



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 9, 2017 at 2:02 p.m.

By
David Lassner, President
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1594 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1594. 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 at no cost for tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation.

Hawai'i's Promise would be a "last dollar" scholarship. Other sources of financial aid such as federal Pell grants, UH opportunity scholarships, and other public and privately sponsored scholarships would be applied first, and then Hawai'i's Promise would provide for any unmet needs in the categories mentioned above. This measure would allow any Hawai'i resident who meets the eligibility criteria to attend a UH campus, at no cost for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and transportation. We are hopeful that this measure will encourage more students to attend a UH campus, leading to obtaining our goal of 55% of the State's population having a degree by 2025.

The University of Hawai'i fully supports this bill.



Ken Hayashida, P.E. | President
Michael Hunnemann, P.E. | Vice President

**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on [Higher Education](#)
February 9, 2017 at 2:02 PM
by
Ken Hayashida
KAI Hawaii, Inc.**

HB 1594 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S PROMISE PROGRAM.

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1594 which provides "last dollar" scholarships for the unmet need of qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawai'i system who meet certain criteria.

I strongly support HB 1594. As a UH Alumni and business person, I am proud of the education I received at the University of Hawai'i and recognize the critical role UH plays in educating our citizenry for Hawai'i's multi-faceted workforce.

The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges. It will ensure that promising, ambitious students have the resources they need to focus on their studies and build a better future for themselves and their families.

Their future success impacts us all.

The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will help our state's educational leaders meet the goal of having 55% of working-age adults hold a two- or four-year degree by the year 2025. Achieving this goal is critical to Hawai'i's future economic health, and our community's wellbeing.

According to the [Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce](#), by 2020, 70% of jobs in Hawai'i will require some college education. In 2014, 43.5 percent of Hawai'i's working age adults (25-65 years) held a 2- or 4-year college degree according to the U.S. Census. *More Hawai'i residents with college degrees are needed to fill workforce demands of the future.*

The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will also help our most economically disadvantaged students escape the cycle of poverty. High school graduates are three times more likely to live in poverty than college graduates, and eight times more likely to depend on public assistance.

With your support, we can truly open the doors of education for all, and strengthen our families and community as a whole. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Hayashida
President
KAI Hawaii, Inc.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education
February 9th, 2017 at 2:02 P.M.

By
Isaiah C Baclaan

HB 1594 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

My name is Isaiah Baclaan current President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu and I am presenting testimony as a private citizen in support of HB 1594 . 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. I believe that in order to achieve this it is absolutely crucial that we prioritize access to our public institutions of higher learning. 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.

Being a product of the public education system and public higher education system on the west side of O'ahu I know firsthand the struggle of coming up with ways to pay for the financial needs of going to college. 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 I support 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.

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



Date: Thursday February 9th, 2017

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Re: Support for HB1594 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. The Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (GSO) stands in **support of HB1594**. The GSO represents approximately 4,700 graduate students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Providing equal access to higher education is a bedrock principle of the GSO. Too often, rising tuition rates have limited that access. While there is a plethora of financial aid programs to help prospective students obtain a college degree, they often fall short of covering the full cost.

A robust system of Higher education is an essential component to building a more dynamic and innovative economy. By providing access to all Hawai'i residents, we ensure that a burgeoning innovation economy benefits local families who may not have the means to cover the rising cost of higher education.

More than just a job training program, we teach our students to think critically and creatively, which enables them to be better citizens and scholars. HB1594 is a promise to the people of Hawai'i that the benefits higher education will remain open all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. **For our students and our communities, we urge you to pass HB1594.**



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

*Bea Ramos-Razon, RN,
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Edel Matias, RN, CM

Brenda Monegas, RN

Gail Pantaleon, RN

Oscar Querido, RN

Violeta Sadural, RN, BSN

Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

House Higher Education Committee

Feb. 2, 2017, 2:02 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson and Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

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

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

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 Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to submit our strong support for this bill. 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 with 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.

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 1594
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Subject: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594**

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 Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of this bill. 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. Students who would qualify for these scholarships will be the economic engine for Hawai'i's future.

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

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on [Higher Education](#)
February 9, 2017 at 2:02 PM
by
Bernadette Baraquio

HB 1594 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PROMISE PROGRAM.

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1594 which provides "last dollar" scholarships for the unmet need of qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawai'i system who meet certain criteria.

I strongly support HB 1594. As a proud *UH Alum and President of the UH Alumni Association*, I am grateful for the education I received at the University of Hawai'i and recognize the critical role UH plays in educating the future generations of our state.

The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges. It will ensure that promising, ambitious students have the resources they need to focus on their studies and build a better future for themselves and their families.

Their future success impacts us all.

The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will help our state's educational leaders meet the goal of having 55% of working-age adults hold a two- or four-year degree by the year 2025. Achieving this goal is critical to Hawai'i's future economic health, and our community's wellbeing.

I truly believe that higher education offers many opportunities for economically disadvantaged students to escape the cycle of poverty. With your support, we can truly open the doors of education for all, and strengthen our families and community as a whole. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Warmest Aloha,



Bernadette Baraquio

Meiyi Wong
(808) 681-2197
meiyik@hawaii.edu

Supporting Testimony for HB1591 and 1594
Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2017, 2:02 PM

To the House Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Meiyi Wong, and I'm 21 years old. This spring, I will receive my Associate Degree in Human Services from Honolulu Community College. From there, my plan is to attend the UH School of Social Work and earn my BSW. My ultimate goal is to earn my MSW to fulfill my dream of becoming a licensed social worker in mental health.

As a full-time college student who has been attending HCC for the past two years, I can personally attest to the myriad benefits free tuition would offer. Most students I know are struggling to balance work, school, volunteering, family responsibilities, and their personal lives, and a frequent topic of discussion among us is the rapidly climbing cost of tuition and books. Many of us young adults are forced to rely on our parents' financial support, for much longer than we'd like, because we simply can't afford the cost of living in Hawai'i while pursuing an education. Several of my classmates who are supporting themselves, and often their families as well, can only attend school part-time due to their hectic schedules. These men and women are often working more than forty hours per week while juggling papers and studying for exams, and still they may be living paycheck to paycheck. Jobs that community college students are eligible for typically don't pay enough to cover both living and tuition expenses, resulting in a generation of students who are stressed and sleep-deprived not due to partying it up in the dorms but to working night shifts in bars and tending to crying babies while trying to complete tomorrow's English homework.

I am fortunate enough to have my father's support for my schooling, knowing that were I to be on my own, I would not be in school at all. I've worked since I was eighteen years old, and none of my jobs have paid me more than \$13 an hour. I spent six months working in a restaurant where I was paid below minimum wage to be on my feet all day. I've held two jobs simultaneously, working full-time, and my combined paychecks were not even enough to pay the rent for my modest apartment. Add to that the fact that employees are increasingly being relegated to "on-call" status. I can't imagine the pressure and difficulties faced by students who are trying to maintain their GPAs while paying for classes each semester, commuting to school and their jobsite(s), and carving out mandatory time for housework, family, and themselves. Providing free tuition for eligible students would relieve us of an enormous burden. Imagine what would happen if students no longer had to worry about coming up with the money to fund their education, education crucial to getting their dream job or simply a job that pays enough to sustain a decent standard of living. How many recent (and not-so-recent) high school graduates could be motivated to begin pursuing their degrees, how many hundreds of hard-earned dollars could be saved and devoted to other necessary expenses, how many hours could be spent not working overtime in retail but in playing with one's children or working out to better one's

health. Instead of investing precious time in menial jobs merely to pay the bills, students could take up opportunities for travel, volunteer with causes that are meaningful to them, or pursue independent projects, contributing their unique genius to a world that needs them. I strongly pledge my support for HB1591 and HB1594, and the ideas they espouse. It's commonly stated that students are the future; it's time to afford us tangible proof that you believe in our potential and are willing and intentional regarding your support of us.

Sincerely,

Meiyi Wong

Aloha,

My name is Norrick S. Higa and I fully support Bills HB 1591 and HB 1594.

Growing up, I had a very troubling childhood where, at a young age, I got involved with the wrong crowd. From a young age, I lived a life of drugs, crime, and destructive behavior. Eventually, I ended up in prison serving many years of incarceration for the crimes I committed. I will not say, however, that my life was wasted due to my anti-social behaviors and incarceration. Destructive yes, but wasted, no! I learned from my past mistakes and the consequences. My trials and tribulations, I believe, were necessary for me to eventually become a more positive and productive individual, a person full of hope for my future.

Today, I am here because I choose to live a healthier, more positive, and sober life. I have set and am currently pursuing goals, part of which is to get an education. I am a student at Honolulu Community College and majoring in Human Services. I am not your traditional student because I started my education very late in life, but I believe, like so many others, that an education, no matter when received, goes a long way to creating a better life.

I do not have any family support, and I find it a struggle just to pay for my basic living expenses. HB 1591 and HB 1594 are very important because they will give me, and others like me, a fighting chance to receive an education. With the financial support they offer, these bills will make obtaining my AA degree possible as well as offer hope that I could also obtain a bachelor's degree.

I urge you to, please, not think of this as a free hand out for someone like me, but as an investment in people like me, an investment in our education, an

investment to help others learn and become educated, which is an investment for a better future for everyone in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Mr. Norrick S. Higa

To whom it may concern,

Feb. 6, 2017

I recently heard about bill HB 1591 and HB 1594, and am writing in hopes that you will consider passing both bills. I feel it would be important for students like myself, to continue to get there education, without having to worry about how to pay for classes or books, and I believe this bill would help many students like myself. I am currently a non traditional student at HCC and was told by financial aid, that I have exhausted all of my aid, I am only one class from graduating with my A.A.S degree, and with bills like HB 1591 and HB 1594, it will allow me to continue to go to college and make going to school a lot eaiser financially.

“For young adults ages 25–34 who worked full time, year round, higher educational attainment was associated with higher median earnings; this pattern was consistent from 2000 through 2014. For example, in 2014 the median earnings of young adults with a bachelor's degree (\$49,900) were 66 percent higher than the median earnings of young adult high school completers (\$30,000). The median earnings of young adult high school completers were 20 percent higher than the median earnings of those without a high school credential (\$25,000). In addition, median earnings of young adults with a master's or higher degree were \$59,100 in 2014, some 18 percent higher than the median earnings of young adults with a bachelor's degree. This pattern of higher earnings associated with higher levels of educational attainment also held for both male and female young adults as well as for White, Black, Hispanic, and Asian young adults. **SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). *The Condition of Education 2016* (NCES 2016-144), Annual Earnings of Young Adults.”

Thank you,
amy

hashem2 - Michael

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 12:18 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: agacid4@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1591 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM
Attachments: LetterforHigherEdCommittee.docx

Categories: Green Category

HB1591

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marc Agacid	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for passing the HB1591 Bill.

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

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Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Higher Education

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2017

TIME: 2:02 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 309,
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

By Rovy Anne Dipaysa
Waipahu High School Early College Student

HB 1591 and HB 1594 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE
PROGRAM

POSITION: Support

Dear Honorable Committee Chair Rep. Justin H. Woodson, and Vice Chair Rep. Mark J.
Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

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

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

“Using data from the Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Wendy Erisman and Shannon Looney found that approximately half of students who entered four-year and two-year colleges in 1995 had earned a credential six years later. The figure was similar for immigrants and for the native-born (including the children of immigrants).”

As a first-generation immigrant, my family struggles in poverty. When we lived in the Philippines, my family came from a rural area where subsistence was a daily challenge. My family and I were blessed to have been given visas to come to America where, through hard work and sacrifice, we could have a better life. When we moved to Hawaii, we rented a crowded and cramped apartment (together with our extended family) because my parents were unable to own or even rent their own place. Because my parents did not have chance to go to college here in the U.S, they both have low-income jobs. The hardships of poverty have been the driving force behind my motivation to get a college education so that I can help move my family out of the poverty.

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

I humbly submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's Promise bill, not merely for myself, but for the many thousands of lower-income, underrepresented, first generation college students who live in Hawaii and who follow in our early college foot steps. The passage of this bill should not be viewed as a “handout,” but rather a “hand up.” We ask only to be given the opportunity to improve our lives and the quality of life for everyone in our communities. In return for passing the Hawaii Promise, we promise to work hard and help the State of Hawaii

reach its goal of having 55 percent of its citizens earn a college degree by 2025. Thank you for supporting the passage of this bill and for investing in a more promising future for all of Hawaii's residents.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 5:19 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: aurasaki@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of this measure. Mahalo.

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: Friday, February 3, 2017 10:04 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: loea.akiona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Loea Akiona	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am writing in support of HB 1594, The University of Hawaii Promise Program. An educated citizenry is beneficial for all. Mahalo!

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From: **Patricia Duh**
Re: **Testimony in SUPPORT to HB 1594**

Aloha! My name is Patricia Duh. I am currently a 21-year-old who is working, trying to obtain a bachelor's degree at the University of Hawaii – West Oahu. I have been enrolled in college since the fall of 2013. I attended Kauai Community College for two years and one semester and have been at the University of Hawaii – West Oahu since fall of 2016. Since being in college, I have had a total of \$13,000.00 in tuition expenses. This amount does not include fees, books, and materials needed for my classes. Now that I am attending a four-year university and not a community college, my tuition has increased by \$2,088.00 for being a full-time student.

I would like to submit testimony in strong support to House Bill 1594 which would establish the Hawaii promise program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any University of Hawaii campus and to appropriate funds to establish and implement the program.

This program would make the world of a difference to those who are attending college already and for those who want to attend college but cannot afford too. Let's look at a foster youth for an example; for one, foster youth are already at a huge disadvantage because they normally do not have family to fall back on to help cover the costs of college. Nationally, only 2 – 9% of former foster youth attain a bachelor's degree. Having been a former foster youth myself, I can definitely say that the costs of college is the biggest setback for a foster child. This program would allow not only former foster youth the opportunity to have an equal chance at college as their peers but others who are struggling financial wise to attend college as well.

I believe that this bill will have a significant effect on the people wanting to attend college in Hawaii. I strongly encourage this committee to support the passage of House Bill 1594.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Patricia Duh

Attention: Mr. Justin H. Woodson

My name is Ro-Ann Delos Reyes and I am currently a student at Leeward Community College. I am currently residing in Kapolei. Personally as a mother and a student I strongly support bill HB1594 and HB1591 because I feel that higher education will benefit our society. Lastly, I would like to thank you for supporting the bill. We appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Ro-Ann Delos Reyes

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 10:26 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: actagabi@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alison Claire Tagabi	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair, Committee on Higher Education House of Representative State of Hawaii 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 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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 6:22 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: 18shalas@waipahuh.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: 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 enough. 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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 4:04 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: rsbchun@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robyn Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would respectfully ask the lawmakers to consider lowering the threshold of credits students must be enrolled in to qualify for the promise program or making 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 my students of "promise" are only able to attend college part-time. The students in my classes over the years 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 15 credits in order to qualify for scholarships means 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. This 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 has earned an associate's degree of less (Research and Economic Analysis Division, 2016). Please consider lowering the number of credits a student must carry so that working adults are able to qualify for scholarship relief or designate some funding for the population of students who must pursue coursework a little at a time. My experience is that when students do not have the means to attend school full-time, most are persistent and see their program through to completion. even if it takes years. 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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 1:16 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: cbtamayo@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Tamayo	Leeward Community College	Support	No

Comments: Representative Justin H Woodson Chair committee of higher education House of representative, State of Hawaii Hi my name is Chad Tamayo and I'm a student at Leeward Community college and I support the HB1594 bill. I believe in this bill because I believe that education is important. Education is important because any knowledge you obtain; you can also present which is what makes people progress and then finances will come naturally and distribute properly by the state so that finances are not so worrisome. This is good for the future because more people have the opportunity and are willing to go to college to learn something to better their futures and the states financial issues when it comes to distributing where we can all benefit from it the most. Doing so I feel this will make even more people productive because of the easier more suitable opportunity that is given. When it comes to education I feel that this should be the states priority number one. All in all I hope this bill passes and I thank you for scheduling this hearing.

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

House Committee on Higher Education

February 9, 2017, 2:02pm

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Member
Representative Sharon E. Har, Member
Representative Kaniela Ing, Member
Representative Takashi Ohno, Member
Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Member
Representative Roy M. Takumi, Member
Representative Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Member

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, 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 5:59 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: drodrigues2001@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Darlene Rodrigues. I am a college graduate living on Oahu who has benefitted from financial aid. I strongly support this bill because the next generation deserves the opportunity to attend the university without incurring great debt. My generation was able to go to college at a lesser cost and with a different student loan structure. We have not accrued the same kind of debt that the current college age person has. I support this measure and believe that we must equip the coming generations with greater financial access to higher education. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass HB 1594. Mahalo for your time, Darlene Rodrigues

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Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

February 8, 2017

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1594

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and committee members;

Hello, my name is Nicolita Garces. I am an archivist and librarian. As a college graduate with student loans to pay off, I strongly write in support of HB 1594.

I grew up in the working class community of Kalihi and graduated from Farrington High School. I wouldn't have been able to earn my undergraduate and graduate degrees without scholarships.

We know all about the high cost of living here in Hawai'i and that college tuition and other expenses continually increases nationwide over the years. Growing up in a working class community and being employed at GEAR UP Farrington while in graduate school, I saw young adults who had to sacrifice college to financially help their families. Many others take a long time to complete their degrees because they work to pay off their tuitions. There is also a third category of college graduates who took out loans that they are currently paying off. In the film "Default: The Student Loan Documentary" (2011), a married couple with children said that they wished they had jobs where they were making a difference in other people's lives. They settled working in the corporate world as the only way to pay off their student loans. Paying off for college, especially now, is burdensome for so many people. My student debt may not be as much as others', but life goals such as buying a home or a new car are still goals deferred.

Students, regardless of their class or background should all have opportunities to earn a college degree and be in careers of their choosing. The University of Hawai'i Promise Program would greatly benefit qualified need-based students and lessen some financial burden. Besides, coursework and maintaining a high GPA are stressful enough.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Nicolita Garces

From: kenakinaka@aol.com [mailto:kenakinaka@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 3:11 PM

To: HEDtestimony <hedtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Cc: Rep. John Mizuno <repmizuno@capitol.hawaii.gov>; Rep. Justin Woodson <repwoodson@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: Letter in support of HB1594 for Higher Education Committee on 2/9/17 2 pm Rm 309

I highly support HB1594. We need to have higher education and training for our local residents so that they will be able to become employed at the occupations that support the high cost of living in Hawaii.

Too many of our youth are not able to obtain living wage occupations and are forced to move out of the state after they graduate from high school or have live at their parents' homes since they do not make a living wage. Kamahina who cannot afford to go to college need this bill to help them avoid having to borrow money from student loans that many cannot afford to pay off after graduating from college!

I strongly recommend supporting HB1594.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Teruya Akinaka, MRA

Retired (Founder and former Executive Director of Hepatitis Support Network of Hawaii, [2002-2014](#))

Sent from my Boost Mobile Phone.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members
From: Joellah Fuentes
Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

Good day! I'm Joellah Fuentes, a student from Leeward Community College. I'm from a family of seven, and I'm the second one to be in college. I will be earning my AA in Liberal Arts this year and am planning on getting my bachelor's degree in Accounting afterwards. I have three younger siblings, two of them are in high school and one in middle school. I work as a math tutor in LCC Waianae but my salary is not enough to support all my basic needs as well as my family's. My mother is weak and currently incapable of working so my step father is the only one who can support our family. When the time comes that he will be unable to work, it would be a challenge for us financially. Therefore, the implementation of the House Bill 1594 is an important and beneficial thing not only for my siblings but also to those who are in need of it.

I believe in the value of higher education. It would enable many people to become a more productive citizen of the society. Everyone who are pursuing higher level of studies, would have more freedom to hone their talents, try new ideas, and seek the lives they want if they didn't have to start off in debt or stay stuck in a low-wage job. We would be able to focus more on our studies rather than worrying about how to scrape together enough funds for each upcoming school term. The implementation of the bill would be a development that will be the driver of a new era of Hawaiian prosperity. We will have a stronger economy and a stronger democracy when all young people with the ambition and the talent can reach their full potential, regardless of their circumstances.

So, I would like to thank you for scheduling a hearing for this bill. There would be no change if people don't act on what they believe. I hope that the rest of the country and the world would follow your actions. We couldn't make this happen if we didn't stand together and demand that public higher education is a right for everyone, and not a privilege for the few. No matter what the results are, we will always be grateful for all your efforts.

Sincerely,

Joellah Fuentes
joe_ellah@yahoo.com
(808)265-0660

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 10:31 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: mkaleikini@ormat.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Kaleikini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB 1594 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PROMISE PROGRAM. Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1594 which provides "last dollar" scholarships for the unmet need of qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawai'i system who meet certain criteria. I strongly support HB 1594. As a member of our community, I recognize the critical role UH plays in educating our citizenry for Hawai'i's multi-faceted workforce. The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges. It will ensure that promising, ambitious students have the resources they need to focus on their studies and build a better future for themselves and their families. Their future success impacts us all. The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will help our most economically disadvantaged students escape the cycle of poverty. High school graduates are three times more likely to live in poverty than college graduates, and eight times more likely to depend on public assistance. With your support, we can truly open the doors of education for all, and strengthen our families and community as a whole. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

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Dear Chair Woodson and Vice Chair Hashem,

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 and HB-1594 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 attain 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

February 8, 2017

To Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem

From: Kaisen Bartolome

Subject: Testimony in strong support of HB 1594

My name is Kaisen Bartolome, I am a student at Leeward Community College. I reside in Pearl City, District 35. I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for *HB 1594*, or at least *HB 1591*, if resources do not warrant.

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

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

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

Dear Higher Education Committee,

Good afternoon, Ma'am/Sir. I am writing this testament as a support for the House Bill 1594 about free higher education for students who meet the requirements. Before I further show my support for this bill, I want to introduce myself first. My name is May Christine Ines. I am from Waialua in the North Shore of Oahu. I studied at Waialua High and Intermediate School and graduated last year as a part of the class of 2016. I am currently in second semester of college at Leeward Community College.

“Higher education should not be a debt sentence,” a quote from my ASAN205 class. This quote was put in a sign when my fellow classmates went downtown to rally for support of HB Bill 1594. I think this quote is pretty powerful considering the fact that it is true. I have a few friends who have loans after loans after loans just to finance themselves to go to college. As soon as they graduate from college, they pay for these huge amount of debts that was piled during the course of their college life. I believe that that should not be the case. We should not pay to learn. We should not get loans in order to have a knowledge, which the world will need in the future. Or should I say, we, ourselves, are the future? We have the potential to better the world we live in today. There are people (especially the poor ones) who weren't even given a chance to go to school, in the first place, just because of financial issues. What if those who didn't have an opportunity to maximize their potentials have the knowledge to cure cancer? We wouldn't probably know about that unless they are given an opportunity to show off their skills. All I am saying is, students should not be in debt just to have the knowledge all of us will be benefited from in the near future.

Before I end this letter, I want to thank you for considering this bill. Thank you for making this bill a *bill*. I appreciate all the efforts you guys have given in order for this bill to

happen. I will pray and hope for the best in the upcoming hearing this Thursday. I will be with you along the way.

Respectfully Yours,

May Christine Ines

Analyn Shimabuku
617 Hoohale Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

02-07-17

The Honorable Justin H. Woodson:
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 304
Phone 808-586-6211
Fax 808-586-6211
repwoodson@Capitol.hawaii.gov

My name is Analyn Shimabuku and I reside at 617 Hoohale Street, Pearl City, Hawaii. I am a second year college student at Leeward Community College. I am taking associates in physical science. My future goal is to be a nurse.

I am writing you to ask that you make HB-1594 a priority bill because it will help students who are struggling with the high cost of education while pursuing their degree. I am grateful for the opportunity that the grants have provided for my education. I would implore you to fight for our opportunities to receive funding to continue our education.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letter letting me know if you are able to pass a Bill that would establish scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any University of Hawaii campuses and to appropriate funds to establish and implement the program.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,

Analyn Shimabuku

Attention: Mr. Justin H. Woodson

My name is Ro-Ann Delos Reyes and I am currently a student at Leeward Community College. I am currently residing in Kapolei. Personally as a mother and a student I strongly support bill HB1594 because I feel that higher education will benefit our society. Not only that, if this bill will be passed it will benefit not only to our current students but it will be beneficial for our younger generations. Lastly, I would like to thank you for supporting the bill. We appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Ro-Ann Delos Reyes

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 11:41 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: winniegj@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Winnie Juan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Higher Education House of Representatives State of Hawaii My name is Winnie Juan who is a college student that lives in Waipahu and goes to Leeward Community College. I am in strongly full support of the Bill HB 1594 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. I know that pushing for this bill will take a lot of support from people. 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: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 1:20 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: sheldene@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheldene Pola	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for passing HB1591 and HB1594.

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

House Higher Education Committee

February 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 209

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem

House Higher Education Committee Members

From: Djojeanne Simon

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarship 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 Djojeanne Simon. I am a University of Hawaii student, studying at UH Leeward. I graduated from Waipahu High School with honors. Now, aside from school, I also work at a theater. However, despite that I have been working, my mom still refuses to let me contribute to our bills. She said that I should save the money for the future just in case FAFSA stops to provide for my tuition. And that is why I support HB 1594.

If it were not for FAFSA, I would not be able to continue studying, as the money I earn is not enough to cover my tuition either. My mom is still paying off the loans of my older brother, added to that is the house rent, phone bills, and other necessities. I am in support of the said bill, not only because of me, but also, I know there are other students who are doing their best to balance work and school. We also have to think of those who aspire to study but cannot afford to. Personally, I am afraid if I will be able to continue due to college costs. My dream is to be a clinical psychologist, or even psychiatrist. Would it be too much to say that I also want to be a drama teacher? It is really heartbreaking that what is hindering you from achieving your dreams is money.

So, I am really grateful to those who submitted HB 1594. You gave us, who really loves learning, a hope.

Thank you,

Djojeanne Simon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 1:43 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ccuaresma@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM*

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Jeremiah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:21 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: fu_dog_5@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM*

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

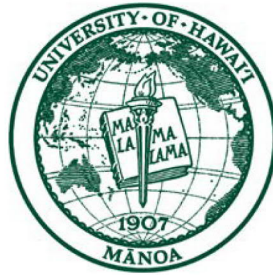
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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LATE



Date: Thursday February 9th, 2017

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Re: Support for HB1594 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. The University of Hawai'i Student Caucus (UHSC) stands in **support of HB1594**. The UHSC represents approximately 42,700 students across the 10 campuses of the University of Hawai'i System.

Providing equal access to higher education is of critical importance to the UHSC. Too often, rising tuition rates have limited that access. Though numerous financial aid programs exist to help prospective students obtain a college degree, they often fall short of covering the full cost.

A robust system of Higher education is an essential component to building a more dynamic and innovative economy. By providing access to all Hawai'i residents, we ensure that a burgeoning innovation economy benefits local families who may not have the means to cover the rising cost of higher education.

More than just a job training program, we teach our students to think critically and creatively, which enables them to be better citizens and scholars. HB1594 is a promise to the people of Hawai'i that the benefits higher education will remain open all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. **For our students and our communities, we urge you to pass HB1594.**

Mahalo,
Kepo'o Keli'ipa'akaua
Chair, University of Hawai'i Student Caucus (UHSC)



LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem & House Higher Education Committee Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories. I am happy to submit strong support for this bill.

Institutional support through scholarships for qualified students consistent with the provisions of this bill is essential to promote access, diversity, and leadership development for Hawai'i's future leaders. Inadequate financial resources is an obstacle for students who cannot rise above the systemic and persistent disparities without financial assistance. While financial need affects students across the board, one example of the insurmountable uneven barrier is seen with Filipinos, where they comprise 21 percent of public school students, but only 12 percent of students at UH Mānoa; where Filipinos make up a large segment of community college students, but their transfer rates to 4-year degrees and advanced professional degrees at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa are disproportionately low. Subsequently, it is unacceptable that Filipinos, compared to other groups, are overrepresented in entry level service jobs and underrepresented in executive positions. Rising to become the second largest ethnic group (15% by one race only, 25% by more than one race) in Hawai'i since 2010 is not keeping pace with the investment in resources needed for parity to uplift a disproportionate part of our community from service workers to colleagues. If given the support today, more Filipinos will have the potential to make substantive contributions in fields vital to Hawai'i's economic health and quality of life. More importantly, this bill will build the capacity of qualified scholarship recipients to break the cycle of income inequality in their own family, in this generation, in our Aloha State.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to offer strong support for you to advance student excellence and equity for qualified students in Hawai'i's institutions of higher learning on every island.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12

LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

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

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

I strongly support HB 902. 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.

I support this bill that would award scholarships for qualified students in the UH system. 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 beyond the 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. Our economy will not grow healthily if this income inequality persists. Education scholarships is a reasonable and prudent approach to resolve this.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my full support of this bill.

Warmest regards,

Davelyn Quijano

LATE

My name is David Ballesteros Brown and I am an Early College student of Waipahu High School who is currently enrolled at Leeward Community College. Through this program I have been able to witness first-hand the benefits of education upon the disadvantages and use how great the impact of it is upon their lives and future. Which is why I firmly believe that House Bill 1594 is of great benefit to the people of our State, and why I would pledge my utmost support for the passing of this bill. By giving the necessary money to individuals within our state in order for them to pursue higher education, we will be ensuring our future as a state, and a nation of progress. Education is a vital pillar to the functioning of any society and without it we would not have the exchange of ideas, information, nor debate that we have today. For without education we would not have the progress that is greatly prized within our state and nation. Yet we continue to make it a struggle to earn a higher education for low-income families, for those who came here for a brighter future. Is it just that we would take away the opportunity for such individuals to earn an education, to ensure that they can provide for themselves and their families? We should not subject the people of this state into a sentence of debt merely so they can achieve the education that is necessary for them to lead a normal life. By paving a path for people of this Island to achieve higher education and a better life for themselves, we can ensure the foundation of our people and the future of our state by entrusting it not to a uneducated populace, but instead one that has had the chance to grow and better themselves with the education provided by this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 4:59 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: beudelacruz@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

LATE

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bernadette Eunice Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I, Bernadette Eunice Dela Cruz, support the HB 1594 Bill. I am a junior in high school and am currently not a part of the free/reduced lunch program. Since I am not, I have to pay a lot of fees for full price because I don't qualify for the waiver forms. This 4-year free college tuition would help me out a lot because it would mean that my parents won't have to worry about paying that much. I see how hard they work everyday just to keep our family going and they are exhausted every time they come home. This bill can help lift up some of the stress from my parent's shoulders when it is finally my time to attend college. I believe that with this bill anyone who want to learn, can. Even if they don't have the money to.

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Kaley Vatalaro
1511 Nuuanu Ave #206
Honolulu, HI 96817



02/08/16

The Honorable Justin H. Woodson
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 304
808-586-6211
repwoodson@capitol.hawaii.gov

HB 1591 and HB 1594 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

My name is Kaley Vatalaro and I am a sophomore at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa pursuing my undergraduate degree. I currently reside in Honolulu.

Having been born and raised in Hawai'i, I know how crucial higher education is to the future of our state, which is why I am in strong support of HB 1591 and HB 1594. I believe that furthering one's education is essential to achieving a successful future for oneself, and furthermore, for the overall community. This bill will provide me (and many others) with the support that is needed in order to graduate with a college degree. As a result of the unmet direct costs of a college education, many high school graduates have to put their future goals of obtaining a college degree on hold. However, the implementation of the Promise Program would give students the financial opportunity to put their dreams into action.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kaley Vatalaro

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 4:31 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: atbeadle@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/8/2017
Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Beadle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Given the opportunity most would opt for higher education should the government see fit to provide help or assistance above and beyond that of loans.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 5:00 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ikaikabaptista@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth-ikaika Baptista	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I believe that 4 years of college tuition unmet because it will help the many people that can't afford get the education they deserve for free. As a son of a single parent I see the struggles of my mother, sometime she tries to hide it and at times she is straight forward and says " we can' the afford it" and she look sad to say it. She has always told me to do well in school to try to get scholarships, and I am doing my best in school. I don't want to give her the burden of paying for my college expenses after what she has done for me. It is unfair for a single mother of 3 children, raise them to be bankrupt. This bill should be passed to prevent deserving student the privillage of education.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 6:14 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: jnvillanueva17@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM



HB1594

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanne Villanueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Because I am a senior in highschool, I have been applying to colleges. I have been accepted to several schools, however, I have to turn the majority of them down because I cannot afford the tuition. Financial status should not be a hinderance for prospective college students. I support this bill because I believe attaining a higher education should not be compromised by what one can or cannot afford.

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STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1594

To: The Higher Education Committee
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Legislature
Attn: Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Chairman, Higher Education Committee
Re: Strong Support for HB 1594



Date: February 8, 2017

My name is Raymund Liongson, an associate professor 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 Promise Program across the University of Hawaii 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 confused which one to yield to first.

Our youth and the future that they face should be our ultimate concern. This is why we educate. This is why we legislate. It is because we care not only for the present, but because we recognize the future as sacred and inescapable.

Society is increasingly becoming more sophisticated and competitive. To survive, one needs to be equipped with higher-lever knowledge and optimized capacities. Other societies – states and cities in the U.S. as well as other countries around the world -- have recognized this and are now investing in the higher education of their youth. We should not allow our communities and our youth left behind.

HB 1594 is a vehicle to help prepare our youth for the future. I give my full and strong support for it. I ask that you please pass it.

Thank you.

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Higher Education

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2017

TIME: 2:02 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 309,
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

By Czarina Ydmarra Isabelle Galario
Waipahu High School Early College Student



HB 1591 and HB 1594 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

POSITION: Support

My name is Czarina Ydmarra Isabelle Galario. I am currently a senior at Waipahu High School. I am also currently enrolled under the early college program. I enrolled into the Early College program two years ago, which is the summer before I entered my junior year. When I enrolled myself into a class, I did not intend to keep taking classes until I graduate high school. That enrolment was suppose to be a trial. However, after taking 1 class, I realized that this program not only help me with my high school credits but with my college credits also. Early college made me realize what type of advantage I got myself into and while I'm at it, I might as well make use of the free college courses that the program has to offer. This program i particular made me realize what I would want my future to look like. When I graduate high school, I will finally have at least 32 credits of college. After I graduate from high school, I plan to attend The University of Hawaii Manoa and major in Law while working in the military. After graduating with my bachelor's degree, I would still like to continue my studies to obtain my Ph.D., however, I am still open to any other majors or fields that I would like to enter.

I am aware that the bill HB 1594 is a bill that is relating to the University of Hawaii Promise program which will give out scholarships to students under the University of Hawaii and that the bill HB 1591 is a bill that is similar to HB 1594 except it is towards the community colleges in Hawaii. I strongly

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Higher Education

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2017

TIME: 2:02 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 309,
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

By Czarina Ydmarra Isabelle Galario
Waipahu High School Early College Student

believe that this bill should be passed because there are a lot of students who need help paying their college tuition fees no matter what their status are. As an immigrant from the Philippines, I know how hard it is for most of us to even attend school. I know this is a generic immigrant story but I still hope that it matters somehow. We permanently came here in Hawaii on February 21, 2012. We came here to find greater opportunities that will someday help us fulfil our greatest dream to finally live at ease. Coming here in Hawaii was and is still a blessing because not everyone is given a chance to walk the path to a better life. However, I did not realize how hard it is to survive in a community that is full of competition. Yes, I admit that there are a lot of scholarships out there but they do not give it to every single student who apply. We migrated here to study and pursue a better living but it's already hard in the beginning. Most of the immigrants who leave their motherland for that American dream will sacrifice everything to move out of poverty and obtaining a higher education is just the first step to that success. The society pressures the youth to step up because we are the future of tomorrow, but how are we supposed to do that if it's already difficult for us to obtain our educations in the first place? There are a lot of students out there that deserve to go to college but are being blocked and pulled back by financial problems. A higher education is the escape code out of poverty and the gateway to success. Every single determined student should have the access to college because it does not only pull us out of poverty but also gives us an opportunity to build our credibilities that are very useful in a community who mostly pay attention to our backgrounds.

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Higher Education

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2017

TIME: 2:02 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 309,
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

By Czarina Ydmarra Isabelle Galario
Waipahu High School Early College Student

I modestly submit my testimony in support of Hawaii's Promise Bill which I hopefully will help and support the current and upcoming students who will willingly challenge the college life. We humbly ask for this bill to be passed in hopes of a better life. Instead of making education a debt sentence, we humbly ask that you make education our gateway to our success. On behalf of the rest of the student body, we humbly ask that you give us a chance to change our lives. We will strive towards our studies as a return of your generosity to fulfill our longtime dreams of having an affordable college. We will work hard in the upcoming years of our education so that we can give back to the community someday. We thank you for lending us your time to listen to our testimonies. We thank you for supporting and investing in these bills that will eventually improve the future of the people.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309



To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members
From: Teresa Hodges

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 Teresa Hodges. I am a doctoral student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I strongly support this bill because I personally have had scholarships at every single level of my academic career and they have helped immensely in allowing me to work less in jobs and to focus more on school and maintain high grade point averages. As a lecturer at UH Mānoa, I see my students sometimes struggle to balance work and school, sometimes even having to miss a class in order to work more at their job. Scholarships would help reduce the severity of such drastic circumstances and disadvantageous decisions that could affect their pursuit of higher education.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Teresa Hodges
tahodges@hawaii.edu

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF BH 1594
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017 2 p.m. Conference Room 309



To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

From: Relyn Salvador

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 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 work full time or with two jobs just so that they can pay their way to college. I believe student loans are a problem or a reason that many students don't pursue their education. There are students who graduated but have 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 HB 1594.

Sincerely,
Relyn Salvador

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 AND HB 1594

Aloha to whom it may concern,



I am writing to you to show my of support to the following bills, HB1591 and HB1594. I am a registered voter in the Leeward district area, a student at the UH Leeward CC campus, and I would love to have your support as well.

I am in support of this because I have been in college since 2013, and I continue to strive harder because I will be the first college graduate in my family. I believe in higher education as something that is absolutely necessary in 2017 and beyond. This is all the more meaningful to me because I apply for FAFSA I get nothing but loan offers, and I know for a fact I could really use the state's help to pay for my education.

I greatly appreciate all the hard work that has gone into creating this bill. It will truly be an exciting and hopeful time for the state of Hawaii to have this bill passed for the first time.

Mahalo,

Michael Ramun

Leeward CC Student

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309



To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

From: Christian Dave Agno

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 Christian Dave Agno. I live in the community of Waipahu. I am a first-generation college student attending Leeward Community College. I strongly support this bill for two reasons. First, I believe that the University of Hawaii Promise Program would lay the foundation for higher education not just for me but to a lot of aspiring students who would like to invest most of their time in school. In addition, also to people who wants to attend college but are unable to divide their time and especially their monthly paycheck for school. Second, times are changing fast and so are our world, our country, and our communities. The demand for intellectual individuals has never been so high and so are the requirements for professional jobs. We, the youth, who are the future leaders need this support and the opportunity to work hard to achieve our goal for higher education. Let a soldier sharpen his blade with a whetstone, and let us sharpen our minds with higher education. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass HB 1594.

Sincerely,

Christian Dave Agno

Cdagno8@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 10:16 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: geryll@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM



HB1594

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Geryll Anthony Agno	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Geryll Anthony Agno, a current UH-Manoa student under the BS in Nursing program of the university, and a current UH Presidential Scholar. I am providing this testimony to STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1594. I believe that investing on its citizens is one of the best things a government can do--and the best way to achieve this is to make sure that they get their education, including higher education/college, so that they can maximize their potential and become active members of society. This bill will help students that are hungry for education but do not have the means to attend college because of a lot of different factors—most often than not, factors they cannot control. Students/prospective students should not be forced to put themselves to a huge debt just to go to college because they come from the working class and/or from underprivileged backgrounds. Education should not be a debt sentence! Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309



To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members
From: Marichie Barbasa

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 Marichie Barbasa. I am a Public Health major with a minor in Philippine Language and Culture at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I strongly support this bill because it would help students to attend to higher education without having to worry about paying for their college tuition bills on time while in school. As an undergraduate student for five years, I had my fair share of worries about not making enough money to pay for my college tuition or textbooks for the semester. Unfortunately, my parents were not able to help me with my tuition due to Hawaii's already high cost of living. That is why I believe scholarships are important for students because it gives them that push to succeed in school without having to worry about the next payment for tuition while in school. By working, doing extra-curricular activities, and going to school is difficult to balance for students, which may cause a decline in their grades. With this bill, I believe that it will help students to alleviate the stress about having to pay for school. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass HB 1594.

Sincerely,
Marichie Barbasa
(808) 358-0769

February 8, 2017

Dear Representative Justin H. Woodson

LATE

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 is a bill called 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.

LATE

Aloha Higher Education Committee,

My name is Glen Esteban, a second-year student at Leeward Community College. I'd like to share my testimony on the bill HB 1594. In many ways, this bill provides the benefits and advantages that would not only support students entering colleges or universities but also anyone seeking a higher education without the expense of holding/increasing a financial burden. As a student, I can see ahead how difficult it would be to climb up and gain higher education due to the weight of debt pulling down. It's not just me, but also many others before and ahead of me. Seeing how this bill can liberate students from these limitations, I support this bill and the brighter future it promises.

The HB 1594 allows everyone to ascend higher in their education and ultimately in life. This isn't something to be taken away or prohibited. I certainly feel this way. I look to other states and even countries like the Philippines where students can attend community colleges without being placed under a loan or debt. I look to my mother who wishes for a better job but can't go any further because of the overall cost of gaining a higher education. I look to my little brother and my little sister and the better future that they can have with the wider range of opportunities and with being debt free. This bill shouldn't be seen as a free pass to students, rather, a much needed leap forward for improving the availability of a higher education.

I support the bill HB 1594 on the basis that it will provide financial relief and open opportunities for all in forthcoming school years. I think being limited in one's education because one can't afford to improve it is stupid and absurd. I believe this bill will plant the seeds for a generation where education requires a strong will and not a fat wallet. I look to the future and see just how bright it can be.

Mahalo,
Glen Esteban

LATE

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 wouldn't 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 the 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.

February 7 2017

Briana R. Banua
94-1038 Awalai St.
Waipahu, HI 96797
briana.banua@gmail.com

LATE

Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Room 405

Dear Representative Woodson,

My name is Briana Banua, I am from the district of Waipahu and I am 21 years old. I am attending Leeward Community College and I am near graduating. I am going to graduate with an associate's degree in liberal arts and I will then carry on my studies to the University of Hawaii at Manoa or at Hilo. I am planning on majoring in marine biology and minor in aquaculture. Besides being a full time student at Leeward, I work part time in a local pet shop called The Pet Depot in Ewa Beach. Right when I finish my day at school I go straight to work, it is a tad challenging when it comes to being swamped with homework but I manage my time efficient enough where I don't stress out about it too much. I work to help take the burden off of my parents when they do need me to pay for things especially after they pay my tuition. It's getting harder for my parents now because we just extended our house and they're on a tight budget, which leads to my brother and I helping pay for some bills and groceries.

I support the bills that offer community college and a 4 year (university) college to be free for students to attend. My Philippine issues professor told the entire class something that I will never forget. He said, "Since our tuition levels are going up, more students will be getting second jobs". Which is true even to this day, I have friends working two jobs while going to school just to pay for Leeward community college's tuition. This is at the community college level of tuition, imagine what they would have to go through if they move on to the four year university. I also have friends who have to work jobs first just to save up money to attend college and since they take a year off to work, they fall behind and forget what they used to learn in high school. Many people who do took a year off regret is because they say its hard to

get back into the groove of what school used to be. With free college in the near future it will benefit people who wanted to go to college but couldn't afford it. It will also give these students hope that they can get a higher education and a higher paying job. It could help ease the mind off parents who pay a lot of money to put their child in college. My parents are struggling to pay all these bills and this could help put my brother and I through college. That is why I support these bills.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read this letter about supporting these two bills.

Sincerely,

Briana R. Banua

LATE

I would like to start off with an honorable quote:

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'

-Nelson Mandela

My name is Crezel Andrea Alegado and I am an Early College student of Waipahu High School who is currently enrolled at Leeward Community College. Since being a part of this program, I have been able to experience the benefits of getting a higher education. Along the way, I've gained skills that helped me expand my knowledge and self-growth. I come from a Filipino family and we struggle financially. I was born in the Philippines but raised here along with my two younger siblings. As the oldest, I have to set a great example to my siblings and other family members because they look up to me. This is why I support the House Bill 1594 and 1591 because of the benefits it provides to those who want an education and ensure them that the money will provide them the opportunity to have it. Education is an action that creates possibilities and encourages us to discover ourselves. Education is an intention that gives our country's new leaders hope and insight of what they are capable of. I would like to thank the Education Committee for hearing our testimonies. This is not only my voice, but also the people who want a chance of getting an education without worrying about the cost. This will become true if we have the possibility to make this bill happen.

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

LATE

February 8, 2017

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 support the HB 1591 and 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 cannot afford it. Students are not receiving enough money from financial aid, grants, loans and scholarships to meet their college expenses. With the possibility of free college tuition, the number of students attending college would likely increase. There are many students that do not attend college because of not having the financial aid to pay for college. While others are dying in student loan debts. College is a big deal. A college education is essential for the future. There are better employment opportunities for college graduates as more jobs are hiring those with a higher education. Therefore, the HB 1591 and HB 1594 should be passed.

I would like to thank the higher education committee for their time and effort in arranging this hearing. Hopefully, my testimony has convinced the decision in passing these bills. Students would greatly benefit from this. A free college education would save students and their families a lot of money like it has to mine. Thus, I believe the HB 1591 and HB 1594 would assist students in pursuing their goals.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

LATE

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members
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 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 to support not only ourselves, but some of our extended family as well. My mother endures weeks at a time working and only coming home to change clothes. Whereas I spend weeks with little to no sleep working two jobs and attending school full time. This scholarship would greatly help to alleviate at least the expenses needed for school, especially because my brother will be entering college this fall. My family, as is for others, strongly believes that higher education means attaining a better job and therefore improving economic and social mobility. If that is the case, then higher education needs to not only be encouraged but also affordable.

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: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 7:55 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: bjabon@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Abon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Directed towards Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Higher Education. My name is Bryan Abon and I reside live in Waipahu and I support Hb1594 Uh promise program. Why 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 give pass Hb1594 to have a brighter future for all.

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LATE

Good Afternoon. My name is Elisha Ramones. I 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 whole family 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.).

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.

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 to the committee for letting me speak today and taking the time to hear my thoughts and opinions on HB 1594.

LATE

House of Representative, Justin H. Woodson, Chair and Committee on Higher Education

Dear Representative Justin Woodson,

My name is Jerrold Mariano, and I am born and raised in the island of Oahu. I live in Waipahu, and I am currently attending college at The University of Hawaii at Leeward Community College. Today, I am writing unto you for the support of free community college tuition.

I strongly support this request because education is important. Education should not be a debt sentence where we would have to owe money to attend school. Education is a choice for a person's future. On February 6, 2017, San Francisco's mayor announced that there would be free tuition for the community colleges in San Francisco. If this could happen in other states, why can't it happen here in the State of Hawaii? I strongly support this request because education is important.

Thank you for dedicating your time to read this message. I look forward for what's to come in the future.

Jackilyn B. Bolosan
94-1450 Welina Loop #10A
Waipahu Hi. 96797



Representative Justin H. Woodson
Chair, Committee on Higher Education
House of Representative State of Hawaii

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

LATE

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chairman, Committee on Higher Education, House of Representative,
State of Hawaii

I am Jaylyn Ildefonzo, a student currently attending Leeward Community College. Recently I have heard of the bill HB1594 and after learning about it, I 100% support it. As a college student, it's a struggle paying for college. I personally have the help of financial aid, but some people aren't qualified to receive. For others who are financially unstable or can't receive financial aid, they have no other way to pay so they end up not being able to attend school.

I support the bill HB1594 because I believe that higher education is important for everyone. Many people would like to attend college to pursue their career, but may not have the money for schooling. If this bill passes, people will be able to attend school and be one step closer to fulfilling their dream. There are many who are very passionate about this bill and would like to see a change for a better future. Other states in the US were able to achieve this goal and it's time for Hawaii to do so.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and I would also like to thank the committee for scheduling a hearing for the bill.

LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1591 AND HB 1594

Aloha to whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to show my of support to the following bills, HB1591 and HB1594. I am a registered voter in the Leeward district area, a student at the UH Leeward CC campus, and I would love to have your support as well.

I am in support of this because I have been in college since 2013, and I continue to strive harder because I will be the first college graduate in my family. I believe in higher education as something that is absolutely necessary in 2017 and beyond. This is all the more meaningful to me because I apply for FAFSA I get nothing but loan offers, and I know for a fact I could really use the state's help to pay for my education.

I greatly appreciate all the hard work that has gone into creating this bill. It will truly be an exciting and hopeful time for the state of Hawaii to have this bill passed for the first time.

Mahalo,

Michael Ramun

Leeward CC Student

LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

From: Ashley Nakasone
Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

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

I strongly support this bill because I believe in the power of intellectual growth through higher education. This bill would provide an equal opportunity of all social class to have a chance to attend and graduate college through resources they could not have afforded on their own in higher hopes to become productive members of society. In order to do so, they would need more than what gold can offer, and that's the wealth of knowledge.

Also, as a single mother to a 4 year-old son, I personally know the struggles one may endure without an education. In this day in age, it's no longer who you know that can get you places, but what you know and the credentials you have to offer. It's possible to make a substantial living without an education, but by having a degree it will give you the comfort of making a life without worrying how to make a living.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass HB 1594.

Sincerely,

Ashley Nakasone

HEDtestimony

**Late
Testimony**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 8:53 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: jannelyn@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/9/2017
Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jannelyn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe that this bill will help qualifying students in Hawaii that have difficulties meeting tuition costs and needs to help achieve their educational goals and a have a college opportunity.

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Board of Directors:

Gary L. Hooser
President

February 8, 2017

HB1594

Andrea N. Brower
Joshua D. I. Mori
Co-Vice Presidents

Testifying in SUPPORT

Aloha House Committee on Higher Education,

Ikaika M. Hussey
Treasurer

My name is Tiare Lawrence and I am the community organizer for the Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA). HAPA along with various partner organizations recently hosted the People's Congress last year. We held island forums on Kaua'i, Maui, Oahu, and Hawai'i Island and the People's Congress Hawai'i in December 2016. Over 800 people participated statewide. Education was one of seven issue areas we focused on. We tasked participants with identifying the root causes of the systemic problems in Hawai'i as well as identify solutions to these problems. Every forum identified high costs for college education as a problem and as a solution participants were in strong support of free college education. HAPA strongly supports HB1594.

Bianca K. Isaki
Secretary

HAPA believes this bill will support college education for our local residents.

Paul Achitoff
Malia K. Chun
Bart E. Dame
Laura Harrelson

We humbly ask that you pass this bill out of your committee.

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Katie McMillan
Walter Ritte Jr.

Mahalo Nui,

Karen Shishido
Leslie Malu Shizue Miki
Kekaulike Prosper Tomich
Cade Watanabe

Tiare Lawrence
Community Organizer

HEDtestimony

**Late
testimony**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 12:29 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: davidbe@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM*

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Enriquez	Associated Students of University of Hawaii at Manoa	Support	No

Comments:

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HEDtestimony

Late

estimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 12:29 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: davidbe@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM*

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Enriquez	Associated Students of University of Hawaii at Manoa	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 1:39 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: bautistakhatlyn@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 2/9/2017
Testimony for HED on Feb 9, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Khatlyn May Bautista	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, a junior high school student from Farrington High School support the HB1594 bill. Personally, my family had been struggling financially. Although, I don't qualify for the "free or reduce lunch," my family has been having a hard time paying for bills, especially, how my parents still needs to support their family back in Philippines. Since, I'm not legible for the free or reduced lunch, my family needs to pay more. For instance, the AP test for Human Geography, I had to pay \$90 just to take the test. But, if one is legible for a free or reduced, it would cost about \$15. In fact, my father has two jobs in order to support us. My family needs to work twice as much just to support my needs and so as my family. Therefore, with this bill, it would able to lessen my family's financial problem and help me get an education at a much lower cost. This program would benefit a lot of students like me that's under the University of Hawaii system. The cost of living here is already expensive, so this bill would lessen the people's worries. Overall, this bill is a great idea and really beneficial for students and families.

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February 8, 2017

HB1594

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Co-Vice Presidents

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Treasurer

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Bianca K. Isaki
Secretary

HAPA believes this bill will support college education for our local residents.

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Malia K. Chun
Bart E. Dame
Laura Harrelson

We humbly ask that you pass this bill out of your committee.

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Katie McMillan
Walter Ritte Jr.

Mahalo Nui,

Karen Shishido
Leslie Malu Shizue Miki
Kekaulike Prosper Tomich
Cade Watanabe

Tiare Lawrence
Community Organizer

The Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) is a public non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HAPA's mission is to catalyze community empowerment and systemic change towards valuing 'aina (environment) and people ahead of corporate profit.

Elliott Khlopin
2/9/17

Late Testimony

Testimony

Hello, my name is Elliott Khlopin. I am a junior at University of Hawaii at Manoa and I am in full support of this bill. Growing up in Hawaii I have made many peers I've known many people from different socioeconomic backgrounds and I truly believe that this bill will help people have the ability to get their education regardless of where they come or what limits them and I believe this bill will do so much to benefit my peers and everybody around the state and I am in full support of this bill.