

# SB 397

## Late

# Testimony

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**Report Title:** University of Hawaii; Appropriation; Title IX and VAWA Compliance (§)

**Description:** Appropriates moneys for positions and materials to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

**Companion:** [HB457](#)

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** HEA/JDL, WAM

**Introducer(s):** KIDANI, BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, INOUYE, SHIMABUKURO, L. Thielen



Hawai`i Friends for Civil Rights  
Faye Kennedy, Co-Chair  
c/o 3432 B2 Kalihi Street, Honolulu, HI 96819

Senate Committees on Health & Judiciary  
February 17, 2015, 1:40 p.m., Conference Room 224

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 397**

To: Sen. Josh Green, Chair & Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health  
Sen. Gil S.C. Keith-Algaran, Chair &  
Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Faye Kennedy, Co-Chair, Hawai`i Friends for Civil Rights

As Co-Chair of the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights, I submit strong support for this bill. HFQR is a group dedicated to fulfilling the work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by addressing disparities and discrimination through the promotion of change agents for social justice through education, service and advocacy.

We fully agree with the intent of this bill. We also stand in strong support of comments provided by the University of Hawai`i PAU Violence Program, specifically the recommendations below:

1. Staff, including investigators, coordinators, PAU Violence educational specialists, and trainers to ensure continued prevention education and advocacy for students.
2. Dedicate funds for four 1.0 FTE for UH PAU Violence Program coordinators at:
  - UH Mānoa Women's Center
  - UH Maui College Personal Support Counselor
  - UH Hilo Student Health and Wellness Program
  - UH Community College
  - Coordinator shall be housed at the UHM Women's Center
  - Funds shall also include materials and professional development for each campus.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to provide our full support in your consideration of its passage.

Sincerely,

Faye Kennedy  
Co-Chair  
Hawai`i Friends of Civil Rights



## 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](mailto:namihonolulu@yahoo.com)

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From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDA, President, NAMI

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. I am submitting our strong support of this bill, as the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.). 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.

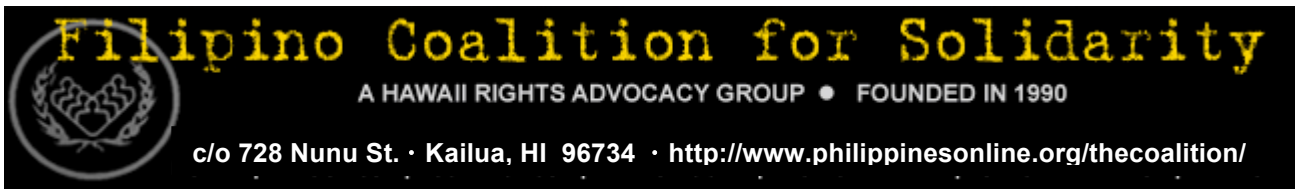
We fully agree with the intent of this bill. We also stand in strong support of recommendations below for your consideration:

1. Staff should include "investigators, coordinators, PAU Violence educational specialists, and trainers" to ensure continued prevention education and advocacy for students.
2. Dedicate funds for four 1.0 FTE for UH PAU Violence Program coordinators at:
  - UH Mānoa Women's Center; UH Maui College Personal Support Counselor; UH Hilo Student Health and Wellness Program; and UH Community College.
  - Coordinator shall be housed at the UHM Women's Center.
  - Funds shall also include materials and professional development for each campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to strongly support Title IX compliance through passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

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



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February 17, 2015, 1:40 p.m., Conference Room 224

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To: Sen. Josh Green, Chair & Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
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From: Jovanie de la Cruz, Chair, Executive Board of Directors, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

My name is Jovanie de la Cruz. I am an Executive Board of Directors Member for the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. The Coalition strongly opposes HB 555. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

We fully agree with the intent of this bill. We also stand in strong support of comments provided by the University of Hawai'i PAU Violence Program, specifically the amendments recommended below:

1. Staff, including investigators, coordinators, PAU Violence educational specialists, and trainers to ensure continued prevention education and advocacy for students.
2. Dedicate funds for four 1.0 FTE for UH PAU Violence Program coordinators at: 1) UH Mānoa Women's Center; 2) UH Maui College Personal Support Counselor; 3) UH Hilo Student Health and Wellness Program; and 4) UH Community College.
3. Coordinator shall be housed at the UHM Women's Center.
4. Funds shall also include materials and professional development for each campus.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our strong support from the Filipino community.

Respectfully,

Jovanie de la Cruz  
Executive Board of Directors Member  
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

To whom it may concern,

As a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I can speak to how it feels to be a female in the campus setting. For the most part, I've appreciated studying in such a warm and welcoming environment, many of my classes end as late as 8:00pm, when the campus is poorly lit and I feel more vulnerable. I recognize that, as far as we've come in terms of women's rights and equality, that I often have to think about my surroundings and safety, because I can't trust that my right to my own body and autonomy is a given to most people.

I recognize the need for a societal shift. People need to be educated regarding respect, consent, and boundaries, and the university setting is the most natural start to implement such a change. When young people are experiencing independence, new friendships, and intimate relationships for the first time, they are being fed many messages by their environment. Having already lived in a campus setting while obtaining my undergraduate degree, I am all too familiar with these messages. Men are taught that their status as men rests on how many women they are able to get into bed with them. Little is mentioned as mutual enjoyment, safety, respect, or communication. Nothing is mentioned about the partner's ability to say no.

I believe that change is in motion, and that the University of Hawaii System should be on the right side of this movement. Whenever a paradigm change is to occur, there is going to be resistance, but that is why we must be active. Integrating education regarding resources, help, consent, and healthy relationships into the college experience may save many students from falling into the promoted norms of rape culture. PAU Violence is the best way for this to happen.

By providing prevention education and direct intervention resources for students, PAU Violence is on both ends of making sure that students are living and studying in an environment that is promoting their well being and supporting them. Education and promoting an image that is embraced by students that sexual assault and interpersonal violence are not acceptable is a campaign that can be led by this program, and will not be launched on its own. Further more, until we see an absolute change in the environment where NO person falls victim to these traumas, the university is responsible to provide the resources to allow students who have experienced interpersonal violence and assault to go about their academic studies in the most positive and healthy way possible.

In summary, I believe that PAU Violence is key to providing the necessary environment and elements for change that the university setting demands to ensure that all students can have positive experiences and overcome the pressures of engaging in a negative culture of objectification and lack of respect. Please allow the PAU Violence program not only to continue, but also to expand to support students in new and creative ways.

Thank you,  
Sarah Connor  
Myron B Thompson School of Social Work  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

LGBT Student Services Office

**TO:** House Committee on Higher Education  
Conference Room 224  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
February 17, 2015, 1:0 p.m.

**FROM:** Camaron Miyamoto,  
Coordinator, LGBT Student Services  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



**RE: SUPPORT FOR SB397 with AMENDMENTS**

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Office of LGBT Student Services at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in support for SB397 with amendments.

While my testimony is not the official stance of the University of Hawai'i, I am writing to share my expertise as tenured UH Mānoa faculty who work with students on a daily basis, including those who benefit from the professional services of our Pau Violence coordinators in the UH Mānoa Women's Center. I also serve on the Hawai'i State Department of Health Sexual Violence Prevention Hui and Community Action Team.

I support SB397 with the amendment that funds be specifically appropriated to The UH PAU Violence Program, or **Prevention Awareness Understanding Violence Program**. I support this amendment because our students deserve more than additional investigators or administrators. Instead of only hiring new investigators, **our university needs to retain current staff in PAU Violence that support the immediate needs of survivors, provides prevention education for the entire campus community, outreach and advocacy.**

Our university has these services in place, but an appropriation is needed to ensure seamless staffing through PAU Violence. PAU Violence has in place a UH systemwide network developing infrastructure to provide awareness and education, as well as academic, personal, and mental health support for survivors. It is unique in that it encompasses both prevention and crisis services.

**I strongly believe that without funding for systemwide PAU Violence professional staff our students will suffer because:**

- **PAU Violence staff support students in crisis after sex assault and offer a safe and confidential means for them to do so.**
- **Elimination of PAU Violence staff will be a disservice to our students' well-being**
- **PAU Violence is the only program at the University with staff that supports the immediate needs of survivors, provides prevention education for the entire campus community, outreach and advocacy.**
- **Creates a lack of compliance with Title IX and other federal/state requirements.**

I support SB397 because without this bills passage, I fear we will lose critical staff at our university who work tirelessly to prevent violence on our campuses. We already have offices in place that investigate harassment and are responsible for Title IX reporting. However, **my colleagues in PAU do more than respond to or report and investigate sex assault and other forms of violence; they work to prevent it through education.**

I believe that it is critical for our campus and university system to be able to maintain both sexual violence prevention and direct services for students. These are functions that extend beyond the responsibilities of a Title IX coordinator or an investigator on our campuses. For these reasons, I support SB397 and any proposed amendments made by the UH PAU Violence Team. **Please vote in support of SB397 with the addition of an appropriation for the UH PAU Violence Program. Mahalo.**