



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
March 21, 2017 at 2:02 p.m.

By

Risa E. Dickson, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1294 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1294 SD1 HD1. This testimony represents collaborative leadership that includes Chancellor Maenette Benham, University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu; Chancellor Don Straney, University of Hawai'i at Hilo; and Dean Jerris Hedges, John A. Burns School of Medicine.

This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, including the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu Allied Health Program, to increase the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

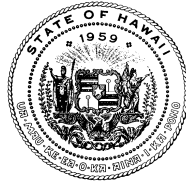
- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians have lower educational attainment and income, and are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.
- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate

in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.

- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher, considerably lower than other ethnic groups.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

The legislature's consideration is appreciated, as state funds could leverage private and federal support for this program. The University of Hawai'i supports passage of SB 1294 SD1 HD1 on the condition that any requested funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Biennium budget request.

Thank you for your consideration, and the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1294 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION.**

REPRESENTATIVE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date: March 21, 2017

Room Number: 309

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined general fund appropriation to the Univeristy of Hawaii.

2 **Department Testimony:** This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy
3 within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to
4 target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first
5 generation college attendees.

6 The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the
7 goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and
8 in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as
9 well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16
10 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the
11 University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian
12 students.

13 The Department of Health supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- 14 • Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education
15 encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education
16 gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most
17 importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.

- 1 • Many studies, including those done in Hawai‘i, find that a person’s income is strongly
2 associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person’s
3 educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and
4 income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral
5 health problems and chronic diseases.
- 6 • Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other
7 ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those
8 Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are
9 consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a
10 strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural
11 pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- 12 • Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved
13 Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and
14 other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a
15 Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would
16 target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 17 • 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees
18 as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor’s degree or
19 higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
20 undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size
21 of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for
22 undergraduate completion.
- 23 • Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages
24 are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai‘i. However, these
25 jobs typically require a Bachelor’s degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of
26 Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor’s degrees.

27 **Offered Amendments:** N/A

28



COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan

Rep. Sharon E. Har

Rep. Kaniela Ing

Rep. Takashi Ohno

Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi

Rep. Justin H. Woodson

Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

TIME: 2:02 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

**AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES
ACADEMY**

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee, I am Mary Frances Oneha, APRN, PhD, CEO of Waimānalo Health Center and a member of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force. Waimānalo Health Center **supports** SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

Recruiting students to engage in health sciences would be of benefit to the healthcare professions and to our organization. Delivering primary and preventive services since 1992, we have experienced the challenges of recruiting health professionals. The challenges continue to grow as healthcare evolves, introducing new technology, and advanced models of care and payment. It is critical to recruit and develop undergraduate health sciences students to meet these challenges.

Waimānalo Health Center also supports undergraduate health sciences opportunities for youth, as our Ku I Ka Mana, Youth Mentoring Program, encourages continued education beyond high school. Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity. Opportunities for health care sector jobs will continue to increase and require a Bachelor's degree.

We ask for your support of SB 1294. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Native Hawaiian Health Task Force

Co-chairs:

Keawe'aimoku
Kaholokula
Kamana'opono Crabbe
Virginia Pressler

Members:

Lola Irvin
Lorrin Kim
Noa Emmett Aluli
Puni Kekauoha
Kamaki Kanahale
Nalani Benioni
Keola Chan
Diane Paloma
Dane Keohelani Silva
Nalei Akina
Sharlene Chun-Lum
Claire Hughes
Joelene Lono
Michelle Hiraishi
Kamahanahokulani
Farrar
Sheri Ann Daniels
Kuhio Asam
Mary Oneha
Sean Chun
Joey Gonsalves
Shawn Kana'iaupuni
Neil Hannahs
Keopu Reelitz
Malia Taum-Deenik
Mervina Cash-Kaeo
Maenette Benham
Mahina Paishon-Duarte

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan
Rep. Sharon E. Har
Rep. Kaniela Ing
Rep. Takashi Ohno
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi
Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017
TIME: 2:02 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD1

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES
ACADEMY

By

The **Native Hawaiian Health Task Force** convened pursuant to S. R. No. 60 S.D. 1,
regular session of 2014 .

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee, on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force, we wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and develop an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawaii system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

We strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance

abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.

- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher, the latter is considerably lower than other ethnic groups.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF
SB1294, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION
Hearing: Tuesday, Mar 21, 2017, 2:02 p.m., Conf Rm 309

Rep. Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Higher Education

Aloha,

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus, DPH, supports SB1294, SD1, HD1, Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education that would establish an Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy at the University of Hawaii to increase recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and, in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

For the many reasons articulated in this bill itself and in the numerous testimonies of support that provided informed information, we encourage your passage of SB1294, SD1, HD1.

Me kealoha pumehana

/s/ Leimomi Khan (On-line)

LEIMOMI KHAN
Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan

Rep. Sharon E. Har

Rep. Kaniela Ing

Rep. Takashi Ohno

Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi

Rep. Justin H. Woodson

Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

TIME: 2:02 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee, my name is Robin Miyamoto, Psy.D. I am a Clinical Psychologist with the Departments of Native Hawaiian Health and Family Medicine and Community Health at JABSOM. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications.

Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.

- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii at Manoa
677 Ala Moana Blvd. 1016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Office: 808-692-1012
Fax: 808-587-8576
robinemi@hawaii.edu

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan

Rep. Sharon E. Har

Rep. Kaniela Ing

Rep. Takashi Ohno

Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi

Rep. Justin H. Woodson

Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

TIME: 2:02 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee,

I am Dr. Winona K. Lee from the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School Of Medicine. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower when compared to the general student population.

- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees. This pathway would provide a strategic approach to allow Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students the ability to pursue higher education and the potential to enter a health professions career.

Respectfully submitted by,

Winona K. Lee, MD

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan
Rep. Sharon E. Har
Rep. Kaniela Ing
Rep. Takashi Ohno

Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi
Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017
TIME: 2:02 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee, I am Andrea Hermosura, PhD, from the Department of Native Hawaiian Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications.

Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.

- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea H. Hermosura', written in a cursive style.

Andrea H. Hermosura, Ph.D.

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rep. Richard P. Creagan | Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi |
| Rep. Sharon E. Har | Rep. Justin H. Woodson |
| Rep. Kaniela Ing | Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto |
| Rep. Takashi Ohno | |

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017
TIME: 2:02 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee, I am Regina Cummings, MBA, an administrator of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s John A. Burns School of Medicine’s Department of Native Hawaiian Health. However, I submit this testimony as a private citizen and as a Native Hawaiian woman and mother, alumni of the University of Hawai‘i West Oahu and alumni of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I am in strong support of SB 1294.

This bill will develop a much needed undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai‘i system in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai‘i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai‘i.

I have personally experienced the difficulty of trying to navigate an undergraduate and graduate educational journey without a structured pathway. Graduating from high school in 2002, it took me 12 years, 6 different institutions, and over \$40,000 in student loans to obtain my Bachelor’s Degree from UH West Oahu and finally my Master’s Degree from UH Mānoa.

My mother, a single parent from Waimānalo did everything she could to provide for me and my brother and sisters. She would tell you I was a highly driven self-motivated person who completed everything I put my mind to. I am a first generation college graduate and attended college consistently from 2002-2016 while raising 4 children and working full time (non-traditional student). Since receiving my Bachelor’s degree in 2014 and my Master’s degree in 2016 I was able to reflect back on my educational journey. Although I do not regret my journey, I do believe there could have been an easier way. My tenacity and determination was what got me through...but the truth is, not all students would have been able to stick it out that long. As I look toward the future and try to map out the educational journey of my children and my nieces and nephews, I have no other choice but to back a measure like SB 1294 in hopes that the next

generation will be given the necessary tools and support they need to succeed without trying to navigate the system blindly, or by trial and error like I did. This measure gives me hope that Native Hawaiians like me will be encouraged and empowered to know that they can succeed and become a part of Hawaii's health workforce. This measure will ensure a safe and supportive environment for Native Hawaiian and Pacific islander students to thrive in.

I support SB 1294 for the following reasons:

- A structured pathway that targets Native Hawaiians into Health careers will lift the unnecessary burdens Native Hawaiian students experience when trying to navigate the college system.
- A pathway will provide the necessary support students need to succeed. A structured pathway of courses that will guide them from point A to point B without confusion and unnecessary burdens associated with trying to figure out your next move.
- College is expensive, a structured pathway will assist students in making sure they are taking the right courses and making the most of their tuition dollars. Taking unnecessary courses takes away valuable time from family or even work opportunities that allow students to financially support themselves and their families. Today there are more and more non-traditional students enrolled in colleges, a structured pathway will make sure that parents and working adults are making the most of their time.
- Supporting Native Hawaiian students through their educational journey with the necessary mentors they need to guide them will keep the student engaged, informed and empowered.
- We all know the health care system is constantly changing and will require diverse and highly trained health professionals to meet the health care demands of our state. Why not target Native Hawaiian students into health care careers, allowing consumers the opportunity to receive health services from professionals they can relate to. Health professionals that look like them, that understand their needs and are aware of the cultural and social effects of their daily lifestyles.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Regina Cummings

Regina Cummings, MBA
Waimānalo, HI

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan

Rep. Sharon E. Har

Rep. Kaniela Ing

Rep. Takashi Ohno

Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi

Rep. Justin H. Woodson

Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

TIME: 2:02 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee, I am Dr. Kau'i Baumhofer, an epidemiologist from 'Aiea. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.

- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Born and raised in 'Aiea, I have a strong personal connection to Leeward Oahu and am eager to see the development of an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i. Having a dedicated program to assist students and guide them through their academic programs with a special emphasis on retention is essential. As an undergraduate and post-baccalaureate pre-medical student I would have benefited from such an academic program. Although no such formal program existed while I was a student, I strongly credit much of my academic and professional success to my many colleagues and mentors who have assisted in my development over the past ten years from graduate research assistant to Assistant Professor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,



N. Kau'i Baumhofer, ScD, MPH, MA
Assistant Professor
Health Equity Research Fellow
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii at Manoa

March 21, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294 SD1 HD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD1, HD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

**by
Dr. Ricardo C. Custodio**

Aloha Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and Members of the Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs,

Increasingly, attention and resources have been given to the physician shortage. Unknown to most, there is an even greater shortage of professionals in the Health Sciences. Health Sciences is a multidisciplinary “hands on science” field that combines bio-medical, psycho-social, organizational and societal aspects of health, disease and health care. The Bureau of Labor statistics predicts that 9 out of the top 12 fastest growing occupations from 2014 to 2024 are in the Health Sciences . Growth rates range from 30% (Physician Assistants) to 43% (Occupational Therapy Assistants).

Career fields include:

- Support Services – Community Health, Long Term Care
- Therapeutic Services – Respiratory Care, Dental Hygiene, Nursing, OT, PT, Speech Pathology
- Health Informatics – Health Information Management
- Diagnostic Services – Medical Technology

Hawaii truly has an opportunity to become a leader and innovator in the Health Sciences. UH West Oahu is the perfect incubator. Kapolei, Waipahu, Campbell, Waianae, Nanakuli, Farrington, Wailua , Wahiawa and Leilehua are the high schools our students come from. Most are Native Hawaiian (28%) and Filipino (21%). They are underrepresented in all health care career fields. Their abilities, talents and ambitions are also underestimated by most. They have shown us their creativity, professionalism and capability. Their life's experiences made them more compassionate and more ambitious.

These students need a program that will give them purpose. They need careers that will allow them to serve their communities as well as allow them to make a living. Hawaii needs a pipeline of high schoolers and undergraduates training to be Health Science professionals. Although Health Science programs are offered at the associate degree level within the UH system, a number of professions, e.g. Physical, Occupational an Respiratory Therapy require, or are moving toward advanced degrees for entry level practice. Presently, Hawaii does not offer a bachelor's level degree in Health Sciences.

Specific stakeholders include the communities of:

1) Waianae & Nanakuli - Highest concentration of Native Hawaiians in the world who disproportionately suffer from obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer.

- 2) Kapolei - Growth of a huge “Second City” with increased housing, young families, crowding and no parallel increase in infrastructure.
- 3) Waipahu, Ewa Beach, Wailua & Wahiawa - Old plantation towns with a growing number of elderly.

Please support SB 1294. The future health and wellness of Hawaii’s people depends on the success of this endeavor. The final evaluation of success will be in the quality and number of our graduates serving our communities. Following is the most updated brief on the UH West Oahu Health Sciences Program.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact us through: *Dr. Ric Custodio;*
ricard08@hawaii.edu, 808-799-8634 cell.

Sincerely,

UH West Oahu Allied Health Faculty
Dr. Kristina Guo, Public Administration; Division Chair
Dr. Ricardo C. Custodio, Associate Professor of Allied Health
Dr. Camonia Graham-Tutt, Assistant Professor of Community Health
Dr. Robert Vega, Director Respiratory Care Program
Dr. Susan Young, Assistant Professor of Health Care Administration

UH WEST OAHU UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAM

Executive Summary: Increasingly, attention and resources have been given to the physician shortage. Unknown to most, there is an even greater shortage of in the Health Sciences. After analysis, increasing trainings is the best solution. The University of Hawaii–West Oahu is well positioned to build an Undergraduate Health Sciences Program that is community, service and team based.

Health Sciences Defined: Health Sciences is a multidisciplinary “hands on science” field that combines bio-medical, psycho-social, organizational and societal aspects of health, disease and health care. The Bureau of Labor statistics predicts that 9 out of the top 12 fastest growing occupations from 2014 to 2024 are in the Health Sciences . Growth rates range from 30% (Physician Assistants) to 43% (Occupational Therapy Assistants).

Career Fields:

- Support Services – Community Health, Long Term Care
- Therapeutic Services – Respiratory Care, Dental Hygiene, Nursing, OT, PT, Speech Pathology
- Health Informatics – Health Information Management
- Diagnostic Services – Medical Technology

Stakeholders Overview:

As *Stakeholders*, healthcare workers and patients need to prepare for three significant trends:

- 1) An increase in the number of elderly
- 2) A decrease in the number of healthcare workers due to retirement
- 3) Only a small increase in the number of healthcare training programs

Specific Stakeholders within the mokus of Ewa, Waianae and Wailua:

- 1) Waianae & Nanakuli Communities - Highest concentration of Native Hawaiians in the world who disproportionately suffer from obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer.
- 2) Kapolei Community - Growth of a huge "Second City" with increased housing, young families crowding and no parallel increase in infrastructure.
- 3) Waipahu, Ewa Beach, Wailua & Wahiawa Communities - Old plantation towns with growing number of elderly.
- 4) **High Schools** - *Kapolei, Waipahu, Campbell, Waianae, Nanakuli, Farrington, Wailua, Wahiawa and Leilehua.*

UH West Oahu is an *Educational Resource*. With almost 3000 enrollees, it is a 4-year student-centered, indigenous serving institution that is both affordable and accessible. Tuition at UHWO is \$7K/yr (UH Manoa = \$11K/yr, Chaminade & HPU = \$21K/yr). 28% of students report their ethnicity as Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and 21% as Filipino. In terms of *Financial Resources*, the federal government has invested very little towards Health Sciences Training. This needs to change.

Recommendation: *An unrecognized potential in the community is our underrepresented youth. They comprise a viable healthcare workforce pipeline. By aligning collective ideas, solutions and resources, "Growing our own, from our community, for our community," can be achieved. Health Sciences training needs to be community, service and team based. The optimum site for this training is the UH West Oahu.*

Conclusion: Adding highly skilled Health Science Professionals to healthcare teams in Hawaii will lead to increased access, better quality and lower costs. For UH West Oahu, the transformative changes needed to achieve this goal require:

1. Offering a Bachelor's Degree in Health Sciences pursuing excellence, innovation and service.
2. Constructing a new Health Sciences Building to provide classrooms and laboratories for learning.
3. Forging and developing community, educational and government collaborative partnerships to integrate and advance learned knowledge and clinical practice.

The future health and wellness of Hawaii's people depends on the success of this endeavor.

UH West Oahu Health Sciences Program Tenets: Training Must -

1. Be in the Community (Community-Based)

2. Integrate Learning with Doing (Service-Based)
3. Produce Interprofessional Teams (Team-Based)

Inaugural Health Science Program Concentrations:

- *Community Health*
- *Respiratory Care*
- *Pre-Professional*
- *Long Term Care*
- *Health Information Management*

Present Healthcare Gaps & Future Knowledge & Skills Needed:

- Patient Centered Medical Home needs = Durable Medical Equipment / Skilled Nursing Competence
- Hospital Discharge to Home Transition = Patient & Family Education / Discharge Care Coordination / Caregiver Support / Mobile Health Home Monitoring
- Long Term Care Homes = Frail Elderly /Access and Quality of Care Inequities/ mHealth Monitoring
- Patient Care Coordination = Specialist Referral/Prior Authorization/Behavioral Health/Wound Care

Integrated Knowledge & Skills Required in the Future = Nursing, Social Work, Care Coordination, Counseling, Referrals, mHealth, Patient Navigation, Coding, Comm. Health Worker, Pharmacology

Partnerships:

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AlohaCare ● Hawaii Department of Health ● Hawaii MedQUEST ● Kalihi-Palama Health Center ● Kapiolani Community College ● Kulana Malama ● Leeward Community College ● Queen’s West Oahu ● Queen’s Health Systems ● University of Hawaii Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UH Hilo School of Nursing ● UH John A. Burns School of Medicine ● UH at Manoa School of Nursing ● UHWO Creative Media ● UHWO Music Department ● UHWO Pre-Nursing Program ● UHWO Public Administration Program ● UHWO Sustainable Food Systems Prog ● Waianae Coast Comp Health Center |
|---|---|

Timeline:

- Fall 2016 - Groundbreaking of new Health Sciences Building. Implement Respiratory Care
- Spring 2017 to Spring 2018: Design and implement Community Health & Pre-Professions
- Fall 2017 to Spring 2019: Hire Design & Implement Long Term Care and HIM Concentrations.
- Spring 2019 to Fall 2019: Health Sciences Building Completed. BA Health Sciences is offered
- Spring 2020: First Health Science Graduates. Groundbreaking Clinical Training Center
- Fall 2021: Hire / Design / Transfer / Implement Future Concentrations

Future Concentrations:

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Dental Hygiene | - Nursing | - Speech Therapy |
| - School Health Specialist | - Occupational Therapy | - Counseling |
| - Medical Technology | - Physical Therapy | - Minority Health Policy |

Summary: "You can give a person a fish and feed him for a day. You can teach a person how to fish. But true empowerment is access to the stream." - *Theda New Breast (Blackfeet)*. For UH West Oahu Health Science students, true empowerment is access to the stream of higher education and gainful employment. The final evaluation will be in the quality and number of our graduates serving our communities.

Contact = *Ricardo C. Custodio, MD, MPH; ricardo8@hawaii.edu / 808-799-8634*
3/17/17

Representative Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair, Committee on Higher Education
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair, Committee on Higher Education
Members of the Higher Education Committee

Latanya Edwards
Student of University of Hawaii-West Oahu

March 20, 2017

Support SB 1294

I am a military spouse who is the product of the Hawaii school system. I was born and raised in West Oahu, and was part of the last class from Makakilo to graduate from James Campbell High School. I attended Kapiolani Community College (KCC) and became nationally certified in Phlebotomy. Recently, I returned to Hawaii and once again graduated from KCC with a degree in Medical Assisting, and I am now pursuing my Bachelor's degree at UH West Oahu.

Everything that I have achieved in life, is because of the education that I have received here. I purposely waited for my husband to be stationed again in Hawaii just so I could finish my schooling, because I knew the values, dedication and knowledge that I would receive here could not be matched anywhere else.

Over the course of my travels, I know firsthand that the proposed curriculum for the new Allied Health program/building at West Oahu, can rarely be found anywhere else. Bachelor's degrees in subjects like Community Health and Minority Health usually can only be found at the Master's level. This means that students must go through years of education, before they can receive the schooling to fulfill the immediate needs in our local community. By offering these, and other degrees at the bachelorette level, Hawaii will be ahead of the changes that are currently taking place, and will take place in health care.

Presently, there are no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill ensures that Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college attendees have access to health career training. It also enables motivated high school students to earn college credits in three distinct healthcare tracks: Medical, Behavioral Health and Allied Health. Whether it be in high school or college, these vital skills will be taught in our own communities. This will increase the chances that we will return and serve our communities.

I strongly support this bill and, your support will help in securing a successful future for thousands of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos and other First Generation college attendees. Healthcare is more than just giving out pills, it is about providing higher education and employment that will enable us to live and thrive in West Oahu, our home.

Thank you,



COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan

Rep. Sharon E. Har

Rep. Kaniela Ing

Rep. Takashi Ohno

Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi

Rep. Justin H. Woodson

Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

TIME: 2:02 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee, my name is Shelley Soong, I am a student and a staff member at the University of Hawai'i. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294.

This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i. I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Within the labor force, Native Hawaiians have a lower rate of college degrees and are less likely to be employed in high paying management and professional occupations.
- Only **6.2% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians (i.e., Nanakuli) hold a bachelor's degree compared to 21.6%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Graduate school attendance, after completing an undergraduate degree, is considered an important outcome for increasing the nation's professionals in health science careers. As access to graduate education is limited to those who excel at the undergraduate level, increasing the number of Native Hawaiian students that successfully complete and excel in undergraduate science degrees is critical at a national level.
- **Only 1.9% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians (i.e., Nanakuli) hold a graduate or professional degree compared to 11.1%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Data also suggests low graduation rates in science fields among Native Hawaiians, and attrition from the sciences is associated with an overall shortage of professionals in the science and health fields.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum.
- Ultimately, a strong network of highly trained Native Hawaiian health professionals is needed to work in health care, conduct health disparities research and eliminate the racial and ethnic disparities that exist in health care.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,
Shelley Soong

Jaimeanne Bantug
Jaimeannebantug@gmail.com

To: Rep. Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Members of the Higher Education Committee

RE: SB 1294, Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Higher Education Committee, I am support of SB1294. I am a resident of Hawaii and I live in Honolulu. Currently, I am a student attending University of West Oahu. A majority of the students who are enrolled are Native Hawaiians. The establishment of a health sciences academy is detrimental for future generations especially for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and first generation college students.

The building of a health sciences academy at University of West Oahu provides easy access and is important to establish an allied health building for the betterment of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and first generation college students. An establishment of a health sciences academy provides access to health sciences education and it eliminates health disparities, while achieving social justice through educational achievement.

The access to health sciences education can impact the social and cultural determinants of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and other indigenous population in the State of Hawaii. The undergraduate health sciences academy can create a generation of creators and leaders. The number of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other indigenous population would increase in health professions and science careers as a result. Currently, there are no health sciences programs past the two year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill also allows for high school students to earn college credits in three healthcare tracks. They are medical, behavioral health, and allied health.

Your support on SB 1294 will help in the future for many Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, and first generation attendees. There is more to healthcare than just prescribing medication to patients. With access to higher education and employment, that will allow us to prosper in Oahu and specifically in West Oahu, where many people call home.

Sincerely,

Jaimeanne Bantug

**SB1294 - SD1, HD1: Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education
Supporting Appropriations for an Undergraduate Health Sciences
Academy administered by the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu**

Testimony By: Ryan Bradley Domingo || University of Hawaii West Oahu - Student || 1001 Farrington Hwy, Kapolei, HI 96707

Addressing

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey Chair & Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Members

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Rep. Sharon E. Har, Rep. Justin H. Woodson,

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Takashi Ohno

On behalf of the students pursuing a higher education within the University of Hawaii System, I, Ryan Bradley Domingo, a student at the University of Hawaii at West Oahu, fully support the objective of SB1294 - SD 1, HD1, specifically in its pursuit of standardizing a proper bachelor's program relating to Health Sciences, most notably within the areas of Allied Health.

University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu (UHWO) sits on a community that is encompassed by several neighboring areas most notably Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Waianae, Nanakuli, and Wahiawa. West Oahu caters the state's highest collegiate ratio of Native Hawaiians, accounting 27% of the total student body. Additionally, UHWO also has a diverse student body, made up of Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, and other first generation college attendees. Showcasing a trend of exponential growth with a projected enrollment of 20,000 students by the year 2030, West Oahu is pioneering an educational pedagogy that strives to service the aforementioned communities.

As a student at the University of Hawaii - West Oahu, I have been continually pursuing a degree in pre-professional health, most importantly within the areas of medicine. Wanting to go into the medical field brings upon challenges, specifically in terms of the selection of programs that are currently available. As of now, there is no proper bachelors of allied health program within my university, or better yet, the whole state of Hawaii, indicating that there is a niche that is left unfulfilled. With the introduction of the Health Sciences Academy as mentioned in SB1294, relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education, we can jump-start a program that would engage the underrepresented communities within the allied health professions. Myself being a part of such community, brings upon possibilities that opens the door to many opportunities. My university, UH West Oahu, pioneers an educational pedagogy that strives to service community, following the Native Hawaiian ideology of "kuleana". With our aging population, there is a need for a proper program that caters towards the prospects of the future. Conclusively, this can be fulfilled through the establishment of the programs presented within SB1294.

The area that our university sits at has historically been a place of cultivation, sustaining the indigenous population that used to live there. Conforming with such traditions it is only right to observe such customs - by metaphorically cultivating students, flourishing the areas of allied health professions. SB1294 is not limited in its agenda of catering to our diverse body of students, but also to the many communities that the University of Hawaii at West Oahu gives service to.



Ryan B. Domingo, UHWO Student

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rep. Richard P. Creagan | Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi |
| Rep. Sharon E. Har | Rep. Justin H. Woodson |
| Rep. Kaniela Ing | Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto |
| Rep. Takashi Ohno | |

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017
TIME: 2:02 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee, I am Bianca Paishon, current student from UH West Oahu. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.

- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bianca Paishon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 2:03 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM*

SB1294

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benton | 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: Monday, March 20, 2017 12:10 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: keiki@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM

SB1294

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: Strongly Support

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: Friday, March 17, 2017 4:27 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: kaulanad@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM*

SB1294

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaulana Dameg | 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: Friday, March 17, 2017 6:04 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: mamaupin@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM*

SB1294

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Margaret Maupin | 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

March 20, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and Members of the Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am a Native Hawaiian who was born and raised in Ewa Beach Oahu, and I graduated from Kamehameha High Schools. My daughter graduated from Campbell High School. I currently, live in the Ewa Villages area on Oahu.

I am also a student at UH West Oahu and I am writing to request your support for SB 1294. This bill will enable the State of Hawaii to build an innovative Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy by supporting and hiring highly qualified faculty and staff.

Presently, there are no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill ensures that Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college attendees have access to health career training. It also enables motivated high school students to earn college credits in three distinct healthcare tracks: Medical, Behavioral Health and Allied Health. Whether it be in high school or college, these vital skills will be taught in our own communities. This will create a healthcare workforce pipeline and increase the chances that we will return and serve our communities.

A vast majority of the students attending UH West Oahu are from Waianae, Nanakuli, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Wailua and Wahiawa. We strongly support this bill and the empowerment it brings. YOUR SUPPORT will help in securing a successful future for thousands of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, other First Generation college attendees and their descendants. Healthcare is more than just giving our pills, it is about providing higher education and employment that will enable us to live and thrive in West Oahu, our home.

Sincerely,

Brennan 'Keone' Doane

March 20, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD 1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee on Higher Education,

I currently live in West Oahu and am a student at University of Hawaii West Oahu. I am writing to request your support for SB 1294. This bill will enable the State of Hawaii to build an innovative Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy by supporting and hiring highly qualified faculty and staff.

The state of Hawaii does not have a health program that goes past two years. This program will create access to Health Care training for residents of the community, specifically students of the West side of Hawaii, but open to all. Many Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and first generation college students would like to stay close to home and their families, this program will allow them to do that while completing a four-year degree program in the Health Care field. By teaching in the community to people of the community, it will increase the chances that these students will stay and provide health care to the west side.

As a student of UH West Oahu I strongly support this bill and the opportunity it brings to this community. Healthcare is important to everyone and by empowering high school and college age students to create a career we will be working towards providing much needed care to everyone in the community.

Sincerely,

Molly Heffernan
UH West Oahu Student

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
House Committee on Higher Education

Tania Māhealani Yamaguchi
Master's Student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for the Myron B. School of Social Work
Master's Student Intern at Papa Ola Lōkahi
808-372-241

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Support for S.B. No. 1294, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education

Aloha. As a Master's student for the Social of School Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH Mānoa) a Master's student intern at Papa Ola Lōkahi I am committed by my influences to improve Native Health disparities and I support S.B. 1294. According to UH Mānoa student diversity statistics (2015) 16.7% of the undergraduate student body identified as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making this ethnic group the 3rd highest at the University. I myself was apart of that percentage and these statistics show there is a need to increase the population for Native Hawaiian higher education attainment.

In the School of Social Work and at Papa Ola Lōkahi education is acknowledged as a health determinate that Native Hawaiians encounter today. Higher education provides opportunities for job attainment, change of perception, knowledge, and self-confidence. Currently my focus has been contributing to update the E Ola Mau a Mau report for the Native Hawaiian Task Force as a member of the Data Governance Task Force team. I have been in great fortune to receive programs like Hawai'inuiākea, Kua'ana Native Hawaiian Student Services, and the College Opportunities Program that surrounded me around other Native Hawaiians like myself, providing motivation, guidance, and support to allow me to discover my kūleana (responsibly) as a Native Hawaiian. These programs like the ones I have benefited from fulfill all the Native Hawaiian principles that are outlined in this bill.

As the Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander population reach high school graduation, need for more programs should be offered and available to all students of this group. But it is not possible if there are not an efficient amount of resources to deliver such a great opportunity. The apprehension of career pathways as early as high school recruitment preparing a student to flourish as they reach their undergraduate year(s) is a significant guide to academic success lowering the rates of college dropout. Implantation of an academy that also influence Hawaiian knowledge and language will fit needs of a fellow student especially the indigenous people of the state of Hawai'i. My people need to be educated, they need to have opportunities that give them a chance to make a difference, we just need the support of the state to help make this realistic.

I truly believe by passing S.B. No. 1294, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 to establish an Undergraduate Health Science Academy at the University of Hawai'i to increase recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students will positively impact this community and eliminate Native Hawaiian health disparities. Mahalo a nui for this opportunity to testify.



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Higher Education

Time: 2:02 p.m.

Date: March 21, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem and Members of Committee on Higher Education

RE: **SB 1294, SD1, HD1, Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education**

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

We are writing to **support SB 1294, SD1, HD1**, relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education and offer the following comments: this measure establishes an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i to increase recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students and makes an appropriation. We believe that this is an important step toward increasing the number and quality of higher education paths available to Native Hawaiian students. Please support this measure.

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

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui

LATE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hawaii State Legislature, March 21, 2017

Senate Bill No. 1294
Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Hashem, and members of the Committee,

The Ka Lāhui Hawaii Political Action Committee (KPAC) supports SB 1294 Relating to Native Hawaiian Education.

Kanaka Maoli (aka Native Hawaiians) die a decade sooner than other populations in Hawai‘i and are more likely to die from complications tied to controllable diseases like diabetes and hypertension. Furthermore, Kanaka Maoli students are underrepresented at the University of Hawai‘i and only 15% of Kanaka Maoli hold at least a Bachelor’s degree which is half the average of the general population in Hawai‘i.

Studies have found that students who are in school activities and interact with faculty members and peers are more likely to persist in their education. The health care industry is a growing industry which should incorporate the traditional values and practices of Kanaka Maoli (as well as quality nondiscriminatory primary care) in order to increase not only the health of Kanaka Maoli in general and but educational attainment and economic better of Hawai‘i’s native people.

KPAC supports the creation of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Kanaka Maoli student retention in order to address socio-economic and health ailments of the Kanaka Maoli people in their own homeland.

KPAC also asserts that all Kanaka Maoli students attending school in the University System should be exempt from paying tuition since many of the colleges and Universities sits on hundreds of acres of stolen Hawaiian lands (what was once the crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom). No rent is currently being paid for these lands to the Kanaka Maoli people.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Chair, KPAC



N. Tokuda, Chair
M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Tania Arreygue Nguyen

March 26, 2015

Support for S.B. No. 1294

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee,

I am Tania Nguyen, a social work student, and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.

Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.

- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tania Arreygue Nguyen

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 12:14 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: holderkay8@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM

SB1294

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: I, Kayla Holder, am representing the student body of UH West Oahu in support of bill SB1294. Upon entering UH West, I and other students had to design our own programs to pursue health professions due to lack of an official, established degree program at the college. This is unfortunate because the school has great potential for health education. What we need is funding for resources and structures to carry out the official establishment of these programs. The state of Hawaii is in high demand for doctors and health professionals. Establishment of these degree programs can (1) greatly improve health access; creating smaller provider to patient ratios (2) improve quality of Hawaii's healthcare; increasing the size of the workforce to allow providers to give more individualized and intimate attention to their patients. If this policy isn't passed, many Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and first generation college students will miss the opportunity to go to college and pursue health professions. I would like to see my peers and successors have space and opportunity to reach their full potential.

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

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 5:37 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: hapagurl7669@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM*

SB1294

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Theodora Akau Gaspar | 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

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD 1, HD 1

House Committee on Higher Education

March 21, 2017, 2:02 pm

Hawai'i State Legislature

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 309

LATE

To: Chair Angus McKelvey
Vice-Chair Mark Hashem
Committee on Higher Education Members: Rep., Richard Creagan, Rep. Sharon Har, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Richard Onishi, Rep. Justin Woodson, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

From: Agnes Malate, MEd
armalate@yahoo.com

I fully support Senate Bill 1294, SD 1, HD 1 to establish an Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy at the University of Hawai'i–West 'Oahu (UH-WO) and appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony. I am a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action and Director of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Health Careers Opportunity Program (UH-Mānoa HCOP). I have devoted my career to increasing diversity in higher education and the health field working with the UH campuses throughout the system and various programs at UHM.

There have been several iterations of HCOP that has been funded by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The program, that I have been part of since 2001, expanded UHM's efforts beyond higher education and established a comprehensive model that includes colleges, high schools, and community health centers. Thanks to the State Legislature providing funding in 2007, the initiatives that were started with federal funds were continued and we have worked with Nā Pua No'eau; John A. Burns School of Medicine's Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence, Area Health Education Center, 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program; Online Learning Academy; and other UH campuses, including UHWO, to build a stronger, seamless pathway into the health professions.

Together with our UH, DOE, and community partners, we have made progress but more needs to be done to meet the educational and health disparities in the Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, and other underrepresented groups. Establishing an Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy in West Oahu opens educational opportunities to a community that is often challenged by the sheer physical distance to educational institutions in Honolulu. I also believe it will generate exciting collaborations and engagement with the community.

I have been fortunate to follow and support the journey of high school and college students in their endeavors as they pursue their goals of becoming health professionals and giving back to the community. UH-Mānoa HCOP helps students navigate the challenges of higher education and career path. The proposed Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy can do more to provide the academic and institutional support to work in concert with the student support services that programs such as UH-Mānoa provide.

I ask for the members of this committee to pass SB 1294, SD1 , HD 1 as a step in addressing the health and educational inequities that have persisted for decades among Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, and others from other underrepresented groups. Thank you for your consideration.

Although I am an employee of UHM, this testimony reflects my personal position and is not the official position of the University of Hawai'i.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:25 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ramizusawa@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM*

SB1294

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:02PM in Conference Room 309

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Richard Mizusawa | 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