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS). Working on campus has made my education career more convenient and stress-free and am very thankful for the opportunity. I was able to work my time around my class schedules and my work and could guarantee that this opportunity is benefiting other students too. In addition, as a student employee there were also other grants offered for which helps with school tuition, boarding, and school supplies and I was only lucky to qualify because I was a student employee. These on-campus job opportunities are highly encourage to all the UH-Manoa students, however I extremely request for your support in maintaining these great resources in succeeding student's education career. I am thankful for this opportunity, I support this bill and highly ask for your strong consideration.

Makerita Luani  
1675 D Ahiahi Pl  
mluani26@hawaii.edu

RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
**Hearing date: Feb. 25, 2015, Conference room 211, 9 am**

SENATE Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: **Testimony in strong support of SB 325**

To: Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and members of committee

My name is Marie-Guillen C. Guillermo, a prospective graduate of Fall 2015 with a Bachelor's of Science in Family Resources at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Upon completing my undergraduate career, I plan to pursue a dual Master's of Education in Teaching and Foundations. In addition, I am a peer mentor of Sulong Aral at Leeward Community College. This will be my third semester as a student-worker.

As a full-time college student, I've realized from the start that maintaining an above average academic performance while working would be strenuous. During my first year in college, I worked off-campus in retail and food service. Although my grades were exceptional, they weren't good enough. I decided to quit and focus on school, but it was only a matter of time when I realized how my parents were already struggling to pay for my tuition.

Soon enough, I was given an opportunity to work for a program, Sulong Aral, at Leeward Community College. Sulong Aral is a Tagalog statement that translates to "Moving Forward Education." It is a federal funded program from the U.S. Department of Education that is designed to increase post secondary access for Filipino high school students to raise persistence in completion rates of Filipino student at Leeward CC and to increase transfer rate of Filipino CC students into bachelor programs at UH Manoa.

As a student-worker, being a student always comes first, as it should be. My work schedule is structured around my school schedule and my academic performance has improved, as I am able to focus more on my classes. As an aspiring teacher, working in a student-teacher and/or mentor-mentoree environment has benefited me in the development of my communication, organizing, networking and other professional skills. It's also given me a chance to discover and utilize resources of support that is found through out the UH system. I have also crossed paths with highly decorated professors and other professionals who've become inspirational and motivational figures in my life. Being a student-worker has allowed me to further explore the potential I have as a student, a community member, and a prospective professional.

There are not enough words to express my strong support for this bill. With your support, students like me are able to support their families, financial needs and live their dream.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marie-Guillen C. Guillermo

[mariegui@hawaii.edu](mailto:mariegui@hawaii.edu)

Sulong Aral, Leeward Community College 94-045 Ala Ike Street, DA-204  
Pearl City, HI 96782

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 325  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**Hearing Date: Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, Conference Room 211 -- 9 AM**

To: Honorable Chair , Vice Chair and Members of the Committee

My name is Michelle Duong, a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am currently pursuing my degree in Biology. Since starting my college career, I quickly discovered how difficult it was to financially support myself despite the help of government financial aid and scholarships. I also learned how hard it was to find an off-campus job that was flexible with my school schedule and that was in the nearby vicinity of my residence. Working on campus has provided, and still continues to provide, many positive advantages for a student employee who is going to school full-time. On-campus jobs and employers identify the values of being a college student and are very flexible around school schedules, knowing how tough it is to have a healthy balance between school, home and work life. I am allowed to focus on my studies while making hours in between my classes.

This job provides me with some income that helps me purchase school supplies, transportation, and other daily necessities. This job also allows me to financially support my mother, who is currently working two jobs, to pay off bills. I have also gained valuable skills, such as effective communication and maintaining professionalism, that guide me through different aspects of my life. Having on-campus employment has given me many experiences that I know will benefit me after I graduate and become a member of the working force in my career.

I am very privileged to be a student employee of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and am forever grateful for this opportunity. I highly support this bill and I humbly ask for your strong consideration as I know this will benefit not only myself, current and also future students.

Michelle Duong  
1655 Kanunu St. Apt. 201  
Honolulu, HI, 96814

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
**Hearing Date: Feb. 25, 2015, 9 am Conference Room 211**

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 325**  
Committee on Ways and Means

To Honorable Chair, Vice Chair & Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Romín Valdez, and I am a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, double majoring in Economics and Marketing. Having my very first job be an on campus job at the Office of Multicultural Student Services has been one of the highlights of my college career thus far for many reasons. I've been forced to become responsible; I've learned how to juggle work, academics, extracurricular activities, and a social life by managing my time to stay on top of things. Also, I've had a taste of what having a real job is like with working under an employer, taking initiative, trouble shooting, etc. The skills I've gained and experiences from this opportunity I'm sure would have been very different from a job that was off campus. I have friends who go to school full time and work off campus who constantly struggle with exhaustion, keeping up in school, and work availability. I am so thankful to have an on campus job for the many benefits it provides. With my job, I have the flexibility of working only when I am available, giving me the freedom of choosing when I am able to come into work so that it doesn't conflict with anything else in my day. My employers are also very understanding of how important my schooling is, so that if I need to take time to study for finals, for example, I don't have to work as much so that I am able to focus on school. This on campus job in addition helps with paying for my school expenses like textbooks and tuition, which greatly helps out my family save some money in these hard times. Being an Office of Multicultural Student Services student assistant has helped me become more confident, professional, and a leader. I don't think I could ever fathom how grateful I am for this opportunity. I am greatly in support of this bill, thank you very much for your time & consideration.

Sincerely,

Romin Valdez  
1754 Silva St. Apt. F  
Honolulu, HI 96819

*RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII*

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 325  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**Hearing date: Tuesday, Feb.25, 2015, Conference Room 211, 9 AM**

To: Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee

Talofa lava! My name is Sofe S. Lefiti, a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Public Health. I like to share with you all the wonderful experiences I have from this campus-job. I learned so much in a working environment especially at the Office of the Multicultural Students Services. I was able to help with other students on their academics by ensuring their excellence is high and also find useful resources for them to continue their education. I started working last semester (Fall 2014) and I was still new to this working experience. I grasped a lot of knowledge on cooperating with the faculty and staff members. I have met so many of them and also other students who work for OMSS; they became family to me as well. Communication, interaction, and cooperation seemed key to our OMSS. I obtained learning leadership skills from my fellow collegiate friends. It seemed manageable for me to work and be in school than staying home. I was able to keep myself busy on campus and made it manageable for me to focus on my studies in all my classes. I am glad to say that, I have chosen a perfect workplace on campus. It has also helped benefit me with my educational expenses, such as my tuition every semester, purchases on school & book supplies, gas money, and for food. I live off-campus at a low-income housing, with a few family relatives whom are unemployed still seeking jobs and an elderly person who is sick and needs better health care. I am very grateful and appreciate that this work-study has helped me greatly on continuing my education to accomplish my goals.

Fa'afetai Tele Lava,

Sofe S. Lefiti  
1449 Ahonui St APT 10F  
Honolulu, HI 96819



**Testimony in Support of SB 325**  
**Hearing date: Feb.25, 2015 9 AM Conference Room 211**

Committee on Ways and Means  
February 25, 2015  
Hawai`i State Capitol

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

It is with great respect that I submit my testimony in support of SB 325. My name is Vanessa Pulido, a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Natural Resources and Environmental Management. During my time at Manoa, I have developed, and continue to develop, skills that are crucial in ensuring that I become a successful professional. Although my classes taught me conceptual concepts needed in the field, the professionalism, collaboration, and many other skills that I developed are a result of being a part-time on-campus student employee.

I have been fortunate to be given the opportunity to wear multiple hats on campus. 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. Being able to work on-campus has allowed me to have a sense of flexibility I know I am not able to find anywhere else. My employers give me the ability to set my own schedule and are always willing to work around any exams or projects that may come up for any of my classes.

My employers have played a key role in allowing me to grow, not only as a student, but also as a future professional. In many cases, I have been pushed to step out of my comfort zone in order to ensure that my tasks are completed in an efficient manner. I am also able to rely on the money I earn to pay for books, helping my family, and many other essential things. These experiences, and many more, are the result of my on-campus jobs and there are simply no words that can express the importance of on-campus employment.

I would like to thank you for your consideration of SB 325. Your decision to provide funding that would support student employment through on-campus jobs is one that will enhance the experiences of hundreds of students, both present and future. Thank you for your time and continued dedication.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Pulido  
2600 Campus Road, QLC 309  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822