



LATE

February 14, 2017

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

RE: Support for SB1162 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. The Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (GSO) stands in **support of SB1162**. The GSO represents approximately 4,700 graduate students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

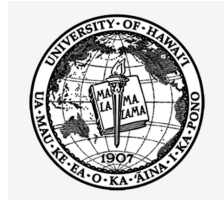
Providing equal access to higher education is a bedrock principle of the GSO. Too often, rising tuition rates have limited that access. While there is a plethora of financial aid programs to help prospective students obtain a college degree, they often fall short of covering the full cost.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. **For our students and our communities, we urge you to pass SB1162.**

LATE



To: Senate Committee on Higher Education
Honorable Representative Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Honorable Representative Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017
Time: 1:15 PM
Place: Conference Room 414

Re: IN SUPPORT OF SB 1162 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S PROMISE PLAN

Aloha Honorable Chair Kahele, Honorable Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i Student Caucus (UHSC) represents approximately 42,700 students across the 10 campuses of the University of Hawai'i System. We submit testimony in full support of SB 1162, pressing importance on this program being implemented system-wide.

We feel that equal and affordable accessibility to higher and continuing education is crucial to the future of our economy and workforce. Tuition is inevitably rising, and although there are numerous financial aid programs and scholarships available, there are still many students who are unable to find enough financial support to cover the full cost of college tuition. A program such as the Hawai'i Promise Plan will enable students to continue their education and pursue careers that will enrich our economy and stabilize our workforce.

By providing this program system-wide, you will enable students on all islands equal access to the opportunity to further their education and have the means in which to compete in an increasingly competitive job market.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of our testimony. Once again, the University of Hawai'i Student Caucus fully supports SB 1162, pressing importance on this program being implemented system-wide.

Sincerely,
Kelli Acopan
Vice-Chair, UHSC

LATE

To: Sen. Kaiali`I Kahele, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
House Higher Education Committee Members

From: Raymund Liongson, Ph.D.

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162

My name is Raymund Liongson. I am an associate professor at Leeward Community College and a resident of Ewa Beach, District 41. I like to register my strong support for SB 1162, relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program.

Our youth are, no doubt, the pillars of the future. How intelligent, compassionate, creative, and productive our society will be depends on how well we prepare and mold our young people. In this increasingly credential and competitive society, education is critical. And we cannot be contented with basic education; higher education is imperative. We cannot ignore the increasingly complex educational and training requirements of the coming generation. We need to invest in our youth and prepare them to function in this increasingly complex life.

Many of our young people are prevented from finishing their higher education because of the rising cost of college or university schooling. Some graduates are buried in debt, thus preventing them from fulfilling their aspirations.

Support for higher education in terms of scholarship opportunities for our state college and university students is a sound investment that will bring tremendous returns for our state.

I ask the Senate Higher Education Committee to pass SB 1162.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:03 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: micahalameda@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 14, 2017 13:15PM*

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Micah Alameda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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To: Committee on Higher Education
Chair Kahele
Vice Chair Kidani

LATE

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017
Time: 1:15 PM
Place: Conference Room 414

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

My name is Jessica Chen and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am writing in strong support of SB 1162 and its companion bill, HB 1594, which appropriates funds for scholarships for the unmet needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawai'i system.

As a full-time undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, I understand the difficulties in obtaining a degree in higher education. One of the greatest struggles that we face today is the cost of attendance. Attendance goes beyond just the cost of tuition. It includes the price of textbooks, school fees, supplies, lab fees, and many more. In order to circumvent the cost, students, myself included, work one or more job(s).

I consider myself to be lucky. Most of my tuition is covered by scholarships offered by the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Many of my peers; however, have to work endless hours and sometimes hold multiple jobs to make ends meet. Some of my peers remain part-time, ultimately extending their graduation, in order to work to cover the cost of tuition.

The Hawai'i Promise Program will bridge the gap for students who cannot afford to attend college and offer students who struggle to make ends meet a chance to pursue education.

I strongly support SB 1162 and its companion bill, HB 1594, for the students who are struggling to cover the cost of attendance and for the students who are doing whatever it takes to receive an education.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Chen
jwchen@hawaii.edu
1-808-541-7234

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:00 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: lady.flach@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 14, 2017 13:15PM*

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/13/2017
Testimony for HRE on Feb 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Kaley Vatalaro
1511 Nuuanu Ave #206
Honolulu, HI 96817

LATE

02/13/2017

SB1162 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM.

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

Having been born and raised in Hawai'i, I know how crucial higher education is to the future of our state, which is why I am in strong support of SB 1162. I believe that furthering one's education is essential to achieving a successful future for oneself, and furthermore, for the overall community. This bill will provide me (and many others) with the support that is needed in order to graduate with a college degree. As a result of the unmet direct costs of a college education, many high school graduates have to put their future goal of obtaining a college degree on gold. However, the implementation of the Promise Program would give student the financial opportunity to put their dreams into action.

Considering the foregoing, I humbly ask the Committee to support and pass SB 1162

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kaley Vatalaro

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:52 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: Ccampa1@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Feb 14, 2017 13:15PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Many thanks for the opportunity to submit testimony is strong support of this measure. It is important to give our kids the greatest opportunity for economic success possible. This measure would give more kids a chance as well as remove the burden of long term loans for education. Aloha

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