



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
February 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

By  
John Morton  
Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1591 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1591 HD1. This measure would establish a new scholarship program called Hawai'i's Promise that provides support for students with financial need as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, to attend the UH Community Colleges at no cost for tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation.

Hawai'i's Promise would be a "last dollar" scholarship. Other sources of financial aid such as federal Pell grants, UH opportunity scholarships, and other public and privately sponsored scholarships would be applied first, and then Hawai'i's Promise would provide for any unmet needs in the categories mentioned above. This measure would allow any Hawai'i resident who meets the eligibility criteria to attend a UH Community College campus, at no cost for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and transportation. We are hopeful that this measure will encourage more students to attend a community college, leading to a better trained workforce to meet the employment demands of our state.

The University of Hawai'i fully supports this bill.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 12:54 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** liongson@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM\*

**Categories:** New Testimony

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raymund Liongson	FACULTY SENATE, Leeward Community College	Support	No

**Comments:**

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UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®  
**LEEWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Arts & Humanities Division  
**Philippine Studies Program**

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591  
Relating to the University of Hawai`i Promise Program

February 20, 2017

**The House Committee on Finance**

Attn.: Rep. Sylvia Luke, *Chair*

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, *Vice Chair*

*Members:*

Rep. Romy M. Cachola	Rep. Nicole E. Lowen
Rep. Isaac W. Choy	Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura
Rep. Lynn DeCoite	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
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Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole	Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi	Rep. Gene Ward
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti	

My name is Raymund Liongson, associate professor and coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program (Arts & Humanities) at the University of Hawaii-Leeward, and a resident of Ewa Beach, HI. I would like to register my strong support for HB 1591, relating to the University of Hawai`i Promise Program in all the UH community colleges.

As a college faculty member and student club adviser, I have been privileged to work with hundreds of young promising students. I have witnessed their personal struggles and successes. I have seen them dream and strive, celebrate and resign. Many of them are able and gifted; but as many are not as blessed in their resources. Many of them struggle to make a living while studying, sometimes not knowing which one to yield to first – to the economic requirements of life or to the financial demands of education. I know of students buried in educational loans and struggling hard to start a productive and rewarding life even after graduation. I am also aware of numerous students who have given up their dream of obtaining higher education because they can no longer afford it. Our students need a “life line” and we are confident the State can help provide that.

Our youth and the future should be our primary concern, This is why we educate. This is why we legislate. This is why we govern. It is because we care not only of the present, but because we recognize the future as sacred and inescapable. Let us, therefore, invest in them.

Society is increasingly becoming more sophisticated and competitive. To prevail, one needs to be equipped with higher-level knowledge and optimized capacities. Higher education is the path to realize that and HB 1594 is the courageous and prudent initiative to fulfill it. This is why I give my full and strong support for this bill. We ask the House Finance Committee to please pass it.

Thank you for hearing HB 1591 and for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

Raymund Liongson, Ph.D.  
liongson@hawaii.edu  
(808) 381-4315 (Mobile)



Finance Committee  
2pm February 22, 2017

Testimony in support HB1591 HD1 UH Promise Program  
Testimony submitted by Faye Kennedy, co-chair  
3071 Felix St, Honolulu 96816

Chair Luke and members of the committee

I am representing, the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights in support of HB1591 HD1. HF CR supports policies and programs that support diversity, inclusion, access and non-discrimination. This bill provides needed scholarship support to financially needy Community College students. We support this bill but prefer HB 1594 HD1 which would include financially needy students at all the ten campuses of the University. There are financially needy students at the Community Colleges as well as the four-year campuses. An investment in our students will help these students and their families obtain a college education, become educated citizens and become productive members of our state's workforce.



# Filipino American Citizens League

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 HD 1 & HB 1594 HD 1  
House Committee on Finance  
Feb. 22, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
House Committee on Finance Members

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 HD 1 & HB 1594 HD 1

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of both bills, but I recognize that HB 1594 HD 1 is more comprehensive and therefore better.

The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over twenty 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 111th year of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Filipinos and other disadvantaged groups including Native Hawaiians, Samoan, Pacific Islanders, low income, LGBTQ, Hispanics, African Americans and more still have a long way to go to attain parity in society.

Our Coalition is concerned about all disadvantaged students. In particular, we are aware of the disproportionate number of Filipino students who are under-achieving and struggling in our public schools and underrepresented in our 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 with little or no job security in the visitor, service, food, retail, construction, 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 education for all qualified UH system students. Students who would qualify for these scholarships will be the economic engine for Hawai'i's future. But we acknowledge the tight budget each session presents. That is why we also support HB 1591 HD 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill and advocate for the financial assistance for all qualified students in our UH system.

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](mailto:namihonolulu@yahoo.com)

*Bea Ramos-Razon, RN,  
FACDONA  
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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 HD 1, HB 1594 HD 1  
House Committee on Finance  
Feb. 22, 2017, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke and Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
House Committee on Finance Members

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

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 HD 1, HB 1594 HD 1

I am proud to submit our strong support for two of these bills. However, if the budget will allow for this session, strong consideration for HB 1594 HD 1 is appreciated because it covers all qualified students in the UH system, not just community college students.

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. 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.

As a registered voter and constituent in District 32, Salt Lake, and as community research partners and mentors for University of Hawai'i Filipino students who are first to go to college in their family, low income, and under-represented in higher education, NAMI and I have seen firsthand, the successful track record of student achievement. Scholarships for eligible students with unmet financial needs are essential for Hawai'i's economic and social well-being. Our students have gone on to medical school, and are nursing and public health professionals who are addressing health disparities and helping to keep the cost of health care down with education and prevention. Even more students could be giving back to society through these measures.

Thank you for hearing this bill and 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 STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 HD 1 AND HB 1594 HD 1  
House Committee on Finance  
Feb. 22, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen & House Committee on Finance Members  
From: Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12  
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12  
Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 HD 1 AND HB 1594 HD 1

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which 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.

I appreciate the consideration of the House Finance Committee to hear these bills and submit support for both. But the stronger bill that would make higher education possible for qualified students in the UH system is HB 1594 HD 1. Qualified transfer community college students and incoming freshmen at UH Hilo, UH Maui, UH West O'ahu and UH Mānoa all need assistance to pay for higher tuition.

Scholarships for qualified students consistent with the provisions of these bills are essential to promote access, diversity, and leadership development for Hawai'i's future leaders. While we advocate for financial assistance for all qualified students, one example of the insurmountable uneven barrier is seen with Filipinos, where they comprise 21 percent of public school students, but only 12 percent of students at UH Mānoa; where Filipinos make up a large segment of community college students, but their transfer rates to 4-year degrees and advanced professional degrees at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa are disproportionately low. Subsequently, it is unacceptable that Filipinos and other groups with disproportionately low education attainment, are overrepresented in entry level service jobs and underrepresented in executive positions. Rising to become the second largest ethnic group (15% by one race only, 25% by more than one race) in Hawai'i since 2010 is not keeping pace with the investment in resources needed for parity to uplift a disproportionate part of our community from service workers to colleagues. If given the support today with passage of either bill, more students will have the potential to make substantive contributions in fields vital to Hawai'i's economic health and quality of life. More importantly, these bills will build the capacity of qualified scholarship recipients to break the cycle of income inequality in their own family, in this generation, in our Aloha State.

Thank you for hearing these bills, and for the opportunity to support both bills, especially HB 1594 HD 1.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12

Finance Committee  
2pm February 22, 2017

Testimony in support HB1591 HD1 UH Promise Program  
Testimony submitted by  
Amy Agbayani, chair  
Filipino-American Advocacy Network (FAN)  
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hi 96819

Chair Luke and members of the committee

I am representing, Filipino-Americans Advocacy Network in support of HB1591 HD1. FAN advocates for equity, diversity and inclusion for Filipino students and families in our state. Filipinos are now the second largest group in the state and the public schools. They are adequately represented among the Community Colleges although not enough transfer to the four year campuses. They are most under-represented at Manoa. The Filipino community continues to struggle financially and this bill would help Filipino and other low income groups with low percentages with two or four year degrees.

We respectfully urge you to approve HB1591 to provide financial support for low income students at the Community Colleges. Although we support HB 1591 we prefer HB1594 because it includes four year campuses. There are financially needy students at the Community campuses as well as Hilo, Manoa and West O'ahu campuses.

This bill will not only help our students and their families fulfill their hopes but will also help our economy and our future.



Testimony in Strong Support of both HB 1594 HD1 and HB 1591 HD1  
House Committee on Finance  
February 22, 2017, 2 p.m., Hawai'i State Capitol Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke and Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
Members of House Committee on Finance

From: Juanito V. Moises, Jr., Civil Engineering Student (Junior) at UH Mānoa

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Juanito V. Moises, Jr. I strongly support student scholarships. I am currently a junior as a Civil Engineer in the College of Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am also a program assistant and tutor for GEAR UP Waipahu. GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. We help Waipahu students prepare for college by providing financial literacy workshops, tutoring, and many other opportunities that will equip them in their college journey.

I support both HB 1594 HD1 and HB 1591 HD1, but HB 1594 HD1 is preferred over HB1591 HD1 because funding should not only be limited to community college students. It is just as important to support incoming freshmen and undergraduates who also meet the criteria of unmet financial needs for this bill, and who are enrolled at UH Maui, UH Hilo, UH West O'ahu and UH Mānoa. Also, it would give the community college students scholarships if they transfer to any of the UH universities. It would encourage them to pursue a professional career in a higher degree program and not be limited to just an associate's degree if scholarships are limited to just being in a community college. We need more local students in the professional field.

The passage of this bill is important because scholarships has helped me through college to continue my education in the career of engineering. Only one of my parents have been working and making low income, but they have always encouraged me to do well during my high school years so that I can receive scholarships to pay for my college expenses because they were not able to have enough money to pay for my college expenses. Because of scholarships I have been motivated to pursue a career in engineering. Some of my high school classmates has struggled with financial assistance to go college, and many of them has taken a break from school to work and make enough to at least get into a community college. Others who were already in community colleges has stayed there longer and working part time to accumulate enough money that will help them with their financial struggles so that they can transfer to a university in Hawaii. I believe that scholarships for students in any colleges in the UH system would help them pursue their dreams like how I am pursuing my own dreams of becoming an engineer.

Thank you for hearing these bills and for the opportunity to offer my strong support for both HB 1594 HD1 and HB 1591 HD 1.

Sincerely,

Juanito V. Moises, Jr.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:57 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** nicolerecaido.9@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
erin nicole corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair I'm Erin Nicole Corpuz and I'm writing to say that I believe higher education is important. This will benefit our generation and the following generations to come. Many of our youth today are financially struggling with money for our tuition fee. Us youth think that we need a job before we go to school, just so we can have pocket money for school books and personal needs. There are also some of the people who have to pay for their own expenses and they are not qualified for financial aid and that isn't fair for many of them. I am currently a college student at Leeward, and this bill will help many of us students. I personally feel that we are here in college for our future job, and it feels as if we need to experience being in debt before getting into our dream job. That is why people have that mindset of not getting their education first. That why I'm willing to make that change, I support the HB1591, Thank you for taking the time for making the HB1591.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:57 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jerroldm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jerrold Mariano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Committee of Finance Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee Madam/Sir, I, Jerrold Mariano, am supporting HB-1591 HD 1. I am currently attending the University of Hawaii at Leeward Community College. I strongly support hb- 1591 because why not have a scholarship program for community colleges? Many people are in need of help for paying for college because it is not cheap at all. Education should not be a debt sentence where we would have to owe money to go school. Education is important and will benefit us for the future.

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**Cc:** agustin.milo1115@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Romel Agustin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair I Romel Agustin would strongly support HB1591 HD1, because being part of the UH Leeward CC and being a working student is hard because it is hard to balance the schedule of being at work at night and school at the day. It is also hard to pay all the finance that increases every year that I even asked for help in my parents. that is why would be so happy when the bill is approved approved.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jogasawara50@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John	Individual	Support	No

Comments: House Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee I am a community college student and support this bill. Why I support this bill is because I know a few friends that who are struggling to pay their tuition and working full time as well. With this bill can help this greatly and focus on their education.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:54 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** winniegj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Winnie Juan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee My name is Winnie Juan who is a full time college student that lives in Waipahu and goes to Leeward Community College. I am in strongly full support of the Bill HB 1591 HD 1 because I do believe students deserve higher education. I support the bill because everyone should earn a higher education. Higher education is important for the students now and for the future. It is an investment in me and for the young people today. College now is competitive and if there will be free education then it will have access to those who want to go to college. This higher education is important to me because it will be extended to a 4 year term which I will be doing later on in my school career and beyond. This education will help me for my future school career and career. I know that pushing for this bill will take a lot of support from people. I am striving to be an elementary school counselor and it will take me about six years total after my Liberal Arts degree. I will graduate from my Master's degree and head off to my dream career. I know that with supporting this Bill will make a difference because it will change how I am financially stabled right now. Lastly, I would like to thank the committee members for considering my testimony to be heard as a voice. I know that scheduling a hearing is a part of the process and needs to be heard. I thank you once again for your time and effort in making this bill a successful one. Sincerely, Winnie Juan

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chad Tamayo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Committee of Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice.Chair Members of the Finance Committee I strongly support 1591 HD1 because I believe education is important. I believe those that are willing to use these scholarships will use it efficiently especially at the community colleges because these people obviously care for their education to help them and will use this opportunity to aid them from the various difficulties such as working while going to school, family issues/emergencies, and or just having financial issues that could be putting them in this needed situation that will benefit them for the future. We can then only thank you enough for this bill. Thank you and I hope this will pass.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jaylyndi@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jaylyn Ildefonzo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee I am Jaylyn Ildefonzo, a student currently attending Leeward Community College. Recently I have heard of the bill HB1591 and after learning about it, I 100% support it. As a college student, it's a struggle paying for college. I personally have the help of financial aid, but some people aren't qualified to receive. For others who are financially unstable or can't receive financial aid, they have no other way to pay so they end up not being able to attend school. I support the bill HB1591 because I believe that higher education is important for everyone. Many people would like to attend college to pursue their career, but may not have the money for schooling. If this bill passes, people will be able to attend school and be one step closer to fulfilling their dream. There are many who are very passionate about this bill and would like to see a change for a better future. Other states in the US were able to achieve this goal and it's time for Hawaii to do so. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and I would also like to thank the committee for scheduling a hearing for the bill.

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The House Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K Cullen, Vice Chair

Your Honor:

My name is Alison Claire Tagabi, sophomore year in Leeward Community College. I am 20 years old full time student and a full time CNA.

Hearing about this bill in providing scholarship for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system really made a lot of college students happy. I am one of the students who came to the Capital and personally thanks the representatives who introduce this bill.

I support this bill Hb1591 because I believe that education should be free and students should not worry on paying loans after getting a degree. I am the eldest of my family and knowing that my parents supporting my brother pay his loan at a University made me think of paying my own tuition out of pocket because they still need to pay bills at home. I know some people who wants to finish college at least an Associate but they were not approved by FAFSA. Those people didn't want to pay out of pocket because they have other big things to pay. We don't know if those people have a better idea or better things that they can bring into this world. Paying for our education should not be the reason why many teens cannot attend college.

Sincerely,  
Alison Claire Tagabi

February 8, 2017

To: The House Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair

My name is Jasmine Gail Peralta from Leeward Community College. I am currently taking an Asian 204 class. In this class we are talking about higher education. My professor; Professor Raymund Liongson mentioned that there are two bills called HB1591 and HB1594 and I am writing this letter to support this bill. I want you to know that I support higher education, mainly because I am a student seeking higher education to get my degree and start my career and also because it is important for younger generations to be motivated in attending school after college. After all, we are the future and if more people are motivated and willing to go to school I believe that America could be great again.

Thank you for considering my testimony and the scheduled hearing.

Jasmine Gail Peralta

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:34 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bjabon@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bryan Abon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Directed towards The House Committee on Finance Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, Members of the Finance Committee in relating to the UH Promise Program. My name is Bryan Abon and I reside live in Waipahu and I support Hb1591 and Hb1594. Shouldn't we give free higher education to those who want it? Many students in community college take part time jobs in order to pay for college, which makes it longer for them to finish on time. Time is something that can never be given back and with this bill we can make more students finish on time so that they can move on to the next step of their journey into whatever career they choose. As for university students, they should also be given free higher education because the student loan interest is too much, making more students go into debt. Providing money towards free higher education is a huge investment but there are other ridiculous investments that this state has made. For example the rail is costing more and more as years go by. We should pass Hb1594 and Hb1591 to have a brighter future for our islands

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:28 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bolosan9@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jackilyn Bolosan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Jackilyn B. Bolosan 94-1450 Welina Loop #10A Waipahu Hi. 96797 The House Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair RE: Support for HB 1591 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program My name is Jackilyn Bolosan and I reside in 94-1450 Welina Loop #10A Waipahu Hawaii. I currently going to Leeward Community College and I'm at my second year taking Liberal Arts and want to pursue nursing. I am supporting the HB 1591 because I am a mother whose pursuing my education to provide a better life for my family. Through this bill, students like me who is struggling financially will enable me to continue my education and show to my children and the following generation the value of education. Education is important for me, and having it available to everyone will help us to better ourselves as well as to be a productive member of our community. I am very thankful for scheduling the hearing of this bill and considering my testimony. Sincerely, Jackilyn B. Bolosan

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 HD 1, HB 1594 HD 1  
House Committee on Finance  
Feb. 22, 2017, 2 p.m., Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
House Committee on Education Members

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 HD 1, HB 1594 HD 1

I am proud to submit my full support of both of these bills. My name is Jean Jeremiah. I am speaking as a private citizen. I served as former President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council, where many of our Filipino cultural events aimed to raise scholarship funds for deserving Filipino youth to pursue their education and career aspirations.

I support these two bills, and lean toward HB 1594 HD 1, because it is inclusive of financially needy students in all UH system schools, not just community college students. Scholarships for qualified students will help address education disparities for vulnerable pockets of students from diverse backgrounds, including students who are Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, houseless, LGBTQ, single parents returning to school, and students who may come from families that are caught in the cycle of income inequality with adverse social determinants they are struggling to overcome. Research shows that the more education our students receive today, the healthier, more prosperous, and the greater civic engagement there is for our communities tomorrow. We can achieve these best by prioritizing our limited budget for capacity building investment in our millennial generation, with scholarships consistent with the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for hearing these bills and for the chance to offer my strong support for both, especially HB 1594 HD 1.

Very Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 HD 1, HB 1594 HD 1  
House Committee on Finance  
Feb. 22, 2017, 2 p.m., Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
House Committee on Education Members

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 HD 1, HB 1594 HD 1

I am proud to submit my full support of both of these bills. My name is Jean Jeremiah. I am speaking as a private citizen. I served as former President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council, where many of our Filipino cultural events aimed to raise scholarship funds for deserving Filipino youth to pursue their education and career aspirations.

I support these two bills, and lean toward HB 1594 HD 1, because it is inclusive of financially needy students in all UH system schools, not just community college students. Scholarships for qualified students will help address education disparities for vulnerable pockets of students from diverse backgrounds, including students who are Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, houseless, LGBTQ, single parents returning to school, and students who may come from families that are caught in the cycle of income inequality with adverse social determinants they are struggling to overcome. Research shows that the more education our students receive today, the healthier, more prosperous, and the greater civic engagement there is for our communities tomorrow. We can achieve these best by prioritizing our limited budget for capacity building investment in our millennial generation, with scholarships consistent with the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for hearing these bills and for the chance to offer my strong support for both, especially HB 1594 HD 1.

Very Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD 1 and HB 1591 HD 1

House Committee on Finance

Feb. 22, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
House Committee on Finance Members

From: Davelyn Quijano, President  
Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD 1 and HB 1591 HD 1

I strongly support both bills. I am speaking as a private citizen. My name is Davelyn Quijano, president of the Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii. Our alumni association was established in 1995 and has grown to 60 members in Hawaii. I also serve as the secretary of the Anak ti Sinait of Hawai'i (Children of Sinait). Our alumni association prides itself in volunteerism both in Hawaii and the Philippines, where we perpetuate our culture, join in disaster relief efforts, finance medical missions to the Philippines, foster good health through outreach programs to our Filipino community, empower our youth through scholarship programs, offer aid to deceased members and their beneficiaries, and engage network opportunities to contribute successfully to Hawaii's economy through entrepreneurship.

While I support both bills, I believe HB 1594 HD 1 to be the better bill, because it would award scholarships to qualified students in the UH system. Students need continuity of financial assistance to complete a bachelors degree once they transfer from a community college, when tuition increases are beyond their reach. This consistent support is key to increasing a student's earning potential and the State's economic well-being. On the other hand, given these austere times, HB 1591 HD 1 is important to support the large number of community college students on their respective educational pathways. But then we are back to our current problem, where less community college students seek advanced degrees, because they can't afford the higher tuition.

It is important to me because I am a mother who was born in Ilocos Sur, Philippines and whose children were born and raised in Hawaii. I see the importance and feel the urgency that many parents like me share. We want our children to succeed in school, be prepared for careers, and become civically and responsibly engaged in community life. Too many of our young people are locked into hard and unstable lives for yet another generation. Investment in scholarships for qualified students throughout the state promises to yield high, measurable returns on our taxpayers' investment. We cannot afford not to help financially needy students to advance beyond community college. The financial help must follow community college students to complete their bachelors degree and continue on to graduate school. Otherwise, students will be frozen in entry level, low paying jobs with little job security, and at the mercy of transnational corporations whose profits come before the long term needs of its local workforce. Income inequality for those with less education is a persistent and complex problem. Education scholarships are a just, reasonable and prudent investment to resolve this.

Thank you for the chance to express my support of both bills, but especially for HB1594 HD 1.

Warmest regards,  
Davelyn Quijano

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2017 10:03 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** vanderso@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/20/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill, and, even better, HB 1594 HD 1, which extends scholarships to all qualified UH system students rather than just to qualified community college students only. Mahalo.

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Personal Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 2:00 pm Rm 308

by  
Donald B. Young

HB 1591 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Young and I serve as Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. However, today I am submitting personal testimony in support of HB 1591 HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai‘i Promise Program. This testimony does not necessarily represent the position of the University of Hawai‘i on this issue.

HB 1591 HD1 establishes the University of Hawai‘i Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the UH system. Such support for our resident students will also assist us in addressing the persistent teacher shortage in our state.

Working in collaboration with HIDOE we know there are persistent teacher shortages in special education, STEM fields, career and technical education, Hawaiian language immersion, English/reading, multilingual, and deaf/hard of hearing. And there are persistent geographic shortages in areas such as the leeward coast of Oahu and on Maui.

We believe that incentives in the form of financial assistance through scholarships funded by the State Legislature will provide us the tools necessary to recruit high quality candidates to enter the teaching profession. While there are no market survey data that we know of, we base our belief that financial incentives matter on past experience. Several years ago we had two cohorts of STEM candidates totaling 50 students funded by an external grant; 41 completed the program and were recommended for licensure. When the grant ended, the enrollment dropped to about five. We are now at about 21 STEM students total. We have never been able to recover anywhere near the previous numbers without student financial support.

On the other hand, our special education (SPED) program is at full capacity due to financial support for all students from a contract from the HIDOE, indicating that in Special Education, financial aid matters. The SPED faculty surveyed all licensure prospects regarding the perceived barriers to entering the profession. Overall, available funding was the most frequently cited concern (36%).

I therefore welcome this bill and the potential funding that could come with its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:28 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** chasity8@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chasity Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Senate Ways & Means Committee Sen. Jill N. Takuda, Chair Sen. Donovan M. dela Cruz, Vice Chair Members of the Ways & Means Committee I am a Leeward Community College student and I strongly support SB 1162. I believe that higher education is beneficial towards students that are struggling to balance financial necessities and school. I have fellow peers that find it difficult to pay for their own tuition, thus making it difficult to live a normal life without debt. I have family members that have children and are trying to attend school to better their lives for themselves, and their children. What makes attending school complicated for them is that they don't have any funds to pay for school and take care of their child and other responsibilities that comes with being a responsible adult. I personally struggle with two jobs and paying for school. The stress level that I have being 19 years-old should not be so complex. Juggling studying, paying off finances, working two jobs back to back just to just make it by in life. This isn't just difficult for me, but others that are in the same position as me. With that being said, this bill is very crucial and it will not only save me and my generation, but future generations to come.

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591  
The House Committee on Finance  
Feb. 22, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Rep. Romy M. Cachola	Rep. Nicole E. Lowen
Rep. Isaac W. Choy	Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura
Rep. Lynn DeCoite	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates	Rep. Sean Quinlan
Rep. Daniel Holt	Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita
Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole	Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi	Rep. Gene Ward
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti	

From: Tricia May A. Mauricio

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591

Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at a University of Hawaii community college. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

My name is Tricia May A. Mauricio. I am a University of Hawaii student at the Leeward Community College campus. I live in Pearl City, District 35, my Senate Representative is Senator Clarence K. Nishihara and my House Representative is Representative Roy M. Takumi. I strongly support HB 1591 HD1.

I am in strong support for this bill because I am the first in my family to attend college. My mother and I are the only breadwinners in our family and we live paycheck to paycheck, supporting our household and extended family. My mother endures weeks at a time working and only coming home for a change of clothes and a bite to eat. Whereas I spend weeks with little to now sleep working two jobs and attending school full time. This scholarship would greatly help to alleviate, at least, the expenses needed for school. This is especially helpful because my younger brother will be entering college this fall. My family, as is for others, strongly believes that higher education means attaining a better job, therefore improving Hawaii's economic and social mobility. If that is the case, then higher education needs not only to be encouraged, but also affordable and attainable for those willing to gain higher education.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass HB 1591.

Sincerely,  
Tricia May A. Mauricio



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:15 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** elloisep@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ELLOISE	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Finance Committee Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee I am a Leeward Community College student and I highly support HB 1591/ HD 1, because I believe that higher education is a key to success and a better future. I am an immigrant who goes to work and school full time and striving for the best. I also believe that this scholarship will help me and my siblings and other family who are struggling financially. It would be my pleasure if this bill gets approved because it will give low income families and students now and in the future the opportunity to pursue a career for a better future. Thank you!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:12 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jiramire@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The house of Finance Committee Attn. Rep Slyvia Luke Chair Rep J.K. Cullen Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee I am a fellow Leeward Community College student and I believe that funding Community College's would be best for the future because it gives our fellow citizens of Hawaii the real college experience and it helps people make wiser choices on how they want their future to be

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:11 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bkaimana@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicholas Benevides	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My name is Nicholas Benevides and I am currently a student at Leeward Community College. I think that Hb 1594 would be a benefit for everyone. Many people are not able to afford college so they decide to skip on college. I believe in this day that a higher education is required to get a well paying job. For the people that skip on college because they can't afford it, this just repeats the cycle for them. Letting the people that can afford college to move on to better things while the one's that can't are stuck.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:08 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mcop@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
MYRA PASCUAL	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Finance Committee Attn: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair I am a Leeward Community College student and highly support HB 1591 HD1 because I believe that higher education will help me achieve the things I want to be in the future. I am an immigrant, working two jobs trying to make both ends meet and sending myself to school. I only rely on the scholarships and grants for me to attend college. Higher education is very important to me because it will be my transportation or it will be my way to further and pursue my career. I am the first person in my family that is working on a degree and I must make sure that I finish it because my parents are getting older and I am the only one they are relying on in helping them. Free university education will greatly help me in becoming the person I want to be in the future and I will make sure that I will give back to the community that helped me achieve these dreams into a reality.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:08 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** 808kellie@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kellie Monje	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Committee on Finance Attn: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair I am a student at Leeward Community College. I am one of the many people who strongly support 1591 HD 1 because I believe that higher education can be something to invest in, in the future. In the past, I have seen some of my peers whom have dropped out of school due to their financial problems. I understand that college does need a cost, but does it need to be our stress on money? Students who go to college are motivated by either money or making something out of themselves. I am motivated by both. Every time I think of giving up in school, I remind myself that I am actually paying for myself to have a seat here. But another thing I remind myself is that I can make a difference. And the only way I can do that is with the education here in college. College is here for a reason. It's here to give people like me a chance to make something out of myself that will help benefit others in the future. As a nursing student, I hope to finish my education here and go into the nursing workforce in the future. Being in college will help me get there, free education for college will help ease my financial struggles and you invest in not only me. But future politicians, engineers, business managers, accountants, teachers whom are in school hoping for free education today.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:07 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** elloisep@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ELLOISE	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Finance Committee Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee I am a Leeward Community College student and I highly support HB 1594/ HD 1, because I believe that higher education is a key to success and a better future. I am an immigrant who goes to work and school full time and striving for the best. I also believe that this scholarship will help me and my siblings and other family who are struggling financially. It would be my pleasure if this bill gets approved because it will give low income families and students now and in the future the opportunity to pursue a career for a better future. Thank you!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:01 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** babyj63@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
baby jane pacleb	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The House Finance Commitetee Rep. Sylvia Luke Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair Im a current Leeward Community College student, and I strongly support HB1591 HD1 because this will benefit deserving students who wants to earn a degree but struggling, trying to make ends meet. As a mother with two children, who are just depending on my husbands income, the UH Scholarship Program will be a huge help. Deserving students benefiting from this bill will give students a chance to realize their dream to be future engineers, nurses, architects, astronauts and scientists. After earning a degree, they will be able to get jobs and be able to send their future children. This will benefit the entire family, as well as the community. I hope this bill will pass, because this is a worth it investment.

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## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

PERSON TESTIFYING: Robyn S. B. Chun

DATE: Wednesday, February 22, 2017

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: State Capitol Conference Room 308

TITLE OF BILL: HB 1591 HD1 RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen and Committee Members

**I support HB 1591 HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program** and respectfully ask lawmakers to consider enlarging eligibility for the program so that it includes enrollment at any of the University of Hawai'i campuses.

In my experience teaching students pursuing early education degrees, many of the students of "promise" in my field, even at the baccalaureate and master's levels, are only able to attend college part-time. They struggle to manage the cost of tuition. The students I encounter are often working mothers in low-wage jobs who are balancing school with work and caring for their families. They are primary caregivers for young children and/or elderly parents. And, they will forsake their educational dreams in order to meet the immediate financial obligations of their families. They make slow and steady progress while raising their families and keeping a roof above their heads.

Enrollment in a baccalaureate or graduate program is a financial hardship for the many of the non-traditional, minority women who are seeking a degree in my field. Paying for tuition is one of the biggest obstacles prospective students mention. Given the cost of living in Hawai'i, I suspect the cost of a college degree is a challenge for many of the 69% of the adult population with an associate's degree or less (Research and Economic Analysis Division, 2016).

Expanding the scope of the Promise program to include all of the University of Hawai'i campuses would help underrepresented students at all levels to pursue their college dreams.

Research Economic Analysis Division. (2016). Educational Attainment in Hawaii. Honolulu, HI: Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Retrieved from [http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data\\_reports/briefs/Educational%20Attainment\\_Jan\\_2016.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/briefs/Educational%20Attainment_Jan_2016.pdf)



February 21, 2017

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Dear Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair & Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

My name is Pia Solis. I'm currently a full time student attending UH Leeward Community College. I'm here to support the bill HB 1591, HD 1. Higher education is important for everyone. But there are people, students who want to continue their education but don't have financial support. Everyone has different living conditions and situations, but that should not deprive them of their education. I support that scholarships should be provided to qualified students in the UH community college. There is this stigma around 'community colleges.' Those who attended community colleges are looked down upon from the universities. But the University of Hawaii Manoa and all the community college across the islands are under one system. So students in community colleges should be given the same opportunities as a university student. These scholarships can help benefit students in community colleges and the universities.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony. I strongly support the BILL HD1591 and hope that it will be passed.

Sincerely,

Pia Solis

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** hazelynt97@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hazelyn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass HB1591.

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**Cc:** nicolesd@hawaii.edu  
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**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole Daguimol	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like free higher education tuition because it will help me to pursue the career I have always aspired to reach. It will also help me to not be in so much debt by the time I actually reach the career of my dreams. I support HB1591 because it will benefit many people, and it may even encourage many individuals to go to college. So many people aren't able to go to college because they don't have the budget to do so, but with free higher education, they will be encouraged to go back to school and pursue their dreams. Another reason why I support free higher education is because nobody wants to be in so much debt as they reach their goals. Many people out there have the job they have always wanted but yet dont make much of a good income because so much of it is being used to pay off college loans. Free college tuition will make many more futures and goals come true in the long run. Free college tuition, will benefit not only this generation but many of the generations to come.

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**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
shuntle maneja	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to receive a free higher education because it will help me to pursue all my goals in the future. As an aspiring Registered Nurse/Psychologist aiming to receive my Masters or PhD degree I will be in debt for the rest of my life if this bill isn't passed. I come from a single family household whom isn't financially stable meaning that I really can't afford to pay for my tuition especially with the degree that I want to pursue. I have already begun to work in order to save up for my college educations which is why this bill is really important because it does not only help me but it helps everyone, because there are so many families like mines who can't afford. I believe that education is very powerful and all kids should have the right to achieve their dreams.

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**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rhonaleih Joy Sao	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The State of Hawaii should help students pay for college because higher education is the key to success. It is a way to shape and build us for future purposes and an opportunity that will transform our aspirations in life into reality. College should not be a debt sentence. These things are the reason why I strongly support HB1591.

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**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel John Quiamas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support for HB 1591 because I believe that efforts should be made to reduce the cost of college for those who need it. By having higher education be something that only those that are economically advantaged has access to puts those that can't afford it at a disadvantage. In our present society, many jobs require some sort of college degree; some employers for higher paying jobs may not even hire if an applicant that lacks college education. I believe that this is unfair because people that can't afford a higher education are essentially "locked out" from succeeding in securing a good, high paying jobs and better opportunities, because they lack the education to get in. Education should NOT be a privilege; everyone should be entitled to a fair chance at a good job. This is why I support the UH Promise Program.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erna Joy Villosio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly believe that the UH Promise Scholarship Program is something that should be offered to all students. With this everyone who is economically disadvantaged will be able to go to college, and they will be able to live a successful and happy life. The UH Promise Scholarship Program will help students reach their goal. This would benefit people like me who does not come from a rich family. Many students have to work multiple jobs just to pay off their college, and sometimes it's not enough. Many years after a student graduated from college, they are still paying off debt. So with this program, many students will no longer have to worry about not having enough money for college, and they will be able to focus on their studies and their future career.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jade Robles	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I highly believe that the state should help those in needs for who wants to go to college. Just like the UH promise program. There are young adults that have to work day and night dealing with a full time job along with being a full time student due to having to pay for an education that they want to achieve towards to. This UH Promise Program would benefit many students out with bills and less stress to helping them onto transitioning into the full adult life. Many students wants to get into college so they are able to get a higher education than just a high school degree. Many student's, like me, are working to save to help out on paying for college. In my current family situation, our family is struggling towards fighting to get out of debt. With almost 1 more year left of high school, my family is trying very hard to save up for my college because my future is set on becoming a nurse. This program will benefit other students and myself that will help me out in the long run as there is no need to worry a lot about debts in the future and would help on concentrating more towards education than financial problems.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Jane Maluyo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in favor for financial assistances for college because I believe that the higher education would result in a better future with more success. There are many people nowadays who would like to receive this level of success, but cannot do so because of the fact that they simply can't afford it. I, for example, come from a rather large family and it's not guaranteed that my parents would be able to support us all. If college with the financial assistance were to be available for the next upcoming students, those who are not financially supported can achieve the goals that they probably could not have without this help. The more people that are able to attend college, the more successes we could see in the future! This is why I support the UH promise program.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jasmine Nicole Agmata	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: We should have free college because I believe that higher education is a path of successful opportunities. Also my family can't afford all the tuitions and all the of the things that we need to pay in college. I also want to achieve my goals but I cannot achieve that if I can't afford college. People want to have a good future also not only me but a lot of people out there wanting to attend college to have a good future. That is why we should free community and university college. I strongly support UH promise scholarship program.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Daclison	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I prioritize education. However, higher education costs a lot of money which makes a lot of people unable to access it. It will also discourage the majority to not attend college just for something as simple as the cost. We can solve this. It could be easier if we made colleges and high education more affordable to the public than it already is. More people will have the chances and opportunities to learn knowledge everyday.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kuuleialoha Tachibana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As I am a high school senior taking early college, I highly support the UH Promise Scholarship Program. My family is not financially stable, and we have a difficult time as it is paying for basic necessities, so I am no where near able to afford to go to college. I would have to take out loans, which I would be spending most of my adult life trying to pay back. But with this bill, it will grant me free education that will not make me take out loans and go into debt, but instead lead me to a successful future.

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Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Von Richard Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The reason why I push for this cause because it will help me on the path to success. Before I joined early college, I honestly thought that I wouldn't get that far in higher education. After nearly two years of taking this program, I feel much more confident that I will succeed in college. Another reason why I am for this program because it will encourage others to take advantage of this amazing opportunity. As a result, this will help reduce poverty in the future.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Isaac Serrano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The UH Promise Program may seem like a waste of money but it certainly is not by looking farther into the future of our state and country. With more affordable higher education more students will be able to continue with school and attain a higher and professional status. Having more people with professional jobs it will only bring more to our country. With this I strongly support the UH Promise Program.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alysa Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly believe that the state should provide for the financial needs of students in higher education. Higher education is essential for many future careers and for a stable economic state of living. If students do not receive this financial help, they will likely turn to loans and borrowed money. This will put them in debt and not be stable for their life ahead of them. A college education is worth more now than it has ever been, not only in the outcome but also in the cost.

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Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynette Villa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill because my family don't have the financial support that I need to pay for college. Also I believe that this bill will help me to be able to attend the college that I need to reach the career that I want. Lastly, I believe that this bill will prevent debt sentences among college students.

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**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
fria gabur	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would want a free public or university college program because I believe that not everyone has the right amount of money to pay everything for college. Also my parents won't have enough money to help me pay for my college. Also having student loan would be something that I would have a hard time paying in the future due to lack of money. Many students, even the smart ones, sometimes does not attend college because they have financial problems.

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Submitted on: 2/21/2017

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jaylynne Ann Subia	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I believe that free college is highly significant to all students, even the early college students who are yet taking high school courses. I am currently an Early college student at Waipahu High School and from experience, I am able to say that it had greatly benefitted my college path and academic future. Coming from a big family, I believe that help is greatly needed and appreciated for this way, our families have the chance to support academic success and enable students, despite who they are to earn a higher education and college credits. Thus, I strongly support the bill creating community college promise scholarship program.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Irish Barruga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I believe that we should have the opportunity to have our tuitions paid off for or give us some sort of extra aid for us students who strive for a higher level of education. The reason for this is because we should be able to have the same opportunities as others who are fortunate enough to afford it. As a student now who has applied to the University of Hawaii-Manoa I was given the opportunity to get my applications waived due to my family's financial status. As being said that I am fortunate enough to receive a waiver, others may not be able to obtain this kind of things. I want to state that the government should pay attention to students who want to achieve a higher education because these are the people who want to accomplish better things in life. The people who want to be able to support themselves further on in life. I know these things ask for student qualifications in order to qualify but this should be a great opportunity or motivation for students to take part of this grant. This is why I strongly support HB 1591.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Germaine Valeros	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a students here in United States, the government should help us to pay for our tuition because in this economy not all of our parents have a good work where they can earn a lot of money to provide or pay our full tuition which will leave them to have to get a loan in order for us to go to university. Also it will make us have a good future because we will have a higher education and give us more experience. And we don't need to work while we are studying and use it to pay for our college tuition. I strongly support HB1591.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shayan Au	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The reason why I am supporting free college is because at this point in time I personally have trouble finding money for college. As a high school student I realize that in order to be in a good paying job I must get a degree. I currently live with my mother and grandparents with little to no support from my father. My mom has a very hard time trying to support 2 kids and now that I have to go college we are trying to get as much funding as possible. On the fafsa, I did not qualify for financial aid because it said she made too much money but she jus recently told me what she put on there wasnt her true income. What she has put on the fafsa was her incone plus money she took out of her retirement. I wanna get a higher education and just help my mom out and be a good son. I strongly support HB1594 to not only help me but help out every student out there, we need to think about the future. The future is us and the generations to come.

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Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Samantha Mae Cabantog	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the HB1591. As an early college student, I believe that higher education should be paid for by grants, and therefore should be free. It should not be a debt sentence. If anything, we should pay for the classes we fail, and not the classes we pass because it'll be a way for students to stay focused in school, and to avoid asking for a student loan. Furthermore, college is a path that gears toward success, so money shouldn't hold students back from pursuing their dreams.

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FIN-Jo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:58 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: ariad@hawaii.edu  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aria Daoang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a person who is from a large family and aspires to go to college, higher education is a must. With a higher education I can get a better paying job but if the costs of college leaves me in debt before I can even earn anything, it affects not only me but my family as well. Trying to send one child to school is hard enough but with a family as large as mine, large amounts of money is required and that is money we don't have. That is why although it won't be completely free, it would make our already difficult lives more peaceful.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:57 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: ashleemb10@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashlee Mei Balignasay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe that higher education is the key to success and a pathway to help us prepare for the future. It saddens me when students who just graduated from high school aren't able to attend college because of financial reasons. This bill is beneficial to me because attending college is very expensive when you have a sister who is going to attend college the next year. I want to make sure my sister and I are focused on learning instead of worrying about the price of everything such as books. I also believe that this bill will benefit society because the more knowledgeable people are, there would be more solutions to the problems we have today. Therefore, the money being used is worth it because of an individual's determination to learn something new everyday.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:56 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: ambersv@hawaii.edu  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amber Viernes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The opportunity to higher education is something that everyone should have for various reasons. Not everyone has the same backgrounds, as some people struggle to maintain all their necessities, while other people are able to afford their luxuries with ease. Most people are not that fortunate and are not able to be exposed to as much opportunities as others, and as such it is difficult for them to take up opportunities. Everyone has the potential to have great ideas that can shape the future of the world, but without higher education, people are unable to get jobs that are able to align with their passions. If people are able to have a higher education, it allows for everyone to be put on equal grounds. If this could be passed, it will allow everyone to be exposed to greater opportunities and get the education that they deserve. Everyone has the ability to work hard in college, and as such everyone should be allowed to have the opportunity to participate in higher education across all community campuses.

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**LATE**

Jillian G. Panganiban  
94-966 Awaiki Street  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
(808) 383-6017

February 21, 2017

TO: House Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

RE: Support for HB 1591 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

My name is Jillian Panganiban. I am currently a junior at Waipahu High School. Along with taking high school classes, I am also taking college classes. I am an Early College Olympian, which is a student who is working towards receiving their Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. I am involved in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as I am the Vice President of Communications. Phi Theta Kappa is an honor society of two-year colleges that offers its members scholarship, skills, honor and support. When I graduate from high school, besides receiving my high school diploma, I will receive an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. I strongly support the HB 1591.

Passing these bills would help those in need of money for college. School can be expensive. College tuition is constantly increasing, resulting in a countless number of students whom can not afford it. Students are not receiving enough money from financial aid, grants, loans and scholarships to meet their college expenses. With the possibility of free college tuition, the number of students attending college would likely increase. There are many students that do not attend college because of not having the financial aid to pay for college. While others are dying in student loan debts. College is a big deal. A college education is essential for the future. There are better employment opportunities for college graduates as more jobs are hiring those with a higher education. Therefore, the HB 1591 should be passed.

I would like to thank the finance committee for their time and effort in arranging this hearing. Hopefully, my testimony has convinced the decision in passing these bills. Students would greatly benefit from this. A free college education would save students and their families a lot of money like it has to mine. Thus, I believe the HB 1591 would assist students in pursuing their goals.

Testimony presented before the  
**Senate Ways & Means Committee**

DATE: Thursday, February 22, 2017

TIME: 2:00pm

PLACE: Conference Room 308,  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

By Rovy Anne Dipaysa  
Waipahu High School Early College Student

**LATE**

HB1591 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

POSITION: Support

Honorable Committee Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Ty Cullen, Members of the Committee,

My name is Rovy Anne Dipaysa. During the summer 2014, after graduating from Waipahu Intermediate School and before beginning Waipahu High School, I enrolled in the Waipahu High School Early College Program as one of the State of Hawaii's first Early College Olympians with the aim and purpose of earning my Associate in Arts degree from Leeward Community College by the time I graduate from high school. Presently, I am in 11th grade at Waipahu High School and by the end of this spring semester, I will have completed 50 of the 60 credits (or 83%) required for the Associate in Arts degree. After I graduate from high school, I plan to attend UH West Oahu and major in Healthcare Administration. Ultimately, I have high aspirations to earn a Ph.D.; however, I am still exploring various fields study for graduate school.

As a new immigrant, who arrived in Hawaii in May 2012, I stand firmly in support of HB 1591 and HB 1594 because I believe that higher education is a powerful way to get people out of the poverty.

As a first-generation immigrant, my family struggles in poverty. When we lived in the Philippines, my family came from a rural area where subsistence was a daily challenge. My family and I were blessed to have been given visas to come to America where, through hard work and sacrifice, we could have a better life. When we moved to

Hawaii, we rented a crowded and cramped apartment (together with our extended family) because my parents were unable to own or even rent their own place. Because my parents did not have chance to go to college here in the U.S, they both have low-income jobs. The hardships of poverty have been my motivation to get a college education so that I can help move my family out of the poverty.

When I was in 8th grade at Waipahu Intermediate School, Dr. Mark Silliman, Early College Director at Waipahu High School, introduced us to the Waipahu High School Early College Program. Without any hesitation, I seized the opportunity and took my first Early College course when I was a rising freshmen in the summer 2014 term before I took any high school classes. I felt that this was the start of my journey toward earning a college degree. Together with 13 other Early College Olympians at Waipahu High School, we anticipate getting our Associate in Arts degree by the same time we graduate from high school in May 2018. However, our journey will not end there. All of my Olympian classmates agree that our goal is to go beyond the Associate degree. We all aspire to earn a Bachelor's, Master's or even a doctoral degree one day.

Some say that as much as 42% of Hawaii's workforce will be eligible to retire in the next few years. In the very near future, today's professionals -- doctors, nurses, teachers, architects, lawyers, electricians and plumbers, to name a few -- will see critical shortages. This reality makes investment in Hawaii's Promise a critical strategy toward addressing the retirement crisis. I hope that we will be the ones who replace them. Without a trained workforce, what will happen to the quality of life in our communities? Who will be the ones that will treat the sick? Who will be the teachers of the next generation? Who will be the one that will build sustainable green industries, malls, public infrastructure, and housing? -- all of which will improve our economy and quality of life. Who will be the ones who will be our first responders? If investments are not made with regard to the vast numbers of underrepresented students who have historically not gone to college, who will fill the shoes of these retirees? My classmates and I stand before you today as tomorrow's competitive workforce and future leaders. Dr. Jose Rizal, the most important national hero of the Philippines once said, "Youth are the hope of our future." I wholeheartedly agree with him. Without trained

professionals who are willing to give back to their communities through service, who will be the caretakers of society once you retire? .

I humbly testifying in front of you in support of Hawaii's Promise bill, not only for myself, but for the many thousands of lower-income, underrepresented, first generation college students who live in Hawaii and who follow in our early college foot steps. The passage of this bill should not be viewed as a "handout," but rather a "hand up." We ask only to be given the opportunity to improve our lives and the quality of life for everyone in our communities. In return for passing the Hawaii Promise, we promise to work hard and help the State of Hawaii reach its goal of having 55 percent of it citizen earn a college degree by 2025. Thank you for supporting the passage of this bill and for investing in a more promising future for all of Hawaii's residents.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:02 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: vidad@hawaii.edu  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM



**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vanessa Vidad	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of this bill for the following reasons listed: The opportunity of having secondary education is an opportunity for younger generations to receive a higher level of knowledge of at least an AA Degree for the betterment of their future. However, one of the most common setbacks that prevent students from going to college is tuition and cost of books. With the UH Promise Program, it will ease the harsh expenses for those who are at a financial disadvantage, especially among those who work minimum wages and wishes for their children to get a higher education. What we need in our future is a well-prepared generation that are highly educated to tackle the world's problems, and the UH Promise Program is the first big step to a brighter future for not only for our children, but for the next generations to come.

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Testimony presented before the  
**Senate Ways & Means Committee**

DATE: Thursday, February 22, 2017

TIME: 2:00pm

PLACE: Conference Room 308,  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

By Rovy Anne Dipaysa  
Waipahu High School Early College Student

**LATE**

HB1591 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PROMISE PROGRAM

POSITION: Support

Honorable Committee Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Ty Cullen, Members of the Committee,

My name is Rovy Anne Dipaysa. During the summer 2014, after graduating from Waipahu Intermediate School and before beginning Waipahu High School, I enrolled in the Waipahu High School Early College Program as one of the State of Hawaii's first Early College Olympians with the aim and purpose of earning my Associate in Arts degree from Leeward Community College by the time I graduate from high school. Presently, I am in 11th grade at Waipahu High School and by the end of this spring semester, I will have completed 50 of the 60 credits (or 83%) required for the Associate in Arts degree. After I graduate from high school, I plan to attend UH West Oahu and major in Healthcare Administration. Ultimately, I have high aspirations to earn a Ph.D.; however, I am still exploring various fields study for graduate school.

As a new immigrant, who arrived in Hawaii in May 2012, I stand firmly in support of HB 1591 and HB 1594 because I believe that higher education is a powerful way to get people out of the poverty.

As a first-generation immigrant, my family struggles in poverty. When we lived in the Philippines, my family came from a rural area where subsistence was a daily challenge. My family and I were blessed to have been given visas to come to America where, through hard work and sacrifice, we could have a better life. When we moved to

Hawaii, we rented a crowded and cramped apartment (together with our extended family) because my parents were unable to own or even rent their own place. Because my parents did not have chance to go to college here in the U.S, they both have low-income jobs. The hardships of poverty have been my motivation to get a college education so that I can help move my family out of the poverty.

When I was in 8th grade at Waipahu Intermediate School, Dr. Mark Silliman, Early College Director at Waipahu High School, introduced us to the Waipahu High School Early College Program. Without any hesitation, I seized the opportunity and took my first Early College course when I was a rising freshmen in the summer 2014 term before I took any high school classes. I felt that this was the start of my journey toward earning a college degree. Together with 13 other Early College Olympians at Waipahu High School, we anticipate getting our Associate in Arts degree by the same time we graduate from high school in May 2018. However, our journey will not end there. All of my Olympian classmates agree that our goal is to go beyond the Associate degree. We all aspire to earn a Bachelor's, Master's or even a doctoral degree one day.

Some say that as much as 42% of Hawaii's workforce will be eligible to retire in the next few years. In the very near future, today's professionals -- doctors, nurses, teachers, architects, lawyers, electricians and plumbers, to name a few -- will see critical shortages. This reality makes investment in Hawaii's Promise a critical strategy toward addressing the retirement crisis. I hope that we will be the ones who replace them. Without a trained workforce, what will happen to the quality of life in our communities? Who will be the ones that will treat the sick? Who will be the teachers of the next generation? Who will be the one that will build sustainable green industries, malls, public infrastructure, and housing? -- all of which will improve our economy and quality of life. Who will be the ones who will be our first responders? If investments are not made with regard to the vast numbers of underrepresented students who have historically not gone to college, who will fill the shoes of these retirees? My classmates and I stand before you today as tomorrow's competitive workforce and future leaders. Dr. Jose Rizal, the most important national hero of the Philippines once said, "Youth are the hope of our future." I wholeheartedly agree with him. Without trained



professionals who are willing to give back to their communities through service, who will be the caretakers of society once you retire? .

I humbly testifying in front of you in support of Hawaii's Promise bill, not only for myself, but for the many thousands of lower-income, underrepresented, first generation college students who live in Hawaii and who follow in our early college foot steps. The passage of this bill should not be viewed as a "handout," but rather a "hand up." We ask only to be given the opportunity to improve our lives and the quality of life for everyone in our communities. In return for passing the Hawaii Promise, we promise to work hard and help the State of Hawaii reach its goal of having 55 percent of it citizen earn a college degree by 2025. Thank you for supporting the passage of this bill and for investing in a more promising future for all of Hawaii's residents.

Edna Mae Felix

SB1162 Bill

Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. This quote summarizes what I believe education really is. I believe that education is so important to the point where it is the foundation of everything. My name is Edna Mae Felix, a current Junior attending Waipahu High School. I immigrated to Hawaii when I was 7 years old. I started first grade with no knowledge on how to speak English nor understand the language. I persevered and worked extremely hard to get to where I am today. I am currently the President of the Academy of Health and Sciences, a part of Student Government, inducted to the Phi Theta Kappa, an Early College Olympian, HOSA member, member of National Honor Society, and a part of AVID Service club.

I have enormously grown as individual from when I first came to Hawaii to now. I would not be able to achieve everything without the free education I have received, and my parents would not be able to pay for me to get an education because of their tight budget. I currently am in the Early College program which is a free opportunity to earn college credits at the same time as being a High School student. I have learned to value the meaning of free post high school education.

I am in support of this bill, because I see how this would positively affect many families lives especially the students. It would give the kids an opportunity to be able to achieve their goals without the burden on themselves and on their families on how they will get the money to pay for their education. Education is such an important thing today, and students should be inspired to learn and focus on their own learning instead of worrying about how to pay for it.

The price for education after High School has been increasing so much which affects students because they will get the mindset of not wanting to continue their education after High School because they would rather work. Education after high school should be a motivation to work hard in order to have a better future and not be a burden on the students and their families. Education after High School should be a straight pathway to their dreams and not so much having a lot of bumps on the road because they have to worry about money.



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

**LATE**

House Committee on Finance

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: February 22, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 308

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk  
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 1591 HD1** RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PROMISE PROGRAM.

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Cullen a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

This bill establishes the University of Hawai'i Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at a University of Hawai'i community college. It appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. We are writing to **support** this measure. We believe that establishing the University of Hawai'i Promise Program is an important step toward ensuring post-secondary success for all of Hawai'i's students, especially Native Hawaiians.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! **Please advance this measure.** Mahalo nui.

**LATE**

February 21, 2017

To: Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke and Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen  
and Members of House Committee on Finance

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1,  
AND OPPOSITION TO HB 1591 HD1**

My name is Nanea C. Lo. I am a student at UH Manoa and I strongly support student scholarships. I am a major in 'ike Hawai'i (Hawaiian Studies).

Although I support HB1591 HD 1 which would provide funding for the unmet needs for community college students, this HB 1591 HD 1 is short sighted and does not include students at other campuses including UH Manoa.

Therefore, I am writing to ask you to **please pass HB 1594 HD 1** designed to address the unmet needs of community college and incoming freshmen and undergraduates enrolled at UH Maui, UH Hilo, UH West O'ahu and UH Mānoa.

I am especially concerned about the cost of tuition at campuses such as UH Manoa, which keeps on rising, while we students have to absorb all these cost increases, with limited scholarship and financial aid support, resulting in unmet financial aid needs. Getting through school is important, and if I have to take on a job or increase the hours that I work, it could seriously delay my graduation date, resulting in additional costs and ultimately hardships.

Thank you for hearing these bills and for the opportunity to offer my strong **support for HB 1594 HD1 and opposition to HB 1591 HD 1.**

Mahalo,

Nanea C Lo, 91-1049 Hoakalei Street, Kapolei, HI 96707

FIN-Jo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 8:21 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: naneaclo@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM\*



**HB1591**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591  
The House Committee on Finance

To: Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair, Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen

From: Ashley Nakasone  
Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591

My name is Ashley Nakasone; I am an American citizen and registered voter. I am from District #42, my House Representative is Sharon Har and my Senator is Mike Gabbard. I am in my second semester at the University of Hawaii at Leeward Campus. Ultimately, I will be pursuing my nursing degree at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I strongly support this bill because I believe in the power of intellectual growth through higher education. As a result, this bill would provide an equal opportunity for all social classes to attend and possibly graduate college without the impediment of tremendous debt. The establishment of fundamental tools for underprivileged adults will not only benefit Hawaii, but also encourage members to be productive in society. In order to do so, they would need more than what gold can offer; that is the wealth of knowledge through higher education.

As a single mother to a 4 year-old son, I first handedly know the struggles one has to endure without an education. In our society, it is no longer whom you know, but what you know and the credentials you have to offer. In Hawaii, minimum wage does not equate the cost of living; it is close to impossible to make a substantial living without an education. However, by having a college degree, it will give you the comfort of creating a life without precautiously worrying how to make a living.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass HB 1591.

Sincerely,

Ashley Nakasone

**LATE**

February 22, 2017

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
From: Kaisen Bartolome  
Subject: Testimony in strong support of HB 1591, HD 1

My name is Kaisen Bartolome, I am a student at Leeward Community College. I reside in Pearl City, District 35. I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for *HB 1591*.

I strongly believe that supporting this bill will benefit us citizens since higher education will contribute more productively to the community. Education gives individuals the skills and tools they need to navigate the world. Without it, we won't be able to achieve our dreams.

I, myself, struggle to go to college and at the same time, work in two part-time jobs to sustain my college tuition needs, as well as help my parents with bill payments. After graduating from high school, I was terrified that I would not be able to go to a university due to the high amount of tuition. As a result, I have decided to go to a community college, which is more affordable. In spite of this, I still find it financially challenging.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for allowing me to send my testimony in support of it.



**LATE**

February 22, 2017

Senate Ways & Means Committee

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

My name is Relyn Salvador. I am a student at Leeward Community College. I'm currently taking ASAN 205: Contemporary Philippine Issues. My professor Dr. Raymund Liongson has introduced an ongoing issue that many students in Hawaii are facing. It's having no money or resources to fund for their college tuition. "Education shouldn't be a debt sentence." If there is one thing I can learn or do during my time with the University of Hawaii, it's to help open doors for future students and to realize their full potentials at the end of their college journey. I strongly support this bill because education should be the number one priority for the people of Hawaii. I believe education is giving people power to not only change their life and get out of poverty but to also extend their success to help their families and communities. This bill is the foundation of a better future for our children and their children. Hawaii people should be given a fair share of opportunity to earn their education.

I believe scholarships are important because it gives all the students who earn their high grades more chances to focus on just being a student. I am the first student in my family who had the chance to attend a community college with student aid. I am very grateful to have been given another chance to finish and graduate with college education. I am working two jobs but I wish I had the freedom to just be a student and had more time to focus on all my classes. There are many students that I have met who works full time or with two jobs just so that they can pay their way to college. I believe student loans is a problem or a reason that many student don't pursue their education. There are students who graduated but has to live with extra bills because they didn't have the scholarship. Scholarship is important to me because it gives students many opportunities. There are many college dropouts because they had to choose between being a student and working to have money to provide for their families. Scholarships will create more successful stories.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass SB1162, SD1

Sincerely,  
Relyn Salvador

**LATE**

February 22, 2017

The House Committee on Finance,  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

My name is Todd Takayama and I am a registered voter in the Pearl City district. I am attending my second year at Leeward Community College and intend to graduate at the end of the semester. I plan to attend the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu in Fall 2017.

I support HB-1591, HD-1 and HB-1594, HD-1 because I believe higher education should be free for those in low-income households. Having a college education allows greater access to higher-paying and more sustainable jobs. College tuition is the barrier that prevents people from removing themselves from poverty and therefore should be eliminated.

Community college provides strong background for young adults for an affordable price. Although the intention is to graduate with an Associate's Degree in two years, many students stay more than two years because they do not know what they want to do. Personally, I attended college elsewhere for three years until I realized that it was not what I wanted to do. After a total of five years of attending college, I still do not have a degree, but I did accumulate a substantial amount of debt, estimating to roughly \$20,000. This financial burden may follow me for decades if I am unable to find a well-paying occupation. Although I will most likely not receive the benefits of free education, the future generation should.

Thank you for hearing these bills and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I understand the importance of the bill reaching this stage and I greatly appreciate your time and effort.

Sincerely,  
Todd Takayama

# HAWAII FILIPINO LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Officers:

Rozelle A. Agag, President  
Jessica Domingo, 1st Vice-President  
Daniel Padilla, Secretary  
Merlinda Garma, Treasurer

Directors:

Sean Baz  
Joanne Badua  
Catherine Betts  
Rebecca Gardner  
Ashley Labasan  
Alana Peacott-Ricardos  
Wayne Scott  
Radji Tolentino

**LATE**

Date: February 22, 2017

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

Re: Testimony on H.B. 1594 HD1 and H.B.1591 HD1 – Promise Bill

February 22, 2017, 2 p.m., Hawai'i State Capitol Room 308

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The Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association (HFLA) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT** of both HB 1594 HD 1 and HB1591

*Among several of HFLA's missions is to advocate for the interests of Filipino lawyers and their communities; and to broaden professional opportunities for Filipino lawyers and law students.*

We believe that passage of these bills, which would provide scholarships for a significant number of Filipino students in pursuit of a secondary education, will enable and enhance their opportunities to further their education in, and eventual practice of law – a professional arena where Filipinos are grossly underrepresented.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on these measures in support.