

SB 327

LATE

Testimony

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.
Report Title:	University of Hawaii; Appropriation; Hawaii Pamantasan Council (\$)
Description:	Appropriates \$225,000 in general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HEA, WAM
Introducer(s):	TANIGUCHI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: ccuaresma@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Feb 3, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:53:00 AM
Attachments: [SB327 Pamantasan-AANCART.pdf](#)

SB327

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HEA on Feb 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Cuaresma	Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training	Support	Yes

Comments:

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To: [HEA Testimony](#)
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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Feb 3, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 7:56:30 PM
Attachments: [Testimony.pamantasanSB.pdf](#)

SB327

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HEA on Feb 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franalyn Galiza	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Strong Support for SB327
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Committee on Higher Education
February 3, 2015
Hawai'i State Capitol

To: Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and members of committee

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

Subject: Testimony in strong support of SB327

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

In addition, I am one of the members of the planning committee of the Pamantasan Conference 2014 with a theme of "Higher Education: Toward Achieving Empowerment" that happened on the 21st of March of that year.

If you are not familiar with the Pamantasan Conference, it is an annual assembly of students, faculty, and staff in the University of Hawaii system that tackles issues such as Filipino enrollment and completion in the University of Hawai'i, representation of Filipinos in the faculty and professional staff in the University, legislative agenda related to higher education, Filipino empowerment, celebration of Filipino culture and heritage, and other related issues. This conference is overseen by the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council and is hosted by one campus in the system each year – this year, UH-West O'ahu.

The experience I had during the entirety of the planning process, and the actual conference is life changing. It was an eye-opening experience. Before I got involved with the Pamantasan Council, I never knew the issues that Filipinos were facing in higher education. Honestly, I never cared too much about my community before this experience but this conference changed how I think about them. It told me to care and fight for them. It made me realize how we need each other in this society to survive and succeed. It just screamed "Go and start making a change!"

I can attest to the importance of this event and the importance of the Pamantasan Council. However, organizations like this cannot exist without sufficient funding. It cannot achieve the things that it was created to do without sufficient funding. This is very evident when we were planning the previous conference.

During the planning process of the Pamantasan Conference, we encountered a lot of challenges, one of which is the lack of funding for the event. The event ended up as a success but we had

bigger plans that would have improved the experience of attending the event tremendously. We were forced to charge registration fees to the attendees just for us to run the event. The event was supposed to welcome all interested individuals who wanted to be a part of it but it was driving away people who did not have the money to pay the fee.

I saw this first-hand and it is the biggest reason why I am completely supporting this bill. This bill will help the council address the problems of the Filipino community higher education in Hawaii. This bill will help reward the people who spend hundreds of hours yearly just to help the members of the community who are in need for free.

The Pamantasan Council and the Pamantasan Conference is important to Filipinos in higher education and this bill will help keep it alive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Geryll Anthony A. Agno
geryll@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: jeffrey.acido@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB327 on Feb 3, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 4:23:23 PM

SB327

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HEA on Feb 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Aloha Chair Sen. Taniguchi, Sen. Inouye, and committee on Higher Education Committee: 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

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