

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 03, 2015
TIME: 1:30 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

<u>SB 325</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to pay student employees at new or expanded worksites on each campus.	HEA, WAM
<u>SB 326</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. Appropriates moneys to SEED at the University of Hawaii to fund faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee (2.5 FTE) positions to conduct and disseminate research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers relating to student affairs and higher education.	HEA, WAM
<u>SB 327</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. Appropriates \$225,000 in general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity.	HEA, WAM
<u>SB 987</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION. Clarifies that under the Hawaii Post-Secondary Education Authorization Program, institutions may request an administrative hearing pursuant to chapter 91, HRS, for proceedings concerning denials, suspensions, or terminations.	HEA, JDL
<u>SB 160</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII NON-GENERAL FUNDS. Implements certain recommendations of the Auditor concerning University of Hawaii non-general funds.	HEA, WAM
<u>SB 1144</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. Clarifies application of State Ethics Code to technology transfer arrangements supported by the University of Hawaii.	HEA, JDL
<u>SB 1146</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. Amends the sunset provisions, with respect to the University of Hawaii, under sections 40-1, 40-2, 40-4, 40-6, 40-58, and 40-81, Hawaii Revised Statutes.	HEA, WAM

Decision Making to follow, if time permits.

Click [here](#) to submit testimony to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts.

SB 326

Testimony –

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Report Title: University of Hawaii; Asian Americans; Pacific Islanders; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Appropriates moneys to SEED at the University of Hawaii to fund faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee (2.5 FTE) positions to conduct and disseminate research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers relating to student affairs and higher education.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA, WAM

Introducer(s): TANIGUCHI



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 326**

Submitted by Doris Ching, Educator
Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Hawai'i System
February 3, 2015 1:30 pm
State Capitol, Room 224

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

I fully support Senate Bill 326. The National Center for Education Statistics reported (2012) that about half of all students who enter a 4-year university or college will fail to complete a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Researchers affirm that: 1) such low attainment of college degrees will result in negative consequences for individual students and the community, and 2) significant racial and ethnic disparities persist, with several populations of color attaining degrees at rates far lower than their majority counterparts. It is, therefore, critical that higher education researchers, policymakers, and practitioners generate better understandings of how college environments can be cultivated to be more conducive to success among racially diverse student populations. This is but one of many important topics of research, policy, and practice that will be supported by this bill to strengthen Hawai'i's ability to increase understanding and knowledge related to the retention and degree completion of our students, many of whom are currently underserved in higher education.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the two fastest growing racial groups in the United States, as confirmed by 2010 U.S. Census data. Yet, Filipino Americans, Southeast Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and low-income AAPIs continue to face inequalities in college access and degree completion. These groups continue to lack visibility and attention in institutions of higher education. There is ongoing need for research and scholarship that inform policies, programs, and practices that will enhance the educational success of AAPI populations that are underrepresented and underserved in higher education. It is most appropriate that Hawai'i, with our high percentage of AAPI populations, and the UH at Mānoa's Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) Office, with its locally and nationally respected competence and track record in equity and diversity efforts, lead and coordinate this project.

I commend the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts for this proposed measure that will help to address a critical concern regarding ethnic and racial groups that are underrepresented and underserved in higher education. This legislation will initiate a major step toward greater equity and much needed resources to meet the educational needs of underrepresented Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) groups in Hawai'i and the nation. The passage of SB 326 will enable the conduct and practical application of research, as well as support mentoring of AAPI students for careers in student affairs and higher education, and increase awareness of educational support needs of AAPI college students to assure their success in higher education.

I thank the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts for your interest in this important issue and urge you to pass SB 326. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 1:30 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman
Chancellor

and

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

SB 326 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 326 which would fund faculty and graduate assistants to conduct and disseminate research and support students interested in Asian American and Pacific Islander educational issues as well as careers in higher education and student affairs. Recent research shows AAPIs are underrepresented and underserved in many higher education institutions. AAPIs are only 5% of the nation but are the two fastest growing racial groups in the United States. Hawai'i is the state with the highest proportion of AAPI population and these groups are the majority in the state and the University of Hawai'i.

Funding a faculty specialist and graduate student assistants will increase the capacity of the Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity at Mānoa to work collaboratively with AAPI scholars nationally and with faculty from academic units at Mānoa and other campuses to address critical issues in higher education, and support careers in student affairs and higher education.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 326 provided that it does not adversely affect other UH budget priorities.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA

Testimony in Support of SB 326
Submitted by Patricia Halagao, Ph.D., Associate Professor
February 3, 2015
1:30 pm
State Capitol, Room 224

To Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

I strongly support Senate Bill 326 to appropriate moneys to the University of Hawaii, Manoa's Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) office to support faculty and graduate student funding to conduct and disseminate research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers in student affairs and higher.

As you may know, research shows AAPI's are underrepresented and underserved in higher education. This appropriation of money will support a pathway of graduate students to complete their graduate work as well as to doubly contribute to the dearth of scholarship on AAPI's in higher education.

I know first hand the importance of funding under-represented graduate students. I myself was a recipient of a Minority Graduate Scholarship at the University of Washington's College of Education. I used my graduate fellowship to advance my research on multicultural education in higher education as well as worked as a Research Assistant in our Office of Minority recruitment and retention. I would not have completed my graduate studies without the support of graduate funding. I completed my studies in a timely manner, as well as gave back to an important issue. I now serve on faculty at the University of Hawaii's College of Education.

I hope more graduate students at the University of Hawaii, Manoa may benefit from this specific, yet far-reaching bill. I urge you to pass SB 326 and thank you for the opportunity to support it.

Though I am employed at the University of Hawaii, my testimony is not the official testimony of UH.

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
February 3, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 224

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 326

Appropriates moneys to SEED at the University of Hawaii to fund faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee (2.5 FTE) positions to conduct and disseminate research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers relating to student affairs and higher education.

To: Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; and Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Sen. Michelle N. Kidani,
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Danny Villaruz
President, Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii
P.O. Box 29912
Honolulu HI 96820

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

I strongly support SB 326. My name is Danny Villaruz. I serve as President of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawai'i. For decades, our members volunteer tirelessly, where we raise funds for scholarships, disaster relief efforts, finance and implement medical missions to the Philippines, and perpetuate our Filipino culture and social networks with an array of annual events.

I support this bill because we recognize that higher education is the key to a thriving and just society. But we are disturbed that there are vast numbers of Hawai'i's children who live in poverty, attend low achieving schools with predominantly Filipino, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students. It is not fair that they will likely be left behind and ill-prepared for a work force that requires skills and training beyond their reach.

We support this bill, because we believe the research results on Asian American and Pacific Islander students will show us how to turn this bad trend around, so struggling families and their children will be able to reach their potential to succeed and contribute to the betterment of our shared home of Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Danny Villaruz
President
Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii

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, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 224

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 326

Appropriates moneys to SEED at the University of Hawaii to fund faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee (2.5 FTE) positions to conduct and disseminate research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers relating to student affairs and higher education.

To: Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; and Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Sen. Glenn Wakai,
Sen. Sam Slom
From: Jake Maegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Dear Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair; Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair; and Senate 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 or grossly under-paid 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 research education positions 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 millennial 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.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League



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

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Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

February 3, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 224

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 326

Appropriates moneys to SEED at the University of Hawaii to fund faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee (2.5 FTE) positions to conduct and disseminate research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers relating to student affairs and higher education.

To: Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele,
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Sen. Glenn Wakai, Sen. Sam Slom
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-based participatory research partners and mentors with University of Hawaii Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity, NAMI sees the connection between building the capacity of minority, under-represented researchers to conduct studies in their own community to address and mitigate serious, long-term educational disparities.

We commend UH SEED for the fine Asian American Pacific Islander professionals they have mentored and trained in scholarly research, advocacy, and service. 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.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 326

Submitted by Jenna T. Caparoso
Doctoral Student and Graduate Research Assistant
Higher Education Administration, Assessment Office
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
February 3, 2015
1:30 pm
State Capitol Room 224

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Lorraine Inouye, Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

I would like to express my strong support for Senate Bill 326 and to urge you to consider this critical legislation to fund faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee positions for the Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) Office at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). This measure addresses a significant matter concerning the current state of higher education and its ability to embrace the educational needs reflective and inclusive of its entire student population.

Although Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are the two fastest growing racial population in the United States, they remain underrepresented, underserved, and often invisible at higher education institutions. This is evident in the lack of AAPI faculty and staff presence on campuses, disregard and devaluation of AAPI-focused research and dissemination, and limited access to resources for AAPI students and those interested in diversity careers.

The proposed measure would greatly aid in these issues by providing opportunities and resources for both undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research and scholarship that gives AAPI students and the larger AAPI communities a voice – one I must contribute to. As a Hawai'i-born and raised mixed-Asian American woman and doctoral student in the Higher Education Administration program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I have committed my career path to actively supporting AAPIs and AAPI-focused scholarship. Much of my research interests surround racial and ethnic minority students, specifically for students of Hawai'i. As a large part of my decision to attend UHM was because it is an ideal location for engaging in AAPI research, I fully stand by the opportunities that will be afforded by SB 326.

The timing has never been more critical for educators and policy makers to engage in discussions on appropriate courses of action, such as Senate Bill 326, that seek to give AAPIs in the state of Hawai'i and across the nation the currently overlooked attention in higher education they deserve. Such dialogues are catalysts for change – the beginnings of uniformed policies and practices that have the potential to cultivate awareness, respect, and compassion towards the entire student body – one inclusive of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your support on this issue. I urge you to pass SB 326 and thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 326.

Testimony in Support of SB 326
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
February 3, 2015
State Capitol, Room 224
1:30 pm

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

I would like to express my strong support of Senate Bill 326 and urge the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts for the proposed measure to fund faculty, graduate assistant and student employee positions for the Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) Office at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to conduct and disseminate research on Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI). As a former lecturer in the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a former Graduate Research Assistant of SEED, I believe that there is a great need to continue this initiative and conversation, especially here in Hawai'i, where we largely serve AAPI students and the community. Locally, many of our AAPI members continue to struggle with barriers to college access and degree completion. Therefore, I fully support the funding of faculty, graduate students, and student assistants because they would help in conducting more research projects and other initiatives to increase awareness and consciousness in these particular issues.

I respectfully urge that this honorable Committee pass SB 326 and thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 326.

Sincerely,
Jovanie de la Cruz
Executive Board, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
February 3, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 224



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 326

Appropriates moneys to SEED at the University of Hawaii to fund faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee (2.5 FTE) positions to conduct and disseminate research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers relating to student affairs and higher education.

To: Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; and Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Sen. Michelle N. Kidani,
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Principal Investigator
Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training
University of Hawai'i · Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity
2600 Campu Rd. QLCSS Rm. 414 · Honolulu, HI 96822

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

I am happy to submit strong support for this bill. My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Principal Investigator for the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART), which is a Community Network Program of the National Cancer Institute. AANCART was established to address cancer disparities among Asian Americans by building an infrastructure to increase the number of minority cancer researchers through education, training, advocacy and service. In Hawai'i, the focus of study is Filipinos, due to its sizeable population, disproportionate burden of lower cancer screenings, higher rates of cancers detected at later stages, and subsequent higher cancer death rates. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders also bear an uneven burden of health disparities in our notable "Healthy State".

But given these urgent, social justice health issues, Filipinos, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are also gravely underrepresented in higher education. As a result, they struggle to gain parity as credentialed, skilled, professional stakeholders to help mitigate the harmful impacts of health disparities not only in their own families, but also in other vulnerable communities throughout Hawai'i and beyond.

I support this bill, because it goes upstream to tackle root causes of our broken education system by supporting paid positions to produce and disseminate evidence-based research results that will aid policy makers and educators to strategically support student achievement and career readiness for Asian American and Pacific Islanders in our public schools, state colleges and our university.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the chance to express my support from a public health and social justice perspective.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma
Principal Investigator, AANCART Hawai'i

Testimony in Support of SB 326
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
February 3, 2015
State Capitol, Room 224 1:30 pm

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 326. I recently graduated from the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in 2014. I am currently in the University of Hawai'i Internal Medicine Residency Program and plan to become a community physician in the islands. My journey to medical school was not an easy one, but the successes that I have accumulated to this point can in part be credited to the support and resources that the Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) office at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa has given me throughout my undergraduate and graduate education. The SEED program provides many Asian American and Pacific Islanders resources and mentorship to obtain higher education and I am a testament to their efforts.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide my testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 326. I urge you to pass this measure in order to increase the number of AAPI who are able to pursue a higher education, like myself, and professionals in student affairs.

Sincerely,

Scott Serrano

Leilehua High School and University of Hawai'i at Manoa Graduate
Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) and Imi Ho'ola Post--Baccalaureate
Program Participant

First-year Resident, University of Hawai'i Internal Medicine Residency Program

Testimony in Support of SB 326
Senate Committee on Higher and the Arts
Education February 3, 2015
Conference Room
224
1:30 pm

To: Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 326. Asian American Pacific Islander research and resources that foster diversity in the State of Hawaii are very important, given Hawaii's already rich diversity. Hawaii is a melting pot of families and individuals of Asians and Pacific Islanders and they face many unique barriers to attaining a quality education and meeting their career goals. This is especially so for those who are of the first generation living in the United States and those who are the first generation to graduate high school or go to college.

I am one of such individuals. I am currently a second-year medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. I am the first in my family to graduate from college, and am the first to pursue a professional degree. My journey here has not been without challenges, and it has always been obvious how few resources there are for students such as myself. Research on Asian and Pacific Islander issues, especially in the area of education is greatly needed, and it is important that we determine the barriers that individuals face so that we may address them as a society.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 326 in support of funding for faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee positions, and I ask you to please pass this important measure.

Sincerely,
Ruel Reyes
Mililani High School and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Graduate
Second-Year Medical Student, UH John A. Burns School of Medicine.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 326
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
February 3, 2015, 1:30 pm
Hawai'i State Legislature Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Submitted by: Mary Chang, Graduate Assistant, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

I fully support Senate Bill 326 to fund faculty, graduate assistants, and student employee positions for the Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) Office at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) to conduct and disseminate research regarding Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students in higher education. The funding would also provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers within the fields of student affairs and higher education.

As you may know, six years ago, President Obama reestablished the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (Commission) to address issues concerning the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. One of the key areas of this federal government initiative is "Advancing Data Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination on AAPI Communities." More information on issues related to AAPI students is necessary because it will assist in closing achievement gaps and direct support to those communities most in need. Your support of this bill would help address the need for more research regarding underrepresented and underserved racial and ethnic minorities in higher education.

As a graduate assistant and student at the University of Hawai'i, I urge you to consider the proposed measure that will fund the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. This is a significant measure aimed at addressing a critical need within higher education that will have important returns for our communities because it is the findings of such research that often influence key policy and financial decisions.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 326, and thank you for your support.

This testimony reflects my personal views and is not official testimony of the University of Hawai'i.

Testimony in Support of SB 326
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
February 3, 2015
State Capitol, Room 224
1:30 pm

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

I would like to extend my sincere support of Senate Bill 326 and commend the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts for the proposed measure to fund faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee positions for the Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity (SEED) Office at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to conduct and disseminate research on Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI). In October 2012, I attended the Asian American & Pacific Islander Research Coalition (ARC) Summit at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). As a 1.5 generation Filipina-American, I greatly benefitted from the panel discussions and conversations on the Asian American Pacific Islander higher education issues. Attending the ARC Summit has immensely enthused me to learn more on critical issues in higher education that challenge Filipinos and Filipino Americans, specifically in Hawai'i with their limited access to higher education. I believe that there is a great need to continue this initiative and conversation, especially here in Hawai'i, where we largely serve AAPI students and the community. Therefore, I fully support the funding of faculty, graduate students, and student assistants because they would help in conducting more research projects and other initiatives to increase awareness and consciousness in these particular issues. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 326.

Sincerely, Jennifer Custodio

Testimony in Support of SB 326
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
State Capitol, Room 224
February 3, 2015
1:30 pm

Submitted by Adrialina B. Guerero
Student Support Specialist/Outreach Coordinator
Office of Multicultural Student Services
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
2600 Campus Road, QLC 309
Honolulu, HI 96822-2205
Telephone: 808-956-4090, Email: guerero@hawaii.edu

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

Thank you for this opportunity to express my full support of Senate Bill 326. As the outreach coordinator for the Office of Multicultural Student Services for almost 25 years, we still continue to face higher education access issues affecting underserved and underrepresented groups and communities. Having the support of research and additional direct services for Asian American and Pacific Islander students will only contribute immensely to our recruitment and retention efforts.

In the State of Hawai'i, Asian American and Pacific Islander students fill many of our public school classrooms. In addition to teaching their curriculum, teachers struggle to help their students learn English, meet the State and National test standards, and get them ready for college. Sounds daunting, but this is what many of our teachers are faced with everyday. I hear their cries for help, but we are limited to what our department is able to provide.

As an institution of higher education, it is imperative that the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa play a role in addressing the gaps and issues affecting college readiness, access, and success. Senate Bill 326 will provide the necessary resources to delve deeper so we are better able to address these gaps. What resources do the schools need? What tools do parents/families need to better help their children? How do we get families to be more involved? How can we get the community involved? What resources can the universities provide? The passing of SB326 will be the conduit to answering these questions and so much more.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 326.

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 326 Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

February 3, 2015, 1:30 pm
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224

To: Honorable Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts Members: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Sen. Sam Slom, Sen. Glenn Wakai

From: Agnes Malate, MEd
armalate@yahoo.com

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in strong support of Senate Bill 326 to fund faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee positions for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) research, and to provide direct services to students interested in student affairs and higher education. 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 majority of research and data portray Asian American/Pacific Islanders (AAPI) as high-achieving groups that are able to successfully mitigate difficulties faced by other racial and ethnic minorities in the nation. However, more recent studies and statistics reveal that this is not necessarily the case for all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have been grouped together and treated as a single entity in the past. When data is disaggregated the disparities in this population is glaring. Demand for more specific details on the AAPI subpopulations has become more urgent as the growth in numbers has overtaken the rest of the U. S. population, increasing three times more from 2000 to 2009.

The information that the Census Bureau has collected on AAPI reveals remarkable differences especially in the area of education. SB 326 is a step towards gaining a better understanding of the diversity and needs of the AAPI population in Hawai'i and across the nation. If funded, it will also provide valuable opportunities for faculty and students to conduct research, and for students to receive much needed mentoring and other services.

I am grateful to the committee for your interest in advancing scholarship on AAPI and in investing in the next generation of higher education professionals to be prepared in meeting the challenges of a diverse student body and population. I ask that you pass SB 326, and thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony,

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.

Kiana Yasuyo Shiroma Director
Pre-Health/Pre-Law Advising Center
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
kianak@hawaii.edu
808-542-6191

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 326

Submitted by Kiana Shiroma, Director
Pre-Health/Pre-Law Advising Center, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
February 3, 2015
1:30 pm
State Capitol, Room 224

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

I fully support Senate Bill 326 and commend the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts for the proposed measure to fund faculty, graduate assistant, and student employee positions for the Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) Office at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) to conduct and disseminate research regarding Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students in higher education, and to provide direct services to undergraduate and graduate students interested in diversity careers within the fields of student affairs and higher education. As an employee and student of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for 10 years, I am sure that AAPI faculty, staff, and students will benefit from this legislation. Being born and raised in Kailua, I also know that the larger community and state will be better because of this appropriation as well.

The 2010 U.S. Census demonstrates that AAPIs are the two fastest growing racial groups in the country. However, specific populations, including Filipino Americans, Southeast Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and low-income AAPIs continue to face challenges in post-secondary retention and graduation that other ethnic and racial groups do not have to overcome. Presently, there is still a need to research and support underrepresented and underserved racial and ethnic minorities in higher education, making the SEED Office the ideal location for these proposed graduate assistant and student employee positions. I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Legislature for your interest in this important issue. I urge you to pass SB 326. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 326.

I am an employee of the University of Hawai'i, however, my testimony is not the official testimony of UH.

Testimony in Support of SB 326
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts,
February 3, 2015
Hawai'i State Capitol | Conference Room 224

To: Honorable Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye
Members of the Committee: M. Gabbard, G. Kahele, M. Kidani, G. Wakai, and S. Slom

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education & the Arts,

It is with great respect that I submit my testimony in support of SB 326. My name is Vanessa Pulido, a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Natural Resources and Environmental Management. 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. I am also a fellow under the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity.

For the past three years, I worked under the Office of Multicultural Student Services as a student coordinator. During this time, I have been fortunate to work with students from various backgrounds and communities. It is very important that we provide services to students with diverse backgrounds to ensure that all students are successful and are given the opportunity to be successful professionals. Research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education will provide a means to develop new programs and support current programs that ensure that these students are fully supported throughout their educational career.

Also during my time working under the Office of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity, I have experienced the importance of student support and encouraging interests relating to diversity careers in student affairs. Many of my students are not exposed to these types of options and it would be great if we can open up many more options for a wide range of students.

I would like to thank you for your consideration of SB 326. Your decision to provide funding that would support research relating to Asian American and Pacific Islander students in higher education and provide services to students who are interested in diversity careers will create a large pool of opportunities for students at the University of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and continued dedication.

Sincerely,

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



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 326

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Feb. 3, 2015, 1:30 pm

Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 224

To: Honorable Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Honorable Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts Members:
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Sen. Sam Slom,
Sen. Glenn Wakai

From: Rouel Velasco, Chair, National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12

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

My name is Rouel Velasco, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which strongly supports SB 326. NaFFAA Region 12 represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

NaFFAA strongly supports this bill because education is key to help empower marginalized Asian American and Pacific Islander people to continue making significant contributions in all fields for a thriving and civil society. Evidence-based policy making and student service programs are integral for good stewardship of limited resources and capacity building to uplift under-represented students, who can contribute significantly to Hawai'i's future through research, student services and student employment.

The members of NaFFAA Region 12 extends our appreciation to you for hearing this bill.

Sincerely,

Rouel Velasco, Chair
NaFFAA Region XII