



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

By
David Lassner, President
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1162 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of SB 1162 SD1**. 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. 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.

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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1162, HD 1
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

February 21, 2017

The Senate Ways and Means Committee
Sen. Jill Tokuda, *Chair*
Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, *Vice Chair*

The Faculty Senate at Leeward Community College, voting unanimously, strongly supports SB 1162, HD 1 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 loans with high interest rates just to pay for college. Some promising students have discontinued their studies because of financial limitations.

SB 1162 is a very a sound and common-sense initiative. The University of Hawai'i Promise Program would be an investment that will reap far-reaching rewards. We ask that you pass the bill.

Thank you for hearing SB 1162 and for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

On behalf of the Leeward CC Faculty Senate,

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

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

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



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
LEEWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Arts & Humanities Division
Philippine Studies Program

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162, SD 1
Relating to the University of Hawai`i Promise Program

February 21, 2017

The Senate Ways and Means Committee

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, *Chair*

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, *Vice Chair*

Members:

J. Kalani English
Brickwood Galuteria
Breene Harimoto
Lorraine R. Inouye
Kaiali`i Kahele

Gil Riviere
Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Brian T. Taniguchi
Glenn Wakai

My name is Raymund Liongson, associate professor and coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program (Arts & Humanities) at the University of Hawaii-Leeward, and a resident of Ewa Beach, HI. I would like to register my strong support for SB 1162, 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 SB 1162 is the courageous and prudent initiative to fulfill it. This is why I give my full and strong support for this bill. We ask the Ways and Means Committee to please pass it.

Thank you for hearing SB 1162 and for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

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



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

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

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

E-mail: namihonolulu@yahoo.com

*Bea Ramos-Razon, RN,
FACDONA
President*

*Tessie Oculito, RN
Vice President*

*D Jun Obaldo, RN, BSN
Corresponding Secretary*

*Au Curameng, RN, CM
Recording Secretary*

*Margie A. Berueda, RN, CM
Treasurer*

*Lynn Barnes, RN, CM
Assistant Treasurer*

*Bong Curameng, CCHT
Auditor*

*Michael G. Berueda, LPL
Computer Support*

*Joe Magno
Technical Support*

Mentors & Volunteers:

Christiaan De Vera, RN, BSN

Erlinda Ferrer, RN, BSN

Estrella Guevarra, RN

Delmar Magno, RN, C

Edel Matias, RN, CM

Brenda Monegas, RN

Gail Pantaleon, RN

Oscar Querido, RN

Violeta Sadural, RN, BSN

Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD 1 Senate Committee on Ways and Means Feb. 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

To: Chair Jill N. Tokuda and Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means Members

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

Subject: UH Promise

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.

I am proud to submit our strong support for this bill. My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. I am testifying as the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.). NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service.

I am a registered voter and constituent in District 32, Salt Lake. I work in Senate District 9 as a Kapi'olani Community College nursing faculty. Through NAMI I serve as a community research partner and mentor University of Hawai'i Filipino students. They are first to go to college in their family, low income, and under-represented in higher education. Most of their parents are immigrants working in the service industry in low paying jobs with little job security. In spite of their humble beginnings, I have seen firsthand, their 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. Without financial aid, our students would not have been able to go on to schools of medicine, nursing and public health. Today, some have advanced to graduate school; others are employed as 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.



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

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162, SD1
Relating To The University of Hawai'i Promise Program

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
Attn: Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson
Sen. Donovan M. dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members
Date: February 21, 2017

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair dela Cruz and members of the WAM 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 Senate Bill 1162.

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 end up dropping out of college, losing 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 Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair dela Cruz, and the Members of the Ways and Means Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1162.

Sincerely,

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

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 23rd, 2017 at 9:30 A.M.

By
Isaiah C Baclaan

SB1162 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz 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 SB 1162 SD1. 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 companion bill of HB1594, the companion bill of SB1162.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1162 SD1.



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 5TH 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 5TH SENATE OF KAPOLEI ON FEBRUARY 9, 2017.

HAWAII FILIPINO LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Officers:

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

Directors:

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

Date: February 23, 2017

To: Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony on S.B. 1162 SD1 – Promise Bill

February 23, 2017, 2 p.m., Hawai'i State Capitol Room 211

The Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association (HFLA) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT** of S.B. 1162 SD1.

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

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

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:28 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ljfranco@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM*

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lemuel Jirus Franco | University of Hawaii - LCC | Support | No |

Comments:

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Filipino American Citizens League

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD 1
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Feb. 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

To: Chair Jill N. Tokuda and Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means Members

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Subject: UH Promise Bill

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 in Hawai'i 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 scholarships for qualified students in our UH system throughout the State.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Date: February 23, 2017

Where: Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee

RE: **SB 1162 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program**

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku Tokuda, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Dela Cruz a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, 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.

We are writing to **support SB 1162**, relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program, and offer the following comments:

This measure 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 or any community college campus. It appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. We believe it is an important step toward increasing post-secondary educational opportunities for all Hawai'i 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'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

February 23, 2017 at 9:30AM
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: Testimony in Support - SB1162, SD1, Relating to Access to Higher Education

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I write in support of SB 1162 SD1 which 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.

Access to higher education is a critical social determinant of health that has significant impact upon an individual's lifetime earnings which in turn is correlated with a person's ability to make healthier behavioral choices. Therefore efforts to provide greater access to education will also further efforts to address health equity in our community.

The program to provide scholarships through SB 1162 SD1 will provide opportunity for people to pursue higher education. We thank the committee for taking the time to consider this important topic and support SB 1162 SD1.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Feb. 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

To: Sen. Jill N. Takuda, Chair
Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Tricia May A. Mauricio
Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162

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 SB1162 SD1.

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

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass SB 1162.

Sincerely,
Tricia May A. Mauricio

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jonathan | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: The house Committe on Finance Rep. Slyvia Luke, Chair Rep. TY J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair Hello I am a fellow college student and I believe that giving free college will make citizens of Hawaii a lot more intellect and it will give citizens a more focused mind on how they accumulate information.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:49 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: 18lynian@waipahuh.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lynette Villa | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:49 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: jaylynnesub17@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jaylynne Ann Subia | Individual | Comments Only | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:51 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: shuntlem@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| shuntle maneja | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:52 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: voncariaga2013@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Von Richard Cariaga | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:52 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: daclison.laura@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Daclison | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:53 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: djq@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Daniel John Quiamas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I am in support for SB 1162 because I believe that efforts should be made to reduce the cost of college for those who need it. By having higher education be something that only those that are economically advantaged has access to puts those that can't afford it at a disadvantage. In our present society, many jobs require some sort of college degree; some employers for higher paying jobs may not even hire if an applicant that lacks college education. I believe that this is unfair because people that can't afford a higher education are essentially "locked out" from succeeding in securing a good, high paying jobs and better opportunities, because they lack the education to get in. Education should NOT be a privilege; everyone should be entitled to a fair chance at a good job. This is why I support the UH Promise Program.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:53 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: isaacymt@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Isaac Serrano | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:53 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ejmaluyo@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth Jane Maluyo | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:54 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: jasmine.agmata07@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jasmine Nicole Agmata | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:54 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: alysac@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alysa Clark | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:54 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: nicolesd@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicole Daguimol | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: Senator Jill Tokuda, I would like free higher education tuition because it will help me to pursue the career I have always aspired to reach. It will also help me to not be in so much debt by the time I actually reach the career of my dreams. I support SB1162 because it will benefit many people, and it may even encourage many individuals to go to college. So many people aren't able to go to college because they don't have the budget to do so, but with free higher education, they will be encouraged to go back to school and pursue their dreams. Another reason why I support free higher education is because nobody wants to be in so much debt as they reach their goals. Many people out there have the job they have always wanted but yet dont make much of a good income because so much of it is being used to pay off college loans. Free college tuition will make many more futures and goals come true in the long run. Free college tuition, will benefit not only this generation but many of the generations to come.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ariad@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aria Daoang | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ernajoyv@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erna Joy Villosio | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: gaburfria3@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| fria gabur | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: jrobles@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jade Robles | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:55 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ashleemb10@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ashlee Mei Balignasay | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:55 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kuulei.tachibana@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kuuleialoha Tachibana | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mvaleros@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Germaine Valeros | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Senator Jill Tokuda, chair Senator Donnavan de la Cruz, Vice chair As a students here in United States, the government should help us to pay for our tuition because in this economy not all of our parents have a good work where they can earn a lot of money to provide or pay our full tuition which will leave them to have to get a loan in order for us to go to university. Also it will make us have a good future because we will have a higher education and give us more experience. And we don't need to work while we are studying and use it to pay for our college tuition. I strongly support SB1162.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: daclison.laura@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Daclison | Individual | Comments Only | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:58 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: voncariaga2013@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Von Richard Cariaga | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:58 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: vvidad@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vanessa Vidad | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:59 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: rjsao@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rhonaleih Joy Sao | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair and Sen. Donnavan de le Cruz, Vice Chair The State of Hawaii should help students pay for college because higher education is the key to success. It is a way to shape and build us for future purposes and an opportunity that will transform our aspirations in life into reality. College should not be a debt sentence. These things are the reason why I strongly support SB1162.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: cabantog@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Samantha Mae Cabantog | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair Sen Donnavan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair I strongly support the SB1162. As an early college student, I believe that higher education should be paid for by grants, and therefore should be free. It should not be a debt sentence. If anything, we should pay for the classes we fail, and not the classes I we pass because it'll be a way for students to stay focused in school, and to avoid asking for a student loan. Furthermore, college is a path that gears toward success, so money shouldn't hold students back from pursuing their dreams. Please pass this bill, it will take away many burdens related to tuition fees.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:02 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: aidalynguerrero0@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aidalyn Guerrero | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony presented before the
Senate Ways & Means Committee

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:30am

PLACE: Conference Room 211,
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

By Rovy Anne Dipaysa
Waipahu High School Early College Student

SB 1162 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S PROMISE PROGRAM

POSITION: Support

Honorable Committee Chair Sen. Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz,
Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD 1
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Feb. 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

To: Chair Jill N. Tokuda and Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means Members

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

Subject: UH Promise Bill

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

I strongly support this bill. 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 pursue graduate school, if they so choose. 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 are a reasonable and prudent capacity-building approach to resolve this.

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

Warmest regards,

Davelyn Quijano

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD 1
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Feb. 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

To: Chair Jill N. Tokuda and Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means Members

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen

Subject: UH Promise Program

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

I support 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 State 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 SB1162 SD 1
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Feb. 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

To: Chair Jill N. Tokuda and Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means Members

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

Subject: UH Promise

I am happy to submit strong support for this bill. 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.

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 in society without these proposed scholarships. While NaFFAA advocates for all students with unmet financial needs, 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 students with unmet needs 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. The investment is worth it, for they will soon be better able to contribute to Hawai'i's economy.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to offer strong support for you to advance student excellence, equity and diversity for qualified students in the UH system on every island.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12

23 February 2017

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda & Senator Donovan Dela Cruz,

Good Afternoon. My name is Elisha Ramones. I am a Junior at Waipahu High School and am a Waipahu High School Early College student. I have been an Early College student since my freshmen year of high school. I am here in support of Senate Bill 1162.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you to the committee for hearing SB 1162 and allowing me to speak today and taking the time to hear my thoughts and opinions. Education is one of the essential necessities humans need in life, in order to get a stable job to earn money, and build a life for themselves. We would not be able to do that if the only thing on our minds is paying off debt because we decided to further our education just so we could live comfortably. Education shouldn't be a debt sentence.

Thank you,

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

Elisha Ramones

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

February 21, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

RE: Support for SB 1162 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

My name is Jillian Panganiban. I am currently a junior at Waipahu High School. Along with taking high school classes, I am also taking college classes. I am an Early College Olympian, which is a student who is working towards receiving their Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. I am involved in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as I am the Vice President of Communications. Phi Theta Kappa is an honor society of two-year colleges that offers its members scholarship, skills, honor and support. When I graduate from high school, besides receiving my high school diploma, I will receive an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. I strongly support the SB 1162.

Passing these bills would help those in need of money for college. School can be expensive. College tuition is constantly increasing, resulting in a countless number of students whom can not afford it. Students are not receiving enough money from financial aid, grants, loans and scholarships to meet their college expenses. With the possibility of free college tuition, the number of students attending college would likely increase. There are many students that do not attend college because of not having the financial aid to pay for college. While others are dying in student loan debts. College is a big deal. A college education is essential for the future. There are better employment opportunities for college graduates as more jobs are hiring those with a higher education. Therefore, the SB 1162 should be passed.

I would like to thank the ways and means committee for their time and effort in arranging this hearing. Hopefully, my testimony has convinced the decision in passing these bills. Students would greatly benefit from this. A free college education would save students and their families a lot of money like it has to mine. Thus, I believe the SB 1162 would assist students in pursuing their goals.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 6:07 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ambersv@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amber Viernes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Higher education is something that everyone should have access to for various reasons. People in today's society all come from different backgrounds, with some being more fortunate than others. Most people are not able to have the same opportunities as others, where some people have different living conditions. Some may struggle with keeping filling their needs, such as food and water. Due to people having different backgrounds, people may not be able to get the money needed to pay for college. College is essential in getting a job that pays well in today's society, and without having access to college, people will be stuck with jobs that do not pay as well. Everyone has potential to come up with ideas that can contribute to society's future, whether it be new policies, buildings, or more. However, people are not able to voice their thoughts as actively as they could, and as such people should be offered education in order to get the jobs they want. Everyone can work hard in college to get the degree they need, and most people are unable to go to college due to lacking the funding needed. With this being passed, everyone can access higher education and be able to get more opportunities. As such, everyone should be able to access higher education in order to give the less fortunate more opportunities.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 23, 2017 at 9:30 AM
by
Bernadette Baraquio**

SB1162 SD1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PROMISE PROGRAM.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 1162 SD1, which 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 or any community college campus.

I strongly support SB1162 SD1. As a proud *UH Alum and President of the UH Alumni Association*, I am grateful for the education I received at the University of Hawai'i and recognize the critical role UH plays in educating the future generations of our state.

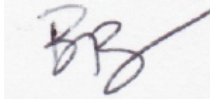
The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges. It will ensure that promising, ambitious students have the resources they need to focus on their studies and build a better future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

Their future success impacts us all.

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

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

Warmest Aloha,



Bernadette Baraquio
Bb88@hawaii.edu

Edna Mae Felix

SB1162 Bill

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

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

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

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 8:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: naneaclo@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM*

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nanea Lo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162 SD1

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 23, 2017, 9:30am

Conference Room 211

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Rouel Velasco, individual citizen

RE: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Access to higher education can be difficult for students from marginalized, disadvantaged and disenfranchised communities. Establishing the University of Hawai'i Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawai'i system is a step in the right direction to make higher education accessible to all.

My name is Rouel Velasco and I am first-generation Filipino American raised in Ma'ili of Wai'anae. I am a proud graduate of Wai'anae High School and a two-time graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a BA in History and MEd in Educational Administration. I have over 10 years of professional experience working in higher education in the area of student activities and student affairs. I am currently employed at UH West O'ahu and have the honor and privilege in working with amazing, courageous and talented college students. I strongly support this bill because financing college becomes one the major predictors for reasons students leave and dropout out of college without a degree. Students at UH West O'ahu and other campuses come to college with enormous responsibilities to the family from caring for parents, grandparents, siblings and for a good sizeable amount are student-parents themselves, caring for their own children. Students cannot solely rely on financial aid to cover school expenses, many of the students I come into contact with work more than one job to make ends meet. While some may argue that college students only focus on their studies, there are many who struggle to manage between school, family, and work. The connecting thread that binds school, family and work is money, to finance college expenses, pay for bills including rent, water and electricity and to work so that all expenses can be covered. This considerable overwhelming stress load affects the college student from being a successful and thriving college student. As a supporter of SB 1162 SD1, this program will provide financial support to a great number of students whose dreams and aspirations will now be within reach of attainment.

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

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

I would like to start off with an honorable quote:

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

-Nelson Mandela

My name is Crezel Andrea Alegado and I am an Early College student of Waipahu High School who is currently enrolled at Leeward Community College. Since being a part of this program, I have been able to experience the benefits of getting a higher education. Along the way, I've gained skills that helped me expand my knowledge and self-growth.

I come from a Filipino family and we struggle financially. I was born in the Philippines but raised here along with my two younger siblings. As the oldest, I have to set a great example to my siblings and other family members because they look up to me. This is why I support this House Bill because of the benefits it provides to those who want an education and ensure them that the money will provide them the opportunity to have it. Education is an action that creates possibilities and encourages us to discover ourselves. Education is an intention that gives our country's new leaders hope and insight of what they are capable of.

I would like to thank the Education Committee for hearing our testimonies. This is not only my voice, but also the people who want a chance of getting an education without worrying about the cost. This will become true if we have the possibility to make this bill happen.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:39 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kimcoco@kimcoco.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM*

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kim Coco Iwamoto | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:15 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: coletteandkaipo@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM*

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Colette Faris | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 24 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

By

Chase Urasaki, Senator-at-Large

Associated Students of the University of Hawaii at Manoa

SB 1162 SD-1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

To Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Chase Urasaki and I am testifying in support of SB 1162 SD-1 Relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program. As a Senator-at-Large for the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (ASUH) as well as the Vice-Chairperson for the Committee on Undergraduate Academic Affairs, this is an initiative that I strongly support because it will provide an enriching education to those who are in financial need. The Committee on Undergraduate Academic Affairs offers multiple scholarships every semester including one for students who display a high financial need (based on their FAFSA) and while these scholarships help those who receive them, those who apply only represent a fraction of students who could potentially receive aid to continue pursuing higher education. The implementation of the Promise Program will provide more financial need to students who qualify and will also aid in helping to reach the state's goal to have 55% of working age adults to hold either four or two year college degrees by 2025. It is evident that the cost of attendance is becoming a larger deciding factor for students from lower and middle income families. While I personally do not qualify for need-based aid, many of my peers do and rely on it to help cover books or tuition and most them also hold jobs, be it on or off campus to also bring in money. The approval of SB 1162 SD-1 is a step in the right direction to help individuals now and in the future to eliminate a stigma that college is unaffordable or too expensive to afford. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1162 SD-1.

Dear Senators,

My name is David Ballesteros Brown and I am currently an Early College student of Waipahu High School who is enrolled at Leeward Community College. Through this program I have been able to witness first-hand the benefits that free education gives those who would have been unable to afford college. I given the opportunity to see how these fellow students of mine were able to receive an education that can help ensure that they can support themselves, their family, and be great contributors to our community. Which is why I firmly believe that Senate Bill 1162 is of great benefit to the people of our State, and why I would pledge my utmost support for the passing if this bill.

By giving the necessary money to our colleges within the state in order to assist those who can't pay for college and assist them in receiving a higher education. By helping these individuals within our state pursue higher education, we will be ensuring our future as a state, and a nation of progress. Education is a vital pillar to the functioning of any society and without it we would not have the exchange of ideas, information, nor debate that we have today. For without education we would not have the progress that is greatly prized within our state and nation. Yet we continue to make it a struggle to earn a higher education for low-income families, for those who came here for a brighter future. Is it just that we would take away the opportunity for such individuals to earn an education, to ensure that they can provide for themselves and their families?

We should not subject the people of this state into a sentence of debt merely so they can achieve the education that is necessary for them to lead a normal life. By paving a path for people of this Island to achieve higher education an a better life for themselves, we can ensure the foundation of our people and the future of our state by entrusting it not to a uneducated populace, but instead one that has had the chance to grow and better themselves with the education provided by this bill. As such I thank you Senators for taking the time out of this hearing to listen to my voice and for giving me to opportunity to be here as well.

With Best Regards, David Ballesteros-Brown

The Honorable Sen. Jill N Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
415S. Beretania St
Hawaii State Capitol State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: BILL SB 1162

Dear Sen. Jill N Tokuda (Chair) and Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz (Vice Chair),

My name is Crizalmer Caraang Jr or "CJ" and I'm a local boy born and raised here on Oahu. I'm a proud graduate from Radford High School class of 2013 and I'm currently a student at Leeward Community College.

I support the Bill SB 1162 UH Promise Program for student scholarships. I support this bill because higher education is a necessity of living and survival. Our global economy is becoming increasingly more competitive, and in order to give you the best chance for a well-paying job. Attending college provides students with the knowledge and experience they are unable to receive from a secondary education, and finding a way to fund a higher education now can pay off in a huge way in the years to come. As you know by now student debt can possibly become the next Great Depression or at least a Recession. We have hundreds of thousands of students who graduate each year not only in the State of Hawaii but also across of the United States. If we have students year after year constantly taking out loans and are unable to find jobs after graduation due to lack of jobs availability we'll be in another final crisis like in 2008. There's so much our federal government can bail us out on but it'll get to the point we can't. With interests rate piling on top of our loans there's no way we can pay it off within years after graduation. Eventually we'll be having our own family and mortgage to take care of.

With this bill it'll have a positive impact to my future children and generations to come. Coming from a family who thinks we're "poor" (when we're actually not) my parents don't want to pay for my college education. Also, they don't want to help me fill out the FAFSA because they know I want received anything but claims we're poor. Isn't the FAFSA supposed to help students who are poor? Either my parents are lying or my government? They still claim me under the taxes because I live underneath their roof and receiving money to help me for my higher education gets a lot harder. I use to work four jobs and go to school part-time, but luckily I recently landed a job that can pay me more, go to school full-time, and have me financially stable for now. With this new job I received I went down to two jobs. My parents have this mentality, when they were young since they have to pay for school without their parent's support they aren't obligated to pay for my education. What makes it more frustrating is my father went to college and received his Masters but my mom never went to college at all. They're forcing me to go to school or they'll kick me out but won't offer any financial help. The only help they've given me (and I'm fortunate and grateful for) is they provided me a car and a roof over my head. The price of higher education keeps on going up but I don't see

any significant change within the campus or system. My father is still living in the past and telling me how college education at UH-Manoa was \$500 a semester for a full-time student and I tell him I pay roughly \$1500 a semester for a community college education. The price gap from back then and now jumped significantly. From experiencing this hands on I won't let my future children go through what I go through I'll support them in any education path they choose and with this bill it'll alleviate the stress and open more opportunities I can help them with.

Thank you for your time and reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Crizalmer Caraang Jr "CJ"

February 22, 2017

Senate Ways & Means Committee,
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. dela Cruz, Vice Chair

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

I support SB-1162, SD-1 because I believe higher education should be free for those in low-income households. Having a college education allows greater access to higher-paying and more sustainable jobs. College tuition is the barrier that prevents people from removing themselves from poverty and therefore should be eliminated.

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

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

Sincerely,
Todd Takayama

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Feb. 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

To: Chair, Sen. Jill N. Tokuda

Vice Chair, Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Ashley Nakasone

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162

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 you the comfort of creating a life without precariously worrying how to make a living.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass SB 1162.

Sincerely,

Ashley Nakasone

February 22 2017

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

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

Dear Senate Ways & Means Committee,

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

I support SB1162,SD1 that offer community college free for students to attend. My philippine issues professor told the entire class something that I will never forget. He said, "Since our tuition levels are going up, more students will be getting second jobs". Which is true even to this day, I have friends working two jobs while going to school just to pay for Leeward community college's tuition. This is at the community college level of tuition, imagine what they would have to go through if they move on to the four year university. I also have friends who have to work jobs first just to save up money to attend college and since they take a year off to work, they fall behind and forget what they used to learn in high school. Many people who do took a year off regret is because they say its hard to get back into the groove of what school used to be. With free college in the near future it will benefit people who wanted to go to college but couldn't afford it. It will also give these students hope that they can get a higher education and a higher paying job. It could

help ease the mind off parents who pay a lot of money to put their child in college. My parents are struggling to pay all these bills and this could help put my brother and I through college. That is why I support these bills.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read this letter about supporting SB 1162.

Sincerely,

Briana R. Banua

February 22, 2017

Senate Ways & Means Committee

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Sen. Donovan M. DeLaCruz, Vice Chair

Dear Senate Ways & Means Committee:

My name is Rebeca Valdez and I currently reside in the 2nd District of Hawaii. I moved to your state in 2015, and have since continued my collegiate studies at Leeward Community College. I am currently in my last semester before I receive my Associate's Degree. Once I do, I will be the last in my immediate family to receive a degree.

I am writing to you to thank you for the action you have taken in drafting and pushing forward SB 1162, SD 1. As a recipient of the Army's GI Bill after 8 honorable years of service, I know firsthand what it means to be able to earn your way into college, rather than have it handed to you. I wholeheartedly stand behind the rigorous requirements that a student must meet in order to receive such scholarships that your program offers, and implore you that they remain rigorous in an effort to keep the higher education standards high, therefore resulting in strong, mature, job-worthy graduates.

Lastly, I extend my appreciation in the hearing you have scheduled for this Bill. I am confident that the State of Hawaii will move forward in awarding the proper need-based scholarships to the proven qualified candidates that have taken the time and effort in completing the FAFSA process.

Sincerely,

Rebeca Valdez

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:21 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: bolosan9@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jackilyn Bolosan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Jackilyn B. Bolosan 94-1450 Welina Loop #10A Waipahu Hi. 96797 Senate Way & Means Committee Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair Sen. Donovan M. dela Cruz, Vice Chair RE: Support for SB 1162, SD1 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 SB 1162, SD1 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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:22 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kegb@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaisen Bartolome | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: Testimony in strong support of SB 1162

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD1
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 23, 2017, 9:30 am
Hawai'i State Capitol Room 211

To: Chair Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz and members of the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Winona K. Lee, MD

Subject: Testimony in strong support of SB1162 SD1

I am Winona Lee, a pediatrician and Assistant Professor in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine. This testimony is in strong support of SB 1162 SD1, This bill would establish 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 or any community college campus.

It is critical that these types of need-based scholarships are available to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds as well as those students from underrepresented student populations. I strongly support this bill which would promote the success of all qualified students enrolled at colleges on any campus of the University of Hawai'i System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Lee', written in a cursive style.

Winona K. Lee, MD

February 22, 2017
Senate Ways & Means Committee
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Relyn Salvador

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:31 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: eloisac@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eloisa | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: As a student of the University of Hawaii Leeward Community College, the reason why I support this bill is because I believe that this generation deserve to have a higher education. It would be very helpful for us the students to have a free tuition, especially to the working students like me. Thank you.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD1
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Hawai'i State Capitol Room 211

To: Chair Jill N. Tokuda and Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Members of Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Ann C. Ito
aito@hawaii.edu

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Ann Ito. I am a concerned private citizen living and working in Senate District 11.

I strongly support this forward looking and democracy essential bill as it will provide urgently needed financial support to those Hawaii residents interested in and committed to pursuing higher education. As better informed citizens, they will lead more fulfilling and productive lives and contribute to the common good of this state, arguably the best and most fortunate place on earth where all life and creation can thrive with respect, equity and care.

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

Sincerely,
Ann C. Ito

February 22, 2017

Private Citizen Testimony

Testimony
SB 1162: Establishes the UH Promise Program

To whom it may concern:

As Filipino graduate of Leeward Community College, a graduate of the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa, and as a current student services administrator at the UH Mānoa College of Education, I strongly write in support of SB 1162 that establishes the UH Promise Program which will provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the UH system.

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

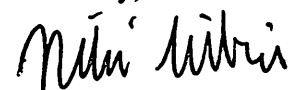
In particular are Filipinos and Native Hawaiians who respectively represent the 2nd and 4th largest ethnic groups in our state.

SB 1162 will help to ensure that a significant portion of our Hawai'i population will have access to financial resources that support higher education pursuits.

With higher education as a key means to social mobility and an important factor of an economically thriving community, all of Hawai'i can benefit from SB 1162.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,



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

February 22, 2017

TO: The Senate Committee of Ways and Means:
Senator Jill Tokuda- Chairperson
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz- Vice Chairperson
Senator Kalani English
Senator Brickwood Galuteria
Senator Breene Harimoto
Senator Lorraine Inouye
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele
Senator Gil Riviere
Senator Maile Shimabukuro
Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senator Glenn Wakai

FROM: Ariel Wallace-Wong

RE: SB 1162 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM
- **SUPPORT**

Chairperson Tokuda and the members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Ariel Wallace-Wong, a current student with the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at The University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing today in support of SB 1162, relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- According to a study done by the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Hawaii ranked third in the nation for college affordability, yet only approximately 44% of the working force in Hawaii has received a post-secondary degree.
- According to the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, higher education has become expensive and unaffordable for low to middle income families, which has led to a high drop out rate.
- According to The Hawaii Education Policy Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, as of 2003, tuition for both resident and non-resident students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa has more than doubled.
- According to The Hawaii Education Policy Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, 46.6% of college students in 2013 who had left the University of Hawaii at Manoa without completing a degree reported leaving due to the high cost of tuition and fees.

For the future of our workforce in Hawaii, it is pertinent to ensure that students who attend college can afford higher education without worrying about all the student debt.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB 1162.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments.

Dear Senate Waste and Means Committee,

Good afternoon, Ma'am/Sir. I am writing this testimony as a support for the Senate Bill 1162 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, which has now passed (with amendments) the higher education committee hearing 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 from in the near future. Poverty should never be a hindrance to learn. 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, February 23rd. I will be with you along the way.

Respectfully Yours,

May Christine Ines

Dear Senator Jill N. Tokuda,

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 of the 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 people in the Hawaii State group really take all the hard working students into consideration when deciding whether to pass this bill or not. I believe that giving free community college 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, people of the Higher Education Committee have the power to help us, 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 people who are involved in passing this bill will make a good decision. 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

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Jill N. Tokuda and Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

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 SB 1162. Higher education is one of the most important tools to creating and continuing success for oneself and their family. The benefits of college include a substantially higher income than regular high school graduates, better job security and satisfaction, and economic benefits that are extended beyond generations. As a recipient of FAFSA and support from my family, I am grateful to receive financial help so I am able to support my higher education. Unfortunately, some people are not so lucky to receive financial support from anyone. Which is why this senate bill is urged to be passed so that any resident in the state of Hawaii can be able to achieve a higher education and better future for themselves and their children.

Thank you for taking the time for reading this letter of support. I have been worried about wither or not to continue to earning a Bachelor's degree due to financial problems, but now I am confident about earning my next degree if this senate bill passes. You have my full support along with all the others struggling to find ways to pay for college.

Sincerely,

Sheldene Pola

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Jill N. Tokuda and Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

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 SB 1162. Higher education is one of the most important tools to creating and continuing success for oneself and their family. The benefits of college include a substantially higher income than regular high school graduates, better job security and satisfaction, and economic benefits that are extended beyond generations. As a recipient of FAFSA and support from my family, I am grateful to receive financial help so I am able to support my higher education. Unfortunately, some people are not so lucky to receive financial support from anyone. Which is why this senate bill is urged to be passed so that any resident in the state of Hawaii can be able to achieve a higher education and better future for themselves and their children.

Thank you for taking the time for reading this letter of support. I have been worried about wither or not to continue to earning a Bachelor's degree due to financial problems, but now I am confident about earning my next degree if this senate bill passes. You have my full support along with all the others struggling to find ways to pay for college.

Sincerely,

Sheldene Pola

February 22, 17

The Senate Ways and Means Committee
Sen. Jill N. Tokuda (Chair)
Sen. Donovan M. Delacruz (Vice Chair)

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 full time student I strongly support bill SB1162 because I feel that higher education will benefit our society. Education is the foundation of our societies success. With higher education we can expect growth within our community. This will benefit not only for us current students but it will definitely benefit the younger children in our society. We should invest on education because it the most important thing that a person can have.

As a mother, a caretaker to my husband who is a veteran I still have to find time to work and bring in income for my family. It is a struggle to pay for school on my own. A financial responsibility is added because tuition and book expenses are very expensive. Regardless of how expensive or if I face financial struggles I still make it my priority because I am dedicated to achieve a higher education to have a better future.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for supporting the bill. We appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Ro-Ann Delos Reyes

February 22, 2017

The Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

SB 1162

– RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

I support the Bill SB 1162 of the University Of Hawaii Promise Program. I respectfully ask for the Senate and its committee's to consider wholeheartedly the idea that education is a fundamental right for everyone.

I am a student in Leeward Community College and UH West O'ahu and I see the value of education as a Part- Time Teacher at Kalakaua Middle School.

As a the first person in my family to go to college and as an educator to children in secondary education I want to see the reality of going to college for myself and my students. I am only getting a my Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts this year after many financial challenges going to college even having one or two jobs and balancing all these responsibilities. I do not want to see my students go though the same challenges I have faced. I often hear from my at risk minority students that they have never seen people like them go to college and that college will not be realistic for them. As an educator you want to see your students strive and for many in the Kalihi area they do not believe that they can do it because they know they can afford it.

If the bill passes, Although it may not be beneficial to me as I will move on to UH West Oahu and may not be available in my education I want to strongly support this Bill so college will not seem like a dream for my students.

Thank you for the support and a place for us to voice our hopes for our future I am in complete support of SB 1162 and the importance of this program.

Sincerely
Faith Pascua

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda (Chair)
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz (Vice Chair)
Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Marjorie Kay Raquiz

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162 SD1

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

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 this bill 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:18 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: bkaimana@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nicholas Benevides | Individual | Support | No |

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

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:18 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mcop@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| MYRA PASCUAL | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Sen. Jill N. Tokuda Chair, Ways & Means Committee Sen. Donovan M. dela Cruz Vice Chair, Ways & Means Committee I am a Leeward Community College student and highly support SB 1162 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.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:16 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: 808kellie@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair I am a student at Leeward Community College. I am one of the many people who strongly support SB 1126 because I believe that higher education can be something to invest in, in the future. In the past, I have seen some of my peers whom have dropped out of school due to their financial problems. I understand that college does need a cost, but does it need to be our stress on money? Students who go to college are motivated by either money or making something out of themselves. I am motivated by both. Every time I think of giving up in school, I remind myself that I am actually paying for myself to have a seat here. But another thing I remind myself is that I can make a difference. And the only way I can do that is with the education here in college. College is here for a reason. It's here to give people like me a chance to make something out of myself that will help benefit others in the future. As a nursing student, I hope to finish my education here and go into the nursing workforce in the future. Being in college will help me get there, free education for college will help ease my financial struggles and you invest in not only me. But future politicians, engineers, business managers, accountants, teachers whom are in school hoping for free education today.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov