



# 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  
David Lassner, President  
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1594 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of HB 1594 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 any campus of the University of Hawai'i system.

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 support unmet needs for tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation. This measure would allow any Hawai'i resident who meets the eligibility criteria to attend a UH campus, at no direct cost beyond the Estimated Family Contribution. We are confident that this measure will encourage more students to attend a UH campus and will advance the State's 55 by 25 goal -- that 55% of the Hawai'i's working age population should hold a post-secondary degree by 2025.

There are some provisions of this version of the bill that the University would prefer to amend, such as the repayment provision on page 6 of HB 1594 HD1. As currently drafted, this language would be considered a loan rather than a scholarship and would require all students to sign a written agreement understanding the payback provisions of such a loan. If the Committee is willing, we would be pleased to provide alternative language to clarify this section.

The University of Hawai'i is very grateful for the warm reception received by this bill and **fully supports** its passage.



Alyssa Grace Sabado-Macanas | *President*  
(808)-446-4574  
Marjorie Kay Raquiz | *Vice President*  
808)-772-7403

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594, HD 1  
Relating To The University of Hawai'i Promise Program

To: Finance Committee, House of Representative  
Hawaii State Legislature  
Attn: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chairperson  
Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Finance Committee Members  
Date: February 21, 2017

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the committee:

My name is Aelyssa Grace Sabado-Macanas, president of KASAMA, the Philippine Studies Student Society at University Of Hawai'i: Leeward Community College. KASAMA stands in full support of House Bill 1594.

We are pushing for the UH Promise Scholarship because we believe that higher education is a pathway for a more stable life and career. Many of us have to work, sometimes multiple jobs in order to pay for our tuition fees and book expenses which greatly affects our studies. Some have to take out loans to pay tuition and purchase books. Tuition and book costs has been increasing throughout the years making it more difficult for us to afford higher education. As higher education fees increase, the amount of loans being taken out by students also increases making it harder for low-income students to attend college. Some of those who can no longer afford to buy their books and pay their tuition ends up dropping out of college and lose their opportunity to improve their lives. In addition to that, the high cost of living in Hawai'i makes it difficult to afford college and university education.

The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will greatly help us, especially those who really want to continue their studies but are not able to due to financial difficulties. Higher education is an instrument for social and economic mobility. We are living in a highly competitive global economy, and opportunities for students to pursue higher education need to be increased in order to compete globally.

I want to thank Chairman Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and the Members of the Finance Committee for the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 1594.

Sincerely,

Aelyssa Grace Sabado-Macanas  
President  
KASAMA: University of Hawai'i: Leeward



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®  
**LEEWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FACULTY SENATE  
Legislative Relations Committee

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1594, HD 1  
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

February 21, 2017

The House Committee on Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, *Chair*  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, *Vice Chair*  
Members of the Committee on Finance

The Faculty Senate at Leeward Community College, voting unanimously, strongly supports HB 1594 to establish the University of Hawaii Promise Program, providing scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system.

The Leeward CC Faculty Senate represents over 300 faculty members of the College in the various disciplines such as the Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Math and Science, Language Arts, Business, and Professional Arts & Technology. In terms of residence, faculty members are widely dispersed across the islands.

The Leeward CC Faculty Senate particularly supports a "tuition-free" community college education, but recognizes the broader impact of a scholarship program for qualified students across the university system. Most of our students work part-time as they navigate the rigors of higher education. Many of them have also taken loans with high interest rates just to pay for college.

HB 1594 is a very a sound and common-sense initiative. The University of Hawai'i Promise Program would be an investment that will reap far-reaching rewards. We ask that you pass the bill.

Thank you for hearing HB 1594 and for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

On behalf of the Leeward CC Faculty Senate,

Steve Jacques  
Co-chair, Legislative Relations Committee  
jacques@hawaii.edu

Raymund Liongson  
Co-chair, Legislative Relations Committee  
liongson@hawaii.edu

William McDaniel Albritton  
Chair, Faculty Senate  
walbritt@hawaii.edu

Finance Committee  
2pm February 22, 2017

Testimony in support HB1594 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 strong support of HB1594 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 HB1594 to provide financial support for low income students at all ten campuses on all islands. We strongly support HB1594 because it includes four year campuses and although we also support HB1591, we prefer HB 1594 HD. There are financially needy students at 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.





UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®  
**LEEWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Arts & Humanities Division  
**Philippine Studies Program**

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594  
Relating to the University of Hawai`i Promise Program

February 19, 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
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates	Rep. Sean Quinlan
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Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole	Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi	Rep. Gene Ward
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti	

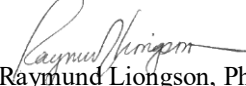
My name is Raymund Liongson, associate professor and coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program (Arts & Humanities) at the University of Hawaii-Leeward, and a resident of Ewa Beach, HI. I would like to register my strong support for HB 1594, relating to the University of Hawai`i Promise Program across the system.

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 1594 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 HB1594 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 strong support of HB1594 HD1. HF CR supports policies and programs that support diversity, inclusion, access and non-discrimination. This bill provides needed scholarship support to financially needy students at the Community Colleges, Hilo, Manoa and West O'ahu. Although we also support HB1591, 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 all our 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.





## *Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.*

*... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.*

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

E-mail: [namihonolulu@yahoo.com](mailto:namihonolulu@yahoo.com)

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*Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN*

*Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON*

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.

# 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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2017 10:40 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ccuaresma@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM\*

**HB1594**

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>
Charlene Cuaresma	National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12	Support	Yes

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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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.

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1594 HD 1  
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: Name, title/organization

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Samuel Welaahilani Wahilani III. I strongly support student scholarships. I am a recent graduate of University of Hawaii - West Oahu and currently a financial aid assistant at the University of Hawaii – West Oahu.

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.

The passage of this bill is important because financial assistance is integral to student success in higher education.

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

Sincerely,

*S. Wahilani III*

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1

House Committee on Finance

February 22, 2017, 2:00pm

Conference Room 308

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

From: Rouel Velasco, individual citizen

RE: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Access to higher education can be difficult for students from marginalized, disadvantaged and disenfranchised communities. Establishing 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 University of Hawai'i system is a step in the right direction to make higher education accessible to all.

My name is Rouel Velasco and I am first-generation Filipino American raised in Ma'ili of Wai'anae. I am a proud graduate of Wai'anae High School and a two-time graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a BA in History and MEd in Educational Administration. I have over 10 years of professional experience working in higher education in the area of student activities and student affairs. I am currently employed at UH West O'ahu and have the honor and privilege in working with amazing, courageous and talented college students. I strongly support this bill because financing college becomes one the major predictors for reasons students leave and dropout out of college without a degree. Students at UH West O'ahu and other campuses come to college with enormous responsibilities to the family from caring for parents, grandparents, siblings and for a good sizeable amount are student-parents themselves, caring for their own children. Students cannot solely rely on financial aid to cover school expenses, many of the students I come into contact with work more than one job to make ends meet. While some may argue that college students only focus on their studies, there are many who struggle to manage between school, family, and work. The connecting thread that binds school, family and work is money, to finance college expenses, pay for bills including rent, water and electricity and to work so that all expenses can be covered. This considerable overwhelming stress load affects the college student from being a successful and thriving college student. As a supporter of HB 1594 HD1, this program will provide financial support to a great number of students whose dreams and aspirations will now be within reach of attainment.

I support the intent of this bill to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the UH system. Thank you for hearing this bill and for accepting this written testimony.

If you would like to further discuss my support for this bill, I may be contacted at 808-218-0833, or by email, [rouel.velasco@gmail.com](mailto:rouel.velasco@gmail.com).

February 21, 2017

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 1594, HD 1. I believe that higher education is important for everyone. Education should not be a 'debt sentence' for students. Not that many students are offered financial aid, so scholarships can help them. These scholarships have requirements for students to meet. This helps to show the students who are serious about their education. I also support that these scholarships should be given across the board of the UH system. University or community college, students are struggling to pay tuition, books, and more. Passing this bill will help current students as well as the younger generation, who seek a higher education.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony. I strongly support the BILL HD1594 and hope that it will be passed.

Sincerely,

Pia Solis

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** winniegj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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: 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 1594 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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:47 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jogasawara50@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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: The House Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair I support the HB 1594. I believe that with this bill, can help others who are financially struggling with tuition can help them payoff college and further there education.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:46 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jinkysibayan@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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>
Jinky Joy Sibayan	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The House Committee on Finance Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair I Jinky Joy Sibayan. I am currently student of Leeward Community College, and I strongly support HB 159 HB, because I want to farther my education and have a better life.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:44 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jerroldm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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	Comments Only	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 strongly support HB-1594 HD-1 because supporting higher education can benefit us for the future. Education in general is important for us in life. Education should not be a debt sentence where we would have to owe money to go school. Education is a right and a choice.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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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 Hb1594 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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** cbtamayo@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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>
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 1594 HD1 because I believe education is important. I believe those that are willing to use these scholarships will use it efficiently because these people obviously care for their education to help them from the various difficulties that are putting them in this needed situation that will benefit them for the future. Thank you and I hope this will pass.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:40 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** agustin.milo1115@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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 strongly support the HB1594, HD1 the reason is that for I think that having a higher education means more knowledge I could get. it also hard for me to work and study at the same time that is why I would like to encourage everyone to support it to because it is hard being a working student. So please pass HB1594 HD1

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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 9:33 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bjabon@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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 9:30 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bolosan9@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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 1594 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 1594 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 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 1594 RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

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

**I support HB 1594 Relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program** and respectfully ask lawmakers to consider lowering the threshold of credits students must be enrolled in to qualify for the promise program or to make provisions for non-traditional students who are unable to attend school full-time.

In my experience teaching students pursuing an early education degree, many of the students of "promise" in my field are only able to attend college part-time. 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.

These students pursue their education part-time in the evenings, on-line, and on weekends making slow and steady progress while raising their families and keeping a roof above their heads. Requiring a threshold of 24 credits a year in order to qualify for scholarships may mean that many of the people we are trying to help would need to be able to give up their jobs to pursue an education full-time. Full-time attendance is not a realistic option for the growing number the non-traditional, minority women who are seeking a college education. Given the cost of living in Hawai'i, I suspect it is also not possible for a portion of the 69% of the adult population who have earned an associate's degree or less (Research and Economic Analysis Division, 2016).

My experience is that when students did not have the means to attend college full-time, many are persistent and will see their program through to completion even if it takes them longer if there is help to alleviate the financial burden of a college degree. Please consider:

- lowering the number of credits students must carry so that working adults are able to qualify for scholarship relief; or,
- designating some funding for the population of students who must pursue coursework a little at a time. Perhaps eligibility for this group could be based on GPA, continuous enrollment, and steady progress.

This would put into place requirements that would encourage adults who might want to pursue college, but who cannot give up work in order to obtain a degree.

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)

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1594 HD 2 and HB 1591 HD 1  
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 Pua Auyong-White, Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity, UHM

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Pua Auyong-White and strongly support student scholarships for both the community colleges and the UH System. The community colleges are part of the UH system so I am encouraging that HB 1594 HD 1 is preferred over HB1591 HD 1 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.

The passage of this bill is important because the cost of higher education is rising and as you know, living in Hawaii is costly. Not being able to pursue a college degree leaves many of our community members trapped in low-paying, minimum wage jobs. Attaining education beyond a high school degree has shown that their earning power is greater.

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



# HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER

## TESTIMONY

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February 22, 2017

House Committee on Finance

2:00 pm Conference Room 308

**RE: HB 1594 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM**

**RE: HB 1591 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM**

### **HEPC POSITION: SUPPORT CONCEPT & FUNDING, NOT DETAILS**

Chair LUKE, Members of the Committee. The concept of providing more funding to offset tuition for Hawai‘i’s most needy students is a sound one. However HB 1594 HD1 goes too far in “guessing” the correct formula for an experimental program, and infringes on the authority of the BOR to manage the internal operations of the UH. HB 1591 HD1 is better, but still puts into law details better left to the UH to work out, tweak, and refine. We do not want to be stuck with statutory criteria that are less effective or do not work.

Details such as fixing the GPA or the number of credits or courses by semester may appear to be reasonable, but can anyone on this committee say for sure these criteria are the best, or even that they will work? Can anyone say for sure that a student may NOT need to work part time and thus cannot take the required number of credits? Or that the courses required for a particular major will always be available?

This level of detail for an experimental program should never be constrained by statutory rigidity. HB 1591 HD1 removes many of the constitutional and pragmatic issues of HB 1594 HD1, but not all.

Support of the concept and the funding. In May 2014 HEPC published its study on student tuition and debt. This can be found at <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/hepc/wp-content/uploads/Student-Costs-of-Living-Tuition-and-Debt-at-the-University-of-Hawai%E2%80%98i-.pdf>

In this study, using calculations on the cost of living for students, HEPC estimated that it would cost up to \$35,000 a year for a Manoa undergraduate to live in the community and attend school full time. Of this amount, \$25,000 was just for living. This would be true of a student attending a community college or any other UH institution.

Among its specific findings, based on previous year data were the following:

Of the UH System’s total enrollment of 54,415, 85% are residents, with 8.8% from the U.S. mainland, and 4.7% foreign or U.S. affiliated. Of the 11,261 Hawai‘i public high school graduates

### **HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER**

1776 University Avenue, Castle Memorial Hall 133 • Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822

Dr. Jim Shon, Director Phone (808) 282-1509 • [jshon@Hawai'i.edu](mailto:jshon@Hawai'i.edu)

<http://manoa.Hawai'i.edu/hepc/>

in 2013, 54% enrolled in college. Of those enrolled, 67% are in the UH system. State funding for the UH System is consistent with mainland trends, shifting away from reliance on public funds towards reliance on student tuition. The big question is: What happened to the 46% who did not enroll in college at all?

The University as a whole primarily serves residents of the state. In the UH system, 47% are enrolled part time. In the community colleges, 65% are part time. This may be influenced by cost. State funding for the UH System is consistent with mainland trends, shifting away from reliance on public funds towards reliance on student tuition.

At UH Manoa, in Academic Year (AY) 2011-12 total annual costs for residents range from \$19,762 for those living at home, to \$33,872 for those in dorms, and \$38,400 for those living off campus. For non-residents, living in dorms would cost approximately \$48,704, and those living off campus \$53,232. (Institutional Research Office, 2013)

Receipt of a loan does not reduce the overall cost, but rather shifts the financial obligation to a post-graduation debt. For the same AY, UH students on average received \$2,423 in subsidized loans (which do not start to accumulate interest until after graduation) and \$4,896 in unsubsidized loans (which start gathering interest immediately). These loan amounts offset some general living expenses but not all. Subsidized loan debt totals \$19,584 after ten years, and \$23,637 for unsubsidized loans.

UH Manoa resident undergraduate tuition increases from 2007-8 through 2011-12 were 35% for students living at home, 41.5% for those living in dorms, and 19.4% for those living off campus. For UH Manoa resident graduate students the 5-year percentage increases were 37.3% for students living at home, 42.3% for students in dorms, and 21.7 for students living off campus.

A survey of Hawai'i students who dropped out of UH Manoa in 2012 cited the top five reasons for not returning: 49% said tuition and fees were not affordable; 40% needed to earn more money; 34% received inadequate financial aid; 33% encountered unexpected expenses; and 32% said the cost of living was too high in Honolulu. U.S. mainland dropouts only cited the cost of living in Honolulu.

#### Competitive Affordability

Comparing the affordability of UH Manoa with its selected Benchmark and Peer institutions, we find that tuition is competitive, but the overall cost of living, particularly housing, could shift in favor of U.S. mainland institutions. Five of the nine UH Peer Group institutions, and four of the ten UH Benchmark Institutions saw no enrollments from the 2013 Hawai'i high school class.

#### Comments, Observations and Conclusions

- UH tuition & fee levels are by themselves competitive. Yet, 5,000 high school graduates each year do not enroll in college. Is it the cost? Price sensitivity studies suggest that as tuition increases, preference for UH Manoa will begin to decline.
- The cost of living in Hawai'i is not a good bargain. Cost of housing is much higher than many institutions.

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- The UH policies or tuition levels do not encourage non-resident enrollments, especially international students.
- Hawai'i's state support remains at over 26% below pre-recession levels.
- The percentage of UH Manoa tuition that goes toward student grants is relatively low.
- There are less than 4,000 potential residential dormitory beds.

HB 1594 HD1 also includes a level of detail that has serious conflicts with the letter and spirit of Hawai'i State Constitution, Article X.

BOARD OF REGENTS; POWERS **Section 6.** There shall be a board of regents of the University of Hawaii, the members of which shall be nominated and, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, appointed by the governor from pools of qualified candidates presented to the governor by the candidate advisory council for the board of regents of the University of Hawaii, as provided by law. At least part of the membership of the board shall represent geographic subdivisions of the State. **The board shall have the power to formulate policy, and to exercise control over the university through its executive officer, the president of the university, who shall be appointed by the board. The board shall also have exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university.** This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern. [Am HB 253 (1964) and election Nov 3, 1964; ren and am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978; am SB 539 (2000) and election Nov 7, 2000; am SB 1256 (2005) and election Nov 7, 2006]

Many proposed bills relating to the UH appear to reflect several assumptions. The first is that legislative committees have the knowledge, experience, time and context to take over certain aspects of managing a major university. A similar assumption or view is that the Board of Regents is no longer the constitutional policy maker for the UH. They assume that "laws of statewide concern" should mean "anything the legislature wants to do." I have heard this articulated by an increasingly dispirited BOR and UH administrators. There are bills freezing tuition. There are bills dictating actions that are clearly within the meaning of internal management. In past sessions, without a single public hearing, attempts have been made to transfer entire colleges and programs from four-year research institutions to four-year undergraduate institutions. A direct result, had these measures been implemented, would have been to remove 750 graduate students and their programs. That well meaning legislative committees thought they had a good idea does not automatically translate into overruling the appropriate powers and duties of constitutionally created Board of Regents.

An alternative view. Respectfully, provisions of the Constitution are not there to be dismissed or ignored. Language that grants the legislature a safety valve in terms of emergencies, such as "laws of statewide concern," do not grant the legislature the power to over rule other sections.

Those of us who served in the 1978 Constitutional Convention did not regard provisions of the constitution as meaningless. We, and I believe the voters, took all constitutional language seriously. HEPC asks all stakeholders: Are we really taking the constitution seriously?

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<http://manoa.Hawaii.edu/hepc/>

Language such as “as provided by law” or “statewide concern” are intended to require state laws to interpret and implement constitutional requirements.

To my knowledge, the legislature has never attempted to define “statewide concern.” Certainly it does not mean that the Board of Regents is no longer the policy maker or in charge of internal management. And the legislature has not sought to justify any intrusion on BOR powers with a rationale why a particular measure, such as HB 1154 HD1, Section 2b, meets this test.

HEPC is not suggesting that the legislature has no authority. Certainly power over appropriations is significant. Certainly there is justification for additional funding of the Promise Program. However, when it comes to the constitutional role of the BOR, it is not merely a lobbying group.

HB 1154 HD1 does not merely ask the Board to establish and manage a scholarship program – it dictates how to do it. The BOR is responsible for refining and managing such programs. HB 1154 HD1 is the kind of top down imposition that is often criticized in the Department of Education.

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<http://manoa.Hawai'i.edu/hepc/>



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 10:04 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** vanderso@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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 HB 1594 HD 1.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2017 9:54 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kimcoco@kimcoco.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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>
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB 1594 has received almost unanimous support (except for one non-expository testimony). I add my strong support to this progressive and future-thinking bill.

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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 1594 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 1594 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 1594 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.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594  
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 1594

Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system. 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 1594 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 1594.

Sincerely,  
Tricia May A. Mauricio

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:13 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** chasity8@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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	Comments Only	No

Comments: The House Finance Committee Attn. Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee I am a Leeward Community College student and I strongly support HB 1594. 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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:08 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** babyj63@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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	Support	No

Comments: The House Committee 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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:08 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bensakai@ymail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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>
Benjamin Yuuki Sakai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House Finance Committee Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee My girlfriend goes to LCC. I support bill HB1954. The bill would support her tremendously because college is a key part of life, with a great college education the possibilities are endless and it will secure her a great future. My girlfriend currently works two jobs and also pays for her own car and pays for her own school. She is an aspiring Dentist. Sometimes it's hard for her to pay for everything. Every person has their own adversity's in life and she has never been one to shy away from a challenge or give up. Even though i know she will do whatever it takes to pay for school, everyone needs help once in awhile. I remember one day me and her were going to the movies and she started crying. I asked what was wrong, she said that all the expenses and stress from working to pay for school and trying to find time to do the school work was catching up to her. I thought in my head if there was some way school was cheaper or even free, it would help her out not only financially but mentally, spiritually and just her overall quality of life. On an end note even if my girlfriend wasn't able to get the financial aid. I still would appreciate the bill being passed so it at least could help someone who is in a similar situation like hers.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:06 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mcop@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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 Members of the Finance Committee I am a Leeward Community College student and highly support HB 1594 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 11:06 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** elloisep@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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 strives 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 11:04 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** 808kellie@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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 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 1594 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 10:56 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bkaimana@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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	Support	No

Comments: The House Finance Committee Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee I am a community college student and highly support 1594 because I believe that higher education is needed to succeed in life. It is hard for many to pay for college, so many don't go so they stay in the same areas and never change. Leaving the same people without education while the others are able to get better jobs. If everyone were able to get free education it could help others move on to better things. Nicholas Benevides Nicholas Benevides

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Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1594 HD 1  
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: Katrina Abes, UHWO First Year Coordinator

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Katrina Abes. I strongly support student scholarships. I am a First Year Coordinator at the University of Hawaii West O'ahu.

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.

The passage of this bill is important because according to the most current research report, UHWO students approximately has \$10,000,000 in unmet financial need. This is a great barrier for students from graduating as they are trying to find additional monies to pay for tuition and books. In addition, the cost of living in Hawaii is high that our students need to work two jobs to afford living in Hawaii and / or paying for college, which hinders students from coming to class, completing assignments, and / or completing college successfully. If students could be afforded the opportunity to have some of their unmet financial need met, this would lift a small burden off of the student's shoulders and giving them a bigger opportunity for success and retention.

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

Sincerely,

Katrina Abes

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 **Spencer La'amea Paulino**. I am a student at UH Mānoa and I strongly support student scholarships. I am a major in **Psychology**

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 Mānoa.

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 Mānoa, 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,  
**Spencer L. Paulino**  
**2820 Kaimuki Avenue**  
**Honolulu, HI 96816**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:00 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ernalynes@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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>
Ernalynne Micah Sao	Individual	Support	No

Comments: A higher free education bill should be pass because it is beneficial to many students like myself who wants to go to college and pursue the career we want to be. Personally, I would want to have a free higher education because I want to become successful in life and gain more knowledge in life. Also, a free higher education can make it possible for students who are determined to go to college but can't afford. Moreover, a higher free education bill should be pass because it can be helpful for many students. And also, free higher education will allow me to help my parents for my college. If college is a debt, students will not have the determination to apply for college.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:00 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ernalynes@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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>
Ernalynne Micah Sao	Individual	Support	No

Comments: A higher free education bill should be pass because it is beneficial to many students like myself who wants to go to college and pursue the career we want to be. Personally, I would want to have a free higher education because I want to become successful in life and gain more knowledge in life. Also, a free higher education can make it possible for students who are determined to go to college but can't afford. Moreover, a higher free education bill should be pass because it can be helpful for many students. And also, free higher education will allow me to help my parents for my college. If college is a debt, students will not have the determination to apply for college.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:57 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** aidalynguerrero0@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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>
Aidalyn Guerrero	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the UH scholarship program. Government need to help us student to pay our higher education because I believe that this program helps us to attend college and help us to pursue our dreams in life. As a student, many of us struggling with financial problems, and this is one of the reason why many student cannot attend higher education. I also believe that having a higher education of students can make a big impact and change in our lives and makes us more knowlegable in everything especially into our community. So help us to reach our dreams, prepare for our future and being more determine in pursuing our dreams by approving this program.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:55 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ambersv@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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 UH Campuses.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:50 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** shuntlem@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:49 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jrobles@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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>
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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:48 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ashleemb10@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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 2:48 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** nicolesd@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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 HB1594 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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:47 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ernajoyv@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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>
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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**Cc:** daclison.laura@gmail.com  
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**HB1594**

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>
Laura Daclison	Individual	Comments Only	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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**HB1594**

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>
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 UH Promise Scholarship Program.

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**HB1594**

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>
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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**HB1594**

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>
Elizabeth Jane Maluyo	Individual	Comments Only	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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**HB1594**

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>
Alysa Clark	Individual	Comments Only	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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**To:** FINTestimony  
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**HB1594**

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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**HB1594**

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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**Cc:** jaylynnesub17@gmail.com  
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**HB1594**

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>
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 UH promise scholarship program.

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**Cc:** jasmine.agmata07@gmail.com  
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**HB1594**

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>
Jasmine Nicole Agmata	Individual	Support	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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**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kuulei.tachibana@gmail.com  
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**HB1594**

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>
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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**HB1594**

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>
Irish Barruga	Individual	Support	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 1594.

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**HB1594**

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>
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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**Cc:** cabantog@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

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>
Samantha Mae Cabantog	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the HB1594. 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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**HB1594**

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 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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**HB1594**

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>
Jaylynne Ann Subia	Individual	Support	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 UH promise scholarship program.

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**HB1594**

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>
Daniel John Quiamas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support for HB 1549 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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**HB1594**

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>
Daniel John Quiamas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support for HB 1549 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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**HB1594**

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 including me.

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**To:** FINTestimony  
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**HB1594**

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>
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 HB1594.

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January 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 Jillian Paulino. I am a student at UH Manoa and I strongly support student scholarships. I am a major in 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,

Jillian Paulino, 415 Koa Street Wahiawa, HI 96786

**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 1594 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 1594.

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 1594 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 1594 would assist students in pursuing their goals.

**LATE**

22 February 2017

Dear Representative Sylvia Luke and Representative Ty Cullen,

Good Afternoon. My name is Elisha Ramones. I am a Junior at Waipahu High School and am a Waipahu High School Early College student. I have been an Early College student since my freshmen year of high school. I am here in support of House Bill 1594.

You probably think that my opinion is biased since I have been going to school (both high school and college) at no cost for my whole life, however this year I have had the chance to see what the cost of education is really like with my older sister. This year, she is a senior and started applying to colleges and getting acceptance letters. My parents went through each school she got accepted to and looked at the cost and the money they offered her.

I believe that this bill would help Hawaii families, such as mine. In Hawaii, it's rare to see families with only one child and even with one child, some debt could pile up. Most of these families have two or more children to send to college, making their debt skyrocket to an unimaginable amount. Some of these families have to worry about their children's debt as well as parents and/or older siblings personal debt that has been accumulated over their educational careers. If a family's debt were to increase, then it could cause additional issues (such as: homelessness, choosing between food and utilities, etc.).

This bill would also help families who do not qualify for much financial aid after filling out the FAFSA, such as my family and many of my friends. My parents make too much money to qualify for things like Free or Reduced Lunch or for financial aid but they also make too little to be able to afford sending both my sister and I to college. Since this is the case in my family, I am very skeptical about attending college. I do not want to put my family in debt because that would cause a domino effect of things that would take a long time to fix. Most importantly, if my family goes into debt, we could end up becoming homeless causing the State of Hawaii to take care of us by funding for shelters or giving us government money to survive. Basically, if my families goes into debt, things could happen, then the government would have to help us anyway.

I also believe that if education was free in Hawaii, more young people would stay on island rather than going off island. The more young people that stay would mean that future resources would stay in on the island. The only reasons students decide to go off the college somewhere else is because, 1.) certain schools specialize in whatever they want to major/minor in, or 2.) to build a better networking system. If students decided to stay home for college, the island would grow in resources. The future influencing the future. More students would create a life for them here, where they start their own business or join the State of Hawaii Government causing the next generation to not

have a reason to leave for schooling. Everything they would want/need is here on the island.

Thank you to the committee for hearing HB 1594 and allowing me to speak today and taking the time to hear my thoughts and opinions. Education is one of the essential necessities humans need in life, in order to get a stable job to earn money, and build a life for themselves. We would not be able to do that if the only thing on our minds is paying off debt because we decided to further our education just so we could live comfortably. Education shouldn't be a debt sentence.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elisha Ramones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "E" and "R".

Elisha Ramones

HB1594

**LATE**

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.

**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 Chayla Nakamoto, and I am a student at UH Manoa and I strongly support student scholarships. I am a major in English.

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,

Chayla Nakamoto, 1509 Molehu Drive, Honolulu HI 96818

**LATE**



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

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 1594 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 any campus of the University of Hawai'i system. 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

**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

**LATE**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 8:21 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: naneaclo@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM\*

**HB1594**

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:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:14 AM  
 To: FINTestimony  
 Cc: 18shalas@waipahuh.k12.hi.us  
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 22, 2017 14:00PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharmaine Allas	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Sharmaine Allas 94-1045 Mahinahina St. Waipahu, HI 96797 (808) 589-9480 February 22, 2017 TO: House Committee on Finance Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair My name is Sharmaine Allas. I am an eleventh grader, who is currently attending Waipahu High School. I am part of the Early College program here at Waipahu High. I also take part in our Phi Theta Kappa Organization and Olympian group. Phi Theta Kappa is a honor society we have to recognize the many early college students, as well as provide volunteer and service opportunities. The Olympian group is composed of the class of 2018 graduates who are working towards their Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. We will be receiving our degree at the same time when we graduate with our high school diploma. I support the HB 1591 and HB 1594. I support these bills because of several reasons. Personally, I understand how expensive schooling could be. My mom plays both the role as the father and mother in our household. My mom supports many of those expenses, however, sometimes it may be difficult to keep up with me. I believe these bills are not only helping the students, but their families financially. I believe that part of the foundation to life starts with education. Education leads to a better future for all. Although, many families do not have the luxury to send their kids off to ivy league colleges, let alone state colleges. Sometimes students choose to not go to college because they need to help support their family. In these cases, the students choose to work first. As years passed, it will be harder for them to enter college because they aren't caught up. I would like to thank you for your time and effort for this conference. I hope a bunch of us students will be able to persuade you enou gh. Bear in mind that these bills will be helping a ton of students out. Many people's educations are at stake here because they aren't financially supported. However, I believe HB 1591 and 1594 is a step closer for many to achieve their goals.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**LATE**

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Finance  
February 22nd, 2017 at 2:00 P.M.

By  
Isaiah C Baclaan

HB 1594 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee:

My name is Isaiah Baclaan, President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu and I am presenting testimony on behalf of ASUHWO in support of HB 1594 HD1. This bill will provide funding for the unmet needs of qualifying students for the UH system. Hawaii has promoted the 55 by 25 campaign to increase the working adults holding two/four year degrees to 55% by 2025. One of the primary obstacles to achieving a degree in higher education would be the costs that accumulate from going to a college or a university. Factors such as tuition, textbooks, and transportation are perfect examples of real life funding concerns that students need to take into consideration before pursuing a degree in higher education.

This bill would help to support students who have unmet financial needs and encourage students to go to college, some of which would not normally consider a college education due to financial reasons. This bill would allow the disenfranchised citizens to get an education that would increase their ability to attain a better life for themselves and their families. In conclusion ASUWHO supports this bill because it aims to support the increased education of working adults in Hawai'i as well as supporting the unmet financial needs of students of the UH system. Attached to this testimony is a copy of our senate resolution in support of HB1594 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1594 HD1.





## Senate Resolution

**Resolution No: SR17-02**

**Resolution Title: In support of HB 1594 Hawaii Promise Program**

**In the Senate February 9th, 2017**

**For Special Reading**

**Authored & Introduced by: Vice-President Haylie Culp**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SENATE:**

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (ASUHW O) Senate is the elected body representing approximately 2,900 classified undergraduate students; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's promoted the 55 by '25 initiative which pushes to increase the percentage of working-age adults with two or four-year degrees to fifty-five per cent by 2025; and

WHEREAS, The University of Hawai'i – West Oahu strives to serve the under privileged students of O'ahu, especially those from low income backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Financial need is a viable concern for both the current and future students of the University of Hawai'i – West Oahu; and

WHEREAS, The UH Board of Regents has, through the Hawai'i Graduation Initiative, supported the increase of the higher education percentage within the state; and

WHEREAS, HB 1594 relating to the Hawai'i Promise Program aims to provide funding in the form of scholarships for the unmet needs of students within the UH system; and

WHEREAS, HB 1594 would also encourage students to pursue a degree in higher education, many of which would not consider going to college due to financial reasons; and

WHEREAS, by supporting HB 1594 ASUHW O will be advocating on behalf of the students that have financial need, in which this bill could supplement aid; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu supports the HB 1594 and will submit written testimony supporting this bill as an entire senate; and

SENATE RESOLUTION SR17-02 IN SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SENATE OF KAPOLEI ON FEBRUARY 9, 2017.

# Associated Students of UHWO

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: Board of Regents of the University of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i State Legislature, University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu Vice Chancellor of Administration Kevin Ishida; University of Hawai‘i -West O‘ahu Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Judy Oliveira, University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Jeffrey Moniz, The Hoot, the student body.

SENATE RESOLUTION SR17-02 IN SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SENATE OF KAPOLEI ON FEBRUARY 9, 2017.

**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

**LATE**

February 22, 2017

The House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, 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 HB1594, HD1

Sincerely,  
Relyn Salvador

# 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.

February 22, 2017

Private Citizen Testimony

**Testimony**  
**HB 1594 HD1: Establishes the UH Promise Program**



To whom it may concern:

As Filipino graduate of Leeward Community College, a graduate of the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa, and as a current student services administrator at the UH Mānoa College of Education, I strongly write in support of HB 1594 HD1 that establishes the UH Promise Program which will provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the UH system.

Higher education costs continue to increase and this especially impacts those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who typically represent ethnic groups that are underrepresented in Hawai'i public higher education.

In particular are Filipinos and Native Hawaiians who respectively represent the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> largest ethnic groups in our state.

HB 1594 HD1 will help to ensure that a significant portion of our Hawai'i population will have access to financial resources that support higher education pursuits.

With higher education as a key means to social mobility and an important factor of an economically thriving community, all of Hawai'i can benefit from HB 1594 HD1.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,



Ernest "Niki" D. Libarios Jr., Ph.D.

**LATE**

January 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 Jamie Rodrigues. I am a student at UH Manoa and I strongly support student scholarships. I am a major in Social Work and I am a student who will be acquiring a Master's degree on scholarship money.

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.

As a non-traditional student and a mother of five children, I understand the required sacrifices that needs to be made to succeed in college. Financial stress and hardships should not be a sacrifice for families who are willing to be productive members of society.

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,

Jamie Rodrigues, 1642 Pohaku Street, Honolulu 96817



**LATE**

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda (Chair)

Sen Donovan M. Dela Cruz (Vice Chair)

From: Christine Kaye Guira

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162 SD1

Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. (HB1594 HD1)

Hello my name is Christine Kaye Guira, I am currently studying at Leeward Community College and I am majoring in computer science. This is now my second semester in college. Someday I want to achieve my goal of becoming a computer science degree holder because I want to contribute in expanding the industry of technology and give back what society have given me.

I support this bill because it will help many students like me to achieve their dreams. I also believe that education is very important because it gives us the baseline to survive as adults in this world. The courses that each of us are achieving will someday help our economy grow, every individual have their own dreams and we all want to achieve those dreams that we have but if money is a problem for everyone, I hope that you will help us. Education is always the key to success and getting a higher-level education will help us get a secure and decent job that can produce enough money for our everyday spending.

Thank you for supporting the bill, that can help a lot of college students with their problem with money and not only that you support it, instead you really pushed it to be put in hearing. I hope this bill will be passed as soon as possible. We are willing to study hard to get the grade that you require.

**LATE**

**Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1594 HD 2 and HB 1591 HD 1**  
**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: Aprilei T.T. Ramirez, Graduate student/ University of Hawaii at Manoa

Subject: UH Promise Bill

Sirs and Mesdames:

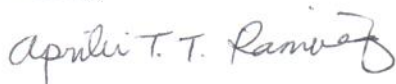
My testimony is in strong support to both bills, HB 1594 HD1. However, HB 1594 HD1 is preferred over HB 1591 HD 1 because funding should not only be limited to community college students. It is just as important to support incoming freshmen and undergraduates who also meet the criteria of unmet financial needs for this bill, and who are enrolled at UH Maui, UH Hilo, UH West O'ahu and UH Mānoa.

I am Aprilei Ramirez, a student of the University of Hawaii Masters in Public Health program I live in District 38 (Waipahu) and work in District 29 for Honolulu Community College. I am a first-year graduate student and have benefitted greatly from scholarships throughout both my associates and undergraduate education. If it were not for the scholarships offered at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I would not have been able to afford a bachelors degree.

The passage of this bill is important because it provides financial assistance and opportunities to students similar to myself, that come from disadvantaged backgrounds who aspire to obtain bachelor's degrees. Higher education should not be a debt sentence. Also, scholarships should be attainable for students who have the passion to pursue their dreams. Knowledge is power, but it is useless if we cannot afford it.

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.

Sincerely,



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**LATE**

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Testimony in Support of HB1594

Aloha,

My name is Justin Ho, and I am fully in support of HB 1594. I am nineteen years old, currently a freshman at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Growing up, and especially as a high school student, I have always had the fear of not being able to afford college. I also had the concern that I was not “good enough” to receive a scholarship. In my senior year of high school, I was diagnosed with a mental illness, and this affected my ability to look for help to prepare for college. After having to drop out of my senior year, I returned for the next school year and managed to complete my high school degree. If I’ve known of a program like the Hawaii Promise Program during this time, I believe that some of my concerns about college costs would not have been so overbearing. I would have been able to focus more on my studies and keeping mentally healthy.

Many of my past classmates have also echoed concerns about tuition. It is upsetting to see my peers contemplate whether or not college is “worth it.” I want every high school student to know that there are people willing to help with finances, and I will be glad to point them in the direction of the Hawaii Promise Program in the future.

I can definitely see how the implementation of the Hawaii Promise Program will help in reaching Hawaii’s goal of 55 by ’25.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,  
Justin Ho