



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
March 14, 2017 at 1:15 p.m.

By  
David Lassner, President  
University of Hawai'i System

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

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of HB 1594 HD1**. This measure would establish a new scholarship program called Hawai'i's Promise that provides support for students with financial need, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, to attend any campus of the University of Hawai'i system.

Hawai'i's Promise would be a "last dollar" scholarship. Other sources of financial aid such as federal Pell grants, UH opportunity scholarships, and other public and privately sponsored scholarships would be applied first, and then Hawai'i's Promise would support unmet needs for tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation. This measure would allow any Hawai'i resident who meets the eligibility criteria to attend a UH campus, at no direct cost beyond the Estimated Family Contribution. We are confident that this measure will encourage more students to attend a UH campus and will advance the State's 55 by 25 goal -- that 55% of the Hawai'i's working age population should hold a post-secondary degree by 2025.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates all the support that the Hawai'i Promise Program is receiving and looks forward to working with the Legislature in fine-tuning the language of this bill as it continues thru the process. However, as currently drafted the program would only be available to full-time students. Additionally, the University wanted to point out that as currently drafted, the language for the repayment provision on page 6 would be considered a loan rather than a scholarship and would require all students to sign a written agreement understanding the payback provisions of such a loan before receiving any funding. In addition, the University would like to request that the GPA requirements be consistent with federal guidelines for students to receive a Pell Grant. Without this alignment of requirements, a student could be placed in a position where they were in good standing with the Federal and other University programs but out of compliance with the Hawai'i Promise scholarship. The student would be placed in the position of having to use his or her need based financial aid to pay back the State rather than having it applied to the cost of attendance. Finally, the program as currently drafted would only be available to full-time students. This would exclude significant numbers of students, especially in the community colleges.

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



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®  
**LEEWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FACULTY SENATE  
Legislative Relations Committee

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

March 13, 2017

The Senate Higher Education Committee

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, *Chair*

Michelle N. Kidani, *Vice Chair*

Members:

Senator Will Espero

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Senator Brian Taniguchi

THANK YOU for hearing HB 1594, HD1, the companion bill of SB 1162 which you so thoughtfully recommended to be passed.

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the Leeward CC Faculty Senate,

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

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

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



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®  
**LEEWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Arts & Humanities Division  
**Philippine Studies Program**

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

March 13, 2017

**The Senate Higher Education Committee**

Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Members:

Senator Will Espero

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Senator Brian Taniguchi

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

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

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

Society is increasingly becoming more sophisticated and competitive. To prevail, one needs to be equipped with higher-level knowledge and optimized capacities. Higher education is the path to realize that and HB 1594, the House counterpart bill for SB 1162, is the courageous and prudent initiative to fulfill it. This is why we give our full and strong support for this bill. We ask the Senate Higher Education Committee to please pass it.

Thank you for hearing HB 1594, HB 1 and for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

Raymund Liongson, Ph.D.

liongson@hawaii.edu

(808) 381-4315 (Mobile)



Alyssa Grace Sabado-Macanas | *President*  
(808)-446-4574

Marjorie Kay Raquiz | *Vice President*  
808)-772-7403

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

To: Senate Higher Education Committee  
Hawaii State Legislature  
Attn: Sen Kaialii Kahele, Chair  
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Sen. Will Espero  
Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi

Date: March 11, 2017

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

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

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

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

economy, and opportunities for students to pursue higher education need to be increased in order to compete globally.

I want to thank Chairman Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani, and the Senate Higher Education Committee for the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 1594.

Sincerely,

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



Senate Higher Education Committee  
1:15pm March 14, 2017

Testimony in support HB1594 HD1 UH Promise Program  
Testimony submitted by Faye Kennedy, co-chair  
3071 Felix St, Honolulu 96816

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee

I am representing, the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights in strong support of HB1594 HD1. HF CR supports policies and programs that support diversity, inclusion, access and non-discrimination. This bill provides needed scholarship support to financially needy students at the Community Colleges, Hilo, Manoa and West O'ahu. HB 1594 HD1 would include financially needy students at all the ten campuses of the University. There are financially needy students at all our campuses. An investment in our students will help these students and their families obtain a college education, become educated citizens and become productive members of our state's workforce.

Senate Committee on Higher Education  
1:15pm March 14, 2017

Testimony in support HB1594 HD1 UH Promise Program  
Testimony submitted by  
Amy Agbayani, chair  
Filipino-American Advocacy Network (FAN)  
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hi 96819

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee

I am representing, Filipino-Americans Advocacy Network in strong support of HB1594 HD1. FAN advocates for equity, diversity and inclusion for Filipino students and families in our state. Filipinos are now the second largest group in the state and the public schools. They are adequately represented among the Community Colleges although not enough transfer to the four year campuses. They are most under-represented at Manoa. The Filipino community continues to struggle financially and this bill would help Filipino and other low income groups with low percentages with two or four year degrees.

We respectfully urge you to approve HB1594hd1 to provide financial support for low income students at all ten campuses on all islands. We strongly support HB1594 hd1 because it includes four year campuses. There are financially needy students at Hilo, Manoa and West O'ahu campuses.

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







TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1  
House Higher Education Committee  
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Senate 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



## *Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.*

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

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

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

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### TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1 House Higher Education Committee March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Senate 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 HD1  
House Higher Education Committee  
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Senate 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 IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594  
Senate Higher Education Committee  
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Members:

Sen. Will Espero

Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi

From: Djojeanne Simon

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 to establish the University of Hawaii Promise Program, providing scholarship for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system.

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

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele  
Chair, Higher Education Committee

From: Marjorie Kay Raquiz

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594, HD1

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

Hi my name is Marjorie Kay Raquiz. I am a resident of Waipahu, District 94. I am a current student of Leeward Community College. This is my second semester in college. I am majoring in Computer Science and currently working on my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. I will be transferring to University of Hawaii Manoa in Fall 2018 to pursue my Master's Degree in Computer Science.

I am supporting UH Promise Program because I know it will help a lot of people who wants to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams like me. College cost a lot of money and money should not be the reason for people not to go after their dreams. In my family, there's two of us that are attending college. My sister is attending UH Manoa and I'm attending Leeward Community College. Since community colleges only offers Associate's degree, I will need to transfer to graduate school to get my Master's degree. Universities like UH Manoa, where I will be transferring to, cost a lot more than the tuition fee at any community colleges. Because of the cost of attendance, I must work longer hours just to save up for my education. This is not just me, but almost everyone who goes to college. This bill is a very big help to every college students who are struggling to balance work and their studies at the same time.

I would like to thank you for supporting the bill. It will help a lot of people who wants to pursue higher education, but are not financially ready to pay for all the fees and the tuition. I am sure that everyone is willing to work hard to meet all the requirements that comes with the bill and make sure that all your hard work to pass this bill and help college students will not go to waste. Once again thank you very much.

The Senate HRE

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear HRE Chair Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele,

My name is Sheldene Pola and I reside in Newtown Estates, Hawaii. I am a business student currently attending Leeward Community College and I am finishing up my last semester before I graduate with an Associate's Degree.

I am writing in strong support for HB 1594, HD1. Providing scholarships for deserving students will establish a successful and rewarding future for those who were unable to get financial assistance. With more people having the opportunity to pursue a higher education, it will give those people and future generations a more financially secure life. This bill along with its companion bill, SB 1162, will assure Hawaii's promising students that they will get their chance at a better education and a better life. Thank you for taking the time for reading this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Sheldene Pola

Dear Senator Kaiali'i Kahele,

First of all, Thank you for hearing the HB1594 bill that seeks to provides a scholarship for deserving but financially in need students. My name is Marc Agacid and I currently reside in the city of Ewa Beach. I am currently attending Leeward Community College in hopes of finishing my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. My goal after getting my two-year degree is to major in Kinesiology and get my Bachelors degree in UH Manoa and after that hopefully get my Masters Degree in Physical Therapy. I have been working really hard to keep my grades up like many other students in the campus. I am writing this letter to show my support for the HB1594 which is the companion bill of SB1162 bill regarding the state of Hawaii offering free community college to their students. This bill will not only help me in the future but also many other students who are currently going to the school and also others who are planning on attending a community college.

I really hope that you the Senator of the Higher Education Committee really take all the hard working students into consideration when deciding whether to pass this bill or not. I believe that giving the scholarship to students in need will be really helpful to many students like me who are full-time students and are to find time to get a job to help pay for the tuitions. In my experience trying to look for a job to fit my schedule at the same time trying to keep my GPA up is pretty tiresome, with free college it could really lighten up a lot of the burden and worry I have about paying tuition. Also, I currently read online that San Francisco has recently approved a similar bill that gives free community college to students so if San Francisco can do that Hawaii too can have a free community college. All of the hard working students really need help from our government and you, the Senator of the Higher Education Committee have the power to help our struggling students. Show us that all our strive and hard work is really worth it, in the end, our strive to get a higher education should be enough proof that we the students will not take what this bill have to offer for granted.

I hope and pray that you the Senator, will make the right decision and pass the bill to help many deserving students. I would like to thank you the people in the Hawaii State Senate for giving this bill a chance to help many community colleges a chance of getting a higher education. Whatever the decision, in the end, will be I hope students will benefit and still get what they strive for. Thank you for hearing my thoughts on this topic and I wish you all well on this very important state matter.

Sincerely,  
Marc Agacid



## Testimony in support of HB 1594, hD1

13 March 2017

Filemon Evangel Lancelot C. Lagon III  
94-464 Mahoe St.  
[Flagon@hawaii.edu](mailto:Flagon@hawaii.edu)

Good Morning my name is Filemon Evangel Lancelot C. Lagon III, I am a student of Leeward Community College, and Currently working at United Parcel Services in airport ramp, also a member of US Hawaii Army National Guard E-4/Specialist.

Dear honorable Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair Higher Education Committee

As a full time student here in Leeward Community College i am financially stable and are able to pay for all my classes with the support of my military benefits as i take full advantage of the things that the military has provided me. Some students Doesn't get the benefits that i have because as most of them are not part of service and some of the students needs support financially as not only they struggle on how to pay for school but also has to help their families and themselves in order to live.

I Support HB 1594,HD1 Because I believe that Students with low income needs all the support as they are preparing to serve and work for Hawaii one day as they graduate with a degree. Students could have a good lift if we support this bill  
All of the younger generation students also would not have to worry about going to school and find a way to pay for what they need in school as they are more focused on studying and getting a good grade in Schools like Community Colleges. The bill will also be a great investment in the future as if it will be passed down.

Dear Senator Kaiali'i Kahele,

First of all, Thank you for hearing the HB1594 bill that seeks to provides a scholarship for deserving but financially in need students. My name is Marc Agacid and I currently reside in the city of Ewa Beach. I am currently attending Leeward Community College in hopes of finishing my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. My goal after getting my two-year degree is to major in Kinesiology and get my Bachelors degree in UH Manoa and after that hopefully get my Masters Degree in Physical Therapy. I have been working really hard to keep my grades up like many other students in the campus. I am writing this letter to show my support for the HB1594 which is the companion bill of SB1162 bill regarding the state of Hawaii offering free community college to their students. This bill will not only help me in the future but also many other students who are currently going to the school and also others who are planning on attending a community college.

I really hope that you the Senator of the Higher Education Committee really take all the hard working students into consideration when deciding whether to pass this bill or not. I believe that giving the scholarship to students in need will be really helpful to many students like me who are full-time students and are to find time to get a job to help pay for the tuitions. In my experience trying to look for a job to fit my schedule at the same time trying to keep my GPA up is pretty tiresome, with free college it could really lighten up a lot of the burden and worry I have about paying tuition. Also, I currently read online that San Francisco has recently approved a similar bill that gives free community college to students so if San Francisco can do that Hawaii too can have a free community college. All of the hard working students really need help from our government and you, the Senator of the Higher Education Committee have the power to help our struggling students. Show us that all our strive and hard work is really worth it, in the end, our strive to get a higher education should be enough proof that we the students will not take what this bill have to offer for granted.

I hope and pray that you the Senator, will make the right decision and pass the bill to help many deserving students. I would like to thank you the people in the Hawaii State Senate for giving this bill a chance to help many community colleges a chance of getting a higher education. Whatever the decision, in the end, will be I hope students will benefit and still get what they strive for. Thank you for hearing my thoughts on this topic and I wish you all well on this very important state matter.

Sincerely,  
Marc Agacid

Analyn Shimabuku  
617 Hoohale Street  
Pearl City, HI 96782

03-12-17

To Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senator Kaiali'i Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

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

Dear Senator Kaiali'i Kahele,

I support HB 1594 because it supports the future of our nation, the future of the people who will be running our nation, and creating a better future for those who may not be as privileged as others.

I support this bill because it will provide scholarships for deserving, hardworking, and motivated individuals who need financial help. A lot of the time, individuals are so motivated to earn a better education for themselves in order to create a better life for their own kids one day. I do have to say that many of the immigrants here, no matter where they came from, they have a common goal. And that goal is to provide a better future for their kids someday. My parents immigrated to Hawaii to work and save money so that they can send me to college to earn a degree. They work at a farm and no matter how hard it is and how hot it is on the field, they continue to work hard so that they can afford to support our family and send me to college. Living in Hawaii is expensive as we all know, this bill will help the less privileged families live a little more comfortably.

America is known as the land of opportunity and equality but some of us may know that, that is not quite true in some ways. The rich gets richer, and the poor gets poorer. The biggest aspect to this concept is because the poor cannot afford a higher education and thus causes the rich to become richer. The rich becomes richer because they are simply more privileged, financially and economically. I hope that the passing of this bill will help decrease the distance of equality between those seeking a higher education.

I want to say thank you for supporting the youth and our future. I do hope that this bill will be passed. The results will be amazing and being apart of the passing of this bill will be memorable and life changing for thousands of people.

Aloha Senator Kaiali'i Kahele,

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 how difficult it would be to climb up and gain a 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 bill 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 see other states and even countries like the Philippines where students can attend community colleges without being placed under a loan or debt. I see 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 see my little brother and my little sister and the better future that they *can* have without worrying about college costs.

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. 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 believe this bill will plant the seeds for a generation where education requires a strong will and not a fat wallet. I see the future and just how bright it can be.

Mahalo,  
Glen Esteban

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele

HRE Chair

From: Christine Kaye Guira

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1

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

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

I support this bill because this is the companion bill of SB 1162 that seeks to provide scholarship for deserving but financially in need students. I also believe that education is very important because it gives us the baseline to survive as adults in this world. The courses that each of us are achieving will someday help our economy grow, every individual have their own dreams and we all want to achieve those dreams that we have but if money is a problem for everyone, I hope that you will help us. Education is always the key to success and getting a higher-level education will help us get a secure and decent job that can produce enough money for our everyday spending.

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594  
The Senate Committee on Higher Education  
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members: Will Espero, Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Brian T. Taniguchi

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 a University of Hawaii community college. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

My name is Tricia May A. Mauricio. I am a University of Hawaii student at the Leeward Community College campus. I live in Pearl City, District 35, my Senate Representative is Senator Clarence K. Nishihara and my House Representative is Representative Roy M. Takumi. I strongly support HB 1594.

I am in strong support for this bill because I am the first in my family to attend college. My mother and I are the only breadwinners in our family and we live paycheck to paycheck, supporting our household and extended family. My mother endures weeks at a time working and only coming home for a change of clothes and a bite to eat. Whereas I spend weeks with little to no sleep working two jobs and attending school full time. This scholarship would greatly help to alleviate, at least, the expenses needed for school. This bill will be especially helpful because my younger brother will be entering college this fall, and my sister will follow soon after. My family, as is for others, strongly believes that higher education means attaining a better job, therefore improving Hawaii's economic and social mobility. If that is the case, then higher education needs not only to be encouraged, but also affordable and attainable for those willing and dedicated to gain the higher education they deserve.

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

Dear Senate's Higher Education Committee,

Good day Senator Kaiali'i Kahele and all the members of the HRE committee. I am writing this testimony as a support for the House Bill 1594 (UH Promise Program) about free higher education for students who meet the requirements of the bill. 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. I graduated as one of the valedictorians last year as a part of the class of 2016. I am currently in my second semester of college at Leeward Community College. For further clarification about my stance, you can freely call me at (808)723-0795 or email me at ines2@hawaii.edu.

"Higher education should not be a debt sentence," a quote from my ASAN205 class. This quote was written in a white paper as my fellow classmates went downtown to rally for support of HB Bill 1594 back before the HER committee first held a hearing for this bill on February 9, 2017. 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 these huge amount of debts that were 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; a knowledge 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 for



in the near future. Poverty should never be a hindrance to learn but rather a motivation to go on. Knowledge shouldn't be hindered by lack of finance, alone. We should all have equal opportunities to go to school, have a degree, and change the world.

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 tomorrow, March 14th. I will be with you along the way.

Respectfully Yours,

May Christine Ines

Attention: Senate Higher Education Committee,

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 HB 1594, HD1 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. This bill will not only benefit me but will all benefit my daughter in the future. This bill will help me to pursue my career and hope to be an asset for our society. This will definitely assure me that I can continue my education. The outcome of me being able to achieve my educational goal will be rewarding for my family and I because I know that I will be able to provide for them and have stability in our lives. Lastly, I would like to thank you for passing this bill, supporting our youth and most importantly investing in the future.

Sincerely,  
Ro-Ann Delos Reyes

TO: Senate Committee on Higher Education

Senator Kaiali‘i Kahele, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: Support for HB1594 Relating to the University of Hawai‘i Promise Program

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 investing for the future. 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.

Sincerely,

Joellah Fuentes  
joe\_ellah@yahoo.com  
(808)265-0660

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

The Senate Higher Education Committee

March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Sen. Michelle N. Kidani  
The Senate HRE

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 Har and my Senator is Mike Gabbard. I am in my second semester at the University of Hawaii at Leeward Campus. Ultimately, I will be pursuing my nursing degree at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Ashley Nakasone

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 9:25 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** cj.caraang@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
CJ Caraang	University of Hawaii– Leeward Community College	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 1594 UH Promise Program because it'll benefit our future children and the future leaders of this state or possibly the nation. Thank you for passing this bill supporting the you and investing our future

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 9:24 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** briana.banua@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: I support HB1594 also known as the UH Promise Program because it would take the load of paying tuition off of parent's or people shoulders. I believe this bill will further the education of people who cannot afford to go to college. Although this program will have requirements, i believe this will help motivate college students to learn and understand everything that is going on in class. Thank you for investing this bill and for taking the time out to read this bill. The future college students will not let you down.

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Dear HRE Chair Kaiali'i Kahele,

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-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 are unsure about what occupation they want to do for the rest of their life. 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 job. Although I will most likely not attain the benefits of free education, the future generations 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

March 13, 2017

To: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, HRE Chair  
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, HRE Vice Chair  
From: Kaisen Bartolome  
Subject: Testimony in strong support of HB 1594

My name is Kaisen Bartolome, I am a student at Leeward Community College and I reside in Pearl City, District 35. I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for *HB 1594*.

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 passing this bill and for allowing me to send my testimony in support of it.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 9:21 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** bolosan9@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Jackilyn B. Bolosan 94-1450 Welina Loop #10A Waipahu Hi. 96797 The Senate/Higher Education Committee Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele HRE Chair RE: Support for HB 1594, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program My name is Jackilyn Bolosan and I reside in 94-1450 Welina Loop #10A Waipahu Hawaii. I currently going to Leeward Community College and I'm at my second year taking Liberal Arts and want to pursue nursing. I am supporting the HB 1594 companion bill of SB 1162 that you so thoughtfully drafted because I am a mother whose pursuing my education to provide a better life for my family. Through this bill, students like me who is struggling financially will enable me to continue my education and show to my children and the following generation the value of education. Education is important for me, and having it available to everyone will help us to better ourselves as well as to be a productive member of our community. I am very thankful for scheduling the hearing of this bill and considering my testimony. Sincerely, Jackilyn B. Bolosan

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 9:17 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** mramun@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Aloha Senate HRE, I am in support of HB 1594, the UH promise program because this affected me and my family directly. FASFA does help but unfortunately I do not qualify but at the same I also can not afford tuition at UH. The passing of this bill I believe will inspire many local residents to stay in school and not get discouraged or overwhelmed with tuition cost. Thank you for passing this bill. Mahalo, Michael Ramun LCC Student 2013-present

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1

House Higher Education Committee

March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

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

Subject: UH Promise Bill

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Juanito V. Moises, Jr.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1  
House Higher Education Committee  
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen

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

I support this bill because scholarships for qualified students will help address education disparities for vulnerable pockets of students from diverse backgrounds, including students who are Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, houseless, LGBTQ, single parents returning to school, and students who may come from families that are caught in the cycle of income inequality with adverse social determinants they are struggling to overcome. Research shows that the more education our students receive today, the healthier, more prosperous, and the greater civic engagement there is for our communities tomorrow. We can achieve these best by prioritizing our limited budget for capacity building investment in our millennial generation, with scholarships consistent with the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the chance to offer my strong support.

Very Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1  
House Higher Education Committee  
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Senate 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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 12:58 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** kimcoco@kimcoco.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept my testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1594, which has received almost unanimous support (except for one non-expository testimony). This bill will smooth the playing field for all Hawaii citizens to have increased access to public secondary education and increase the opportunities that go with that. Thank you for supporting a forward-thinking bill.

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March 12, 2017

Private Citizen Testimony

**Testimony**

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

To whom it may concern:

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

Nationwide, **higher education costs continues to increase** and this negatively impacts those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who also typically represent ethnic groups that are underrepresented in higher education.

The same is true in Hawaii. As costs rises for the UH system to provide quality educational experiences and remain competitive with other higher education institutions, **certain student groups will be affected more negatively than others.**

In particular are **Filipino and Native Hawaiian students** who respectively represent the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> largest ethnic groups in our state, and whose ethnic groups are among the lower socioeconomic classes in Hawaii.

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

With higher education as a key means to **social mobility** and a **well-educated population** being an important indicator of an economically thriving community, **all of Hawai'i can benefit** from HB 1594 HD1.

If I can be of further assistance,

Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,

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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 10, 2017 6:05 PM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** hlh1430@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Just today, March 10, 2017, I was able to teach a "Better Breathing for Advanced Super Athletes" class in the pool at Nuuanu YMCA because of my education and experience as a Respiratory Therapist. With financial aid, I completed an AS degree in Respiratory Care at Kapiolani Community College. Many benefit from each of us who is educated to care for them. Please find a way to educate as many citizens as possible. Thank you for all that you do in our interests, Lei Ho, retired Respiratory Therapist, KCC '95

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**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594, HD 1**  
**Senate Committee on Higher Education**  
**March 14, 2017, 1:15 pm, Conference Room 414**

TO: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Yasmin Grewal-Kok, graduate student at UH Manoa

DATE: March 9, 2017

TITLE OF BILL: HB 1594 HD 1 – UH Promise Program

My name is Yasmin Grewal-Kok, and I am currently a graduate student at UH Manoa in the Early Childhood Education department. I am writing in strong support of HB 1594 HD 1 because I feel that more people should have the opportunity to receive a college degree. The poverty rate is unacceptably high throughout the United States, and we need to do more to ensure that people--particularly native Hawaiians, low-income individuals, and other marginalized and underserved groups--have access to higher education. Scholarships can do much to level the playing field and ensure that everyone has access to higher education.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to offer my strong support for HB 1594 HD 1.

Sincerely,

Yasmin Grewal-Kok



**LATE**

## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Higher Education

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Date: March 14, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 414

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk  
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 1594 HD1** RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PROMISE PROGRAM.

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

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

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

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

**LATE**

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education  
March 14, 2017, at 1:15 P.M.

By  
Isaiah C Baclaan

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

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

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

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

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



## Senate Resolution

**Resolution No: SR17-02**

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

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

**For Special Reading**

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SENATE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Associated Students of UHWO

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

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



**Testimony Presented Before the**  
Senate Committee on Higher Education

**March 14, 2017 at 1:15PM**

**by**

**Ken Hayashida**  
**KAI Hawaii, Inc.**

**HB 1594 HD1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S PROMISE PROGRAM.**

**Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1594 HD1 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 HD1. 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  
KAI HAWAII, INC.

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** hazelynt97@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: I support HB 1594 because it provides help for college students that are financially in need. Passing this bill will increase higher education for everyone and also promote young students to attend college. Thank you for supporting the youth and investing in the future.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** chasity8@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele HRE Chair Chair, Higher Education Committee I am a Leeward Community College student and I strongly support HB 1594. I believe that higher education is beneficial towards students that are struggling to balance financial necessities and school. I have fellow peers that find it difficult to pay for their own tuition, thus making it difficult to live a normal life without debt. I have family members that have children and are trying to attend school to better their lives for themselves, and their children. What makes attending school complicated for them is that they don't have any funds to pay for school and take care of their child and other responsibilities that comes with being a responsible adult. I personally struggle with two jobs and paying for school. The stress level that I have being 19 years-old should not be so complex. Juggling studying, paying off finances, working two jobs back to back just to just make it by in life. This isn't just difficult for me, but others that are in the same position as me. With that being said, this bill is very crucial and it will not only save me and my generation, but future generations to come.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** Benevidesnicholas@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas Benevides	Individual	Comments Only	No

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

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** mcop@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Senate Higher Education Committee Attention: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele Chair, Higher Education Committee Thank you for hearing the bill HB 1594 HD1 which is the UH Promise Program. This is the companion bill of SB 1162 that was passed in your committee. I am a Leeward Community College student and highly support HB1594 because I believe that higher education will help me achieve the things I want to be in the future. I am an immigrant, working two jobs trying to make both ends meet and sending myself to school. I only rely on the scholarships and grants for me to attend college. Higher education is very important to me because it will be my transportation or it will be my way to further and pursue my career. I am the first person in my family that is working on a degree and I must make sure that I finish it because my parents are getting older and I am the only one they are relying on in helping them. Free university education will greatly help me in becoming the person I want to be in the future and I will make sure that I will give back to the community that helped me achieve these dreams into a reality. Thank you so much for investing in the future.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:53 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** elloisep@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Senate Higher Education Committee Attention: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele Chair, Higher Education Committw I am a Leeward Community College student and I highly support HB 1594, HD 1 or UH Promise Program, because I believe that higher education is a key to success and a better future. I am an immigrant who goes to work and school full time and striving for the best. I also believe that this scholarship will help me and my siblings and other family who are struggling financially. It would be my pleasure if this bill gets approved because it will give low income families and students now and in the future the opportunity to pursue a career. Thank you for hearing HB 1594!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:52 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** divineperalta101@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017  
Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: I support the UH Promise Program because it will help future college students who are struggling financially and i believe everyone deserves to get an education if they want too. Thank you for helping out future college students.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:52 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** kmonje@Hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017  
Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kellie Monje	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele HRE Chair I am a student at Leeward Community College. I am one of the many people who strongly support 1594 HD 1 (UH Promise Program) because I believe that higher education can be something to invest in, in the future. In the past, I have seen some of my peers whom have dropped out of school due to their financial problems. I understand that college does need a cost, but does it need to be our stress on money? Students who go to college are motivated by either money or making something out of themselves. I am motivated by both. Every time I think of giving up in school, I remind myself that I am actually paying for myself to have a seat here. But another thing I remind myself is that I can make a difference. And the only way I can do that is with the education here in college. College is here for a reason. It's here to give people like me a chance to make something out of myself that will help benefit others in the future. As a nursing student, I hope to finish my education here and go into the nursing workforce in the future. Being in college will help me get there, free education for college will help ease my financial struggles and you invest in not only me. But future engineers, nurses, accountants, teachers whom are in school hoping for free education today. Thank you for hearing HB 1594, this is the companion bill of SB 1162 that seeks to provide scholarships for financially in need students. Thank you for investing in our future together.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:51 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** babyj63@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017  
Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele HRE Chair Chair, Higher Education Committee I strongly support HB 1594,HD1. This will benefit deserving students and are financially in need. This does not only benefit students, but the whole community as well. The students who are potential doctor, nurses, and lawyers are our future. Thank you for investing in the future.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:42 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** jogasawara50@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Sen. Kaiali'i Hahele. HRE Chair. I support the HB 1594, HD1 bill. I believe that with this bill, it can help others who are financially struggling with tuition. This bill will take the burden of cost of college, and don't have to worry about how much college cost. Having this bill will help with furthering their education and allow them to get jobs when they graduate from a university.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** jaylyndi@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele HRE Chair Chair, Higher Education Committee I support the UH Promise Program because as a current college student, I know the struggles of being put into a place a financial crisis. It can be tough trying to find a way to pay for education. Some people aren't qualified for FAFSA so they resort to taking out loans. Loans can be such a hassle because who knows how long it would take an individual to pay if off due to tuition cost, considering they have other necessities to pay off. With this bill, it will lift off weight from students shoulders and feel relieved that they're education can go forward. Thank you for passing this bill. This bill will help support the youth and invest in the future.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** nicolerecaido.9@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: The Senate higher education company, I support the HB1494 bill for the UH promise program, this is one of the most important thing that we should acknowledge. Education is something that we all need now and for our future generation and if we all support this bill together everyone will realize the importance of it. Thank you for taking the time for passing this bill. Thank you, Erin Nicole Corpuz

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**LATE**

March 14, 2017

The Senate of Higher Education Committee

My name is Pia Solis. I'm currently a full time student attending UH Leeward Community College. I'm here to support the bill HB 1594 HD1. I believe that higher education is important for everyone. Not that many students are offered financial aid, so scholarships can help them. These scholarships does not only help pay for tuition, but also textbook, and other school needs. I also support that these scholarships should be given across the board of the UH system. Thank you for passing the bill, and supporting the next generations.

Sincerely,

Pia Solis

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** jerroldm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: My name is Jerrold Mariano, and I am currently attending college at The University of Hawaii at Leeward Community College. Today, i am writing to support HB 1594. I strongly support HB 1594 because the UH Promise Program can help a lot of students with paying tuition. This will help students that are in need of paying tuition. Thank you for hearing and passing this bill.

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March 14, 2017

**LATE**

To: Senate Higher Education Committee  
Sen. Kaiali'I Kahele

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, HD1 and I am writing this letter to support this bill. I want you to know that I support higher education, mainly because I am a student seeking higher education to get my degree and start my career and also because it is important for younger generations to be motivated in attending school after college. After all, we are the future and if more people are motivated and willing to go to school I believe that America could be great again.

Thank you for considering my testimony and the scheduled hearing.

Jasmine Gail Peralta

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:36 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** cbtamayo@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: The Senate HRE I support UH promise program because I feel that providing scholarships for those who are willing to receive scholarships will use it to better their education and future. This will be good for students as this will help them focus more on school instead of thinking about if they are able to pay next semesters costs. By doing so this should increase and speed up the graduation rate. In the end I feel that money should always be divided in Hawaii to make sure that education is always taken care of because before doing something, one must learn first and this will bring money to Hawaii as a return. Thank you for supporting the youth and investing in the future.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:35 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** bjabon@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Directed to the Senate Higher Education Committee Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair, Higher Education Committee I Support HB1594 because it is a great investment for Hawaii's future. My name is Bryan Abon and I reside live in Waipahu and I support Hb1594. Shouldn't we give free higher education to those who want it? For university students, they should be given free higher education because the student loan interest is too much, making more students go into debt. Providing money towards free higher education is a huge investment but there are other ridiculous investments that this state has made. For example the rail is costing more and more as years go by. We should pass Hb1594. Thank you for supporting HB 1594

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:34 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** winniegj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Higher Education Committee Rep. Kaiali'i Kahele HRE Chair My name is Winnie Juan who is a full time college student that lives in Waipahu and goes to Leeward Community College. I am in strongly full support of the Bill HB 1594 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. This education will help those for their future school career and career. I know that pushing for this bill will take a lot of support from people. I am striving to be a Clinical Medical Assistant and it will take me about fifteen months at Hawaii Medical College. I know this Bill won't cover me because I won't be going to a UH school, but I support those who attend or will attend one. I know that with supporting this Bill will make a difference because it will change how I am financially stabled right now. Lastly, I would like to thank the committee members for considering my testimony to be heard as a voice. I know that scheduling a hearing is a part of the process and needs to be heard. I thank you once again for your time and effort in making this bill a successful one. Sincerely, Winnie Juan

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:26 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** actagabi@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: The Senate Higher Education Committee 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 HB 1594, HD1 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. Thank you for passing HB 1594. Sincerely, Alison Claire Tagabi

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:29 AM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Cc:** ramizusawa@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM\*

**HB1594**

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for HRE on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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**LATE**

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1  
House Higher Education Committee  
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Pua Auyong-White, Office of Student Equity Excellence and  
Diversity, University of Hawai`i at Mānoa

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1

As a program coordinator at UH Mānoa, it is very important to have Institutional support through scholarships for qualified students to promote access, diversity, and leadership development for Hawai'i's future leaders. Lack of financial assistance to attend college is a key obstacle for students who want to further their education. The state of Hawai'i since 2010 is not keeping pace with the investment in resources needed to uplift a disproportionate part of our community from service workers to colleagues. If given the support today, more underserved students will have the potential to make substantive contributions in fields vital to Hawai'i's economic health and quality of life.

The Hawaii Promise Program is a step in the right direction by providing the financial assistance for students throughout the state. We need to give our students the opportunity to choose the kind of education that will allow them to develop careers, remain in Hawaii and raise their families. I strongly encourage the committee to support and pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration!