



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and the Arts
and
Judiciary and Labor
March 17, 2015 at 2:00 pm
by
Jan Gouveia
Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai'i System

HB 457 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Taniguchi and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Inouye and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the opportunity to strongly support HB 457 HD1, which acknowledges the importance of having adequate resources to not only comply with the federal requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA), but effectively advance the spirit and intent of such laws.

In 2013, President Obama signed a bill that strengthened and reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Included in the bill was the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (Campus SaVE), which amends the Jeanne Clery Act and affords additional rights to campus victims of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. To this end, effective July 2015, every post-secondary institution who receives federal funds is affected with additional reporting, policy and procedural requirements – as they relate to sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

At the University, each campus is responsible for ensuring compliance with Title IX and VAWA. From an organizational standpoint, this is primarily executed through a designated Title IX coordinator. Historically, such a designation was assigned to an existing University official already tasked with other related duties. However, given the increased requirements associated with VAWA, the University believes dedicated, full-time Title IX coordinators for each 4-year campus and the Community Colleges system with specific experience and knowledge in the areas of sex discrimination and sexual violence are warranted.

Additionally, the increased program, procedural, and investigatory requirements associated with VAWA across all ten (10) campuses also warrant additional dedicated, full-time professionals with specific experience and knowledge in the areas of sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct. The bill supports a centralized approach to meeting these requirements at the system level because many of the issues, policies, programs, and training are better addressed from a comprehensive approach instead of each campus individually developing their own programs. This centralized approach advances principles of operational efficiency and economies of scale.

In closing, the University strongly supports HB 457 HD1 because it acknowledges the importance of having adequate resources to comply with and advance the federal requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
SYSTEM

Testimony presented to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts &
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
March 17, 2015 at 2:00pm
By
Farrah-Marie Gomes, Chair

HB 457, HD 1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 457, HD 1 that appropriates funds for positions and materials to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. My name is Farrah-Marie Gomes and I present this testimony as Chair of the University of Hawai‘i President’s Commission on the Status of Women (UH-CSW).

The UH-CSW strongly supports this bill. Formed in 1972 at the UH Manoa campus, the UH-CSW expanded in 1986 to include faculty, staff and students appointed by the President of the University of Hawaii, with representatives from our system offices and 10 campuses across the State. The UH-CSW is committed to supporting the well-being, development, and advancement of all University women. The Commission actively promotes a working and learning environment free of sexism and discrimination through policy, advocacy and education.

This mission is achieved through serving as a conduit for information between the administration and the total University community by making recommendations to the UH President on issues that have particular relevance for women, including, but not limited to safety and security, equity, access, retention, and advancement; fostering an awareness, understanding and recognition of the potential, contributions, special challenges and many roles women play in a University community; and developing alliances with like organizations throughout the community, state, and nation.

The positions and materials requested through this bill will enable the University of Hawai‘i system to comply with recently expanded mandates relating to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which are at the core of the mission of our Commission on the Status of Women.

For the reasons stated above and on behalf of our commission, I strongly encourage the Committees to support HB 457, HD 1. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Filipino American Citizens League

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

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
March 17, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 457 HD1

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair & Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair & Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Jake Manegdeg, President
Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President
Filipino American Citizens League

We are Jake Manegdeg, president, and Charlene Cuaresma, vice president, of the Filipino American Citizens League. We are proud to submit our strong 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.

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 for the following:

1. 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.
2. Coordinator shall be housed at the UHM Women's Center.
3. Funds shall also include staffing for investigators, educational specialists, trainers, materials, online training and professional development for each campus.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to support your leadership to determine that these Title IX safeguards, advocated by our dear friend and former Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, are a priority, and merit full funding for the public safety and compliance of Title IX throughout our University of Hawai'i system.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President
Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President
Filipino American Citizens League

Filipino American Citizens League

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

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
March 17, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

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Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
March 17, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 457 HD1

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair & Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair & Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Jovanie de la Cruz, Chair, Executive Board of Directors, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Subject: 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. (HB457 HD1)

My name is Jovanie de la Cruz. I am an Executive Board of Directors Member for the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. The Coalition strongly supports this bill. 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.

To ensure compliance of Title IX, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity highly recommends that the PAU Violence Program of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa be supported with funds for staff and materials to conduct prevention and education programs on all UH system campuses. If given the resources, we have an opportunity to make substantive changes in campus safety for everyone.

We appreciate your deliberation on this bill and consideration of its passage.

Respectfully,

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



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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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 457 HD1

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
March 17, 2015, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair & Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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 comments provided by the University of Hawai'i PAU Violence Program, and for dedicated funds for staff, materials, online resources and professional development for each campus in the UH system in order to implement and be in full compliance of Title IX. NAMI takes this seriously, as Filipino women carried a disproportionate burden of homicide, seven out of ten cases, due to domestic violence in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to strongly support passage of this bill to ensure safe learning environments and campuses for all.

Sincerely,

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

TO Committee on Higher Education and Arts
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawai'i State Capitol
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224

FROM: Jennifer Pagala Barnett



RE: SUPPORT FOR HB457 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Title IX
Compliance with AMENDMENTS

To Honorable Chair Taniguchi, Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran and the Members of the Committees,

Thank you to the committee for bringing forth the importance of Title IX compliance. I work for the Women's Center at the University of Hawai'i and I also assist with coordinating one of our programs, PAU (Prevention, Awareness, Understanding) Violence.

My testimony is not the official stance of the University of Hawai'i, but I am writing to share my experience as a staff that works with students that are affected by issues of Title IX. I am submitting testimony in support of HB 457 but am suggesting amendments specifically to include funding for prevention efforts and survivor services that exist through the PAU Violence Program.

The PAU Violence program assists our 10-campus system in creating an infrastructure to provide awareness education to address sexual violence, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment and stalking. PAU Violence and the Women's Center has worked collaboratively with the UH system to provide awareness raising events to educate our campus communities about interpersonal violence and how to foster healthy relationships. PAU provides bystander intervention training to educate and encourage all of our students to become active peers and to move towards changing the campus climate. In addition, PAU also thrives to engage and include male students and interested peer leaders in our discussions and efforts to end interpersonal violence. In 2014, the PAU Violence program provided education and outreach to at least 8,000 students, faculty and staff within the UH system. Annual educational workshops are provided through New Student Orientation, transfer programs, bridge programs, new student athletes orientation, housing and department program orientations.

The PAU Violence program is not only committed to primary prevention, but is unique in also providing direct services to students. We support student survivors of gender violence by providing confidential crisis referral support, advocacy and connections to both campus and community resources. Most of the students who

are referred or seek our services are students who are protected under Title IX but services are provided to any student regardless of who the alleged perpetrator is. System wide faculty and staff professionals who provide prevention and advocacy services do so in addition to their assigned positions and job duties on their campus.

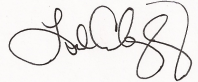
HB457 directly affects the work that the PAU Violence program is committed to providing. The program needs funding to maintain its services. **Please consider amending HB457 to include at least 4 FTE staff along with resources for education and outreach.** Currently HB457 supports the need for Title IX investigators but is not specific on the efforts to provide work for advocacy and prevention, both pieces that are significant to Title IX compliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony. Please vote in support of HB457 with the addition of appropriations for the PAU Violence Program.

Mahalo.

March 17, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Fr: Leslie D. Cabingabang 

Re: HB457: Relating to the University of Hawai'i: Title IX Compliance

Position: **IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

Aloha Chairs Taniguchi and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Inouye and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

I would like to thank the committee and the University administration for prioritizing Title IX Compliance. While my testimony is not the official stance of the University, I am writing as a coordinator for the UH Prevention Awareness Understanding Violence or PAU Violence Program and as a long time advocate for students who experience sexual violence, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment and stalking.

I am in support of this bill to provide resources for Title IX compliance, however I ask the committee and the university to specify funds to be used and distributed to support the declared priorities of prevention education. Furthermore, I am requesting the support for direct student services through the existing UH System PAU Violence Program.

The UH PAU Violence Program is a system wide network developing infrastructure to provide awareness and education. The UH PAU Violence Program is underfunded and exists due to the volunteer efforts of faculty and staff on each campus. In 2011, we were denied continued funding from the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women Campus Grant Program due to lack of evidence our home institution would financially support our prevention education efforts. We are asking the State of Hawai'i and the University to support the UH System PAU Violence Program to continue and expand our direct student services.

In addition to prevention education, UH PAU Violence also provides academic, personal, and mental health support and advocacy for survivors. We define advocacy as assisting students at whatever point in their healing process, regardless of the alleged perpetrator's affiliation with the university. We recognize that students who survive sexual violence are not always immediately ready to seek legal (campus or civil) remedies to address their experience. Even more, students in violent relationships are less likely to report to authorities for fear their partners will get into trouble or the violence will escalate. UH PAU Violence advocates inform student survivors of all their options and assist in what the student needs help with, like connecting with counseling,

finding the nearest health clinic, up to filing complaints or how to obtain protective orders.

On Page 2 Lines 7-16 of HB457, it states that “comprehensive ongoing prevention education, bystander intervention training, and training to students, faculty, and staff to address these criminal acts” are just as important as the investigation and reports of sexual violence. The measure does not indicate, however, how the university’s desired appropriations will be used to provide prevention education.

Sexual violence, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment and stalking amongst students are issues beyond Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act. Title IX coordinators and investigators are essential in the administration of institution policies, however do not meet the education and advocacy needs of students.

The UH System PAU Violence Program is dedicated to providing education to change the culture of acceptance of violence and promote healthy and safe relationships.

We humbly ask that the university dedicate funds to the existing infrastructure of the UH PAU Violence Program to provide continued outreach, prevention education, awareness and advocacy. Dedicated funding for the UH PAU Violence Program should include staff FTE and resources for training, outreach, education and direct student services.

My suggested amendment to this measure is to insert “PAU Violence” on Page 3 Line 16 to say, “**Staff, including investigators, coordinators, PAU Violence educational specialists, and trainers**” to ensure continued prevention education and advocacy for students. We ask **that two FTE positions be provided to coordinate existing violence prevention education and confidential advocacy for all campuses.**

Please vote for passage of HB457 with our proposed amendments to ensure dedicated funding to the existing, pertinent education and advocacy services of the UH System PAU Violence Program.

I am grateful for your time and consideration.

Mahalo

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, my name is Nathalie Ruelas and I am a first-year graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As a graduate student in the Myron B. Thompson School of social work, I am required to intern for an organization that works to serve the community. The organization I currently interning for is the UH PAU Violence Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, which directly impacts the large student community.

While interning for the UH PAU Violence Program, I have had the opportunity to reach out and provide preventative education, as well as the opportunity to offer support and advocacy for survivors of violence. Through this work I have also seen first-hand the importance and need of preventative education about gender-based and interpersonal violence. Countless times students have come up to me and thanked me for disseminating information about things such as partner violence, stalking and sexual assault. These are all issues that, unfortunately, plague our community. When students come up to me to thank me, it only reinforces that there is a strong community-based support for the prevention education that UH PAU Violence offers.

For this reason, I support the HB457 bill, but ask for an amendment to ensure that the proper allocation of funds be made to the UH PAU Violence Program. In addition to funding, staff FTE for prevention education, outreach and advocacy through the UH PAU Violence Program should also be strongly considered. The funds allocated to the UH PAU Violence and the staff FTE would be used to offer trainings, prevention education, and direct services to survivors of abuse such as academic, personal and mental health support for survivors.

Thank you,
Nathalie Ruelas
UH PAU Violence Program
MSW Practicum Student

TO: Senate Committee on Higher Education and The Arts
Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: Teresa Bill tbill808@gmail.com Honolulu Resident

RE: Support HB 457,HD1
Relating to Univ. of Hawai'i, Title IX & VAWA Compliance
Tues. March 17, 2015 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 224

I am Teresa Bill, testifying in support of HB457,HD1 allocating funds to the University of Hawaii to ensure compliance with Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and to begin effectively addressing sexual violence on campus. Although an employee of UH, I am submitting testimony as a private citizen.

Thank you to the Women's Legislative Caucus and the Women's Coalition for bringing needed attention to these issues.

The University of Hawai'i requested funding for positions including Title IX Coordinators and investigators. I believe the Women's Caucus acutely and correctly included language in HB457 addressing prevention education and direct services to students. I urge the Committee to ensure that this funding to the Univ. of Hawai'i includes some funds for UH PAU Violence to provide prevention education, awareness and direct student support services mentioned in HB457,HD1.

While "legal compliance" issues are important, as an advocate for students I know students need engaged prevention and awareness training as well as easy access to crisis services. The lack of and underfunding of such direct student services are acutely felt by students. Beginning July 1, 2015, the Violence Against Women Act requires Universities to engage in prevention strategies and ensure that students have access to needed services. This is in addition to the Title IX requirements of accurately reporting and investigating these criminal acts. Prevention and awareness, building a new culture of non-acceptance of violence among our students, must occur simultaneously with services to victims of assault.

The UH PAU Violence Program (**P**revention **A**wareness **U**nderstanding **V**iolence Program) 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. It is not unique in that such important services are not regularly funded by UH. Funding is always cobbled together of funds begged from this office & that, with campus-based personnel volunteering much of their time and energy.

The University needs to partner with community-based providers, and I have submitted testimony supporting the on-going funding of SATC (Sex Abuse Treatment Center) because we refer students to their services and they do incredible work. **But the University also needs to fund and ensure the stability of direct student services -- people who engage with students in prevention and awareness, which also establishes a trusted portal for students needing and seeking crisis services.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB457 on Mar 17, 2015 14:00PM
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2015 11:31:49 PM

HB457

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HEA/JDL on Mar 17, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I stand in strong support of this bill.

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.

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