

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  
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION.**

REPRESENTATIVE KANIELA ING, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, &  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: March 14, 2017

Room Number: 312

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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs  
March 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

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

### SB 1294 SD1 – RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Ing, Vice Chair Gates, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1294 SD1. 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 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.

March 14, 2017

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

**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,

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 and 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"> <li>● AlohaCare</li> <li>● Hawaii Department of Health</li> <li>● Hawaii MedQUEST</li> <li>● Kalihi-Palama Health Center</li> <li>● Kapiolani Community College</li> <li>● Kulana Malama</li> <li>● Leeward Community College</li> <li>● Queen’s West Oahu</li> <li>● Queen’s Health Systems</li> <li>● University of Hawaii Foundation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● UH Hilo School of Nursing</li> <li>● UH John A. Burns School of Medicine</li> <li>● UH at Manoa School of Nursing</li> <li>● UHWO Creative Media</li> <li>● UHWO Music Department</li> <li>● UHWO Pre-Nursing Program</li> <li>● UHWO Public Administration Program</li> <li>● UHWO Sustainable Food Systems Prog</li> <li>● Waianae Coast Comp Health Center</li> </ul>
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**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*  
3/11/17

# 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

Testimony Presented Before the  
**House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs**  
Representative Kaniela Ing, Chair  
Representative Cedric Asuega Gatesa, Vice Chair

## **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Tuesday March 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 312  
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 .

Chair Ing, Vice Chair Gates and members of the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs, 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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 10, 2017 9:27 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** blawaiianlvr@icloud.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Mar 14, 2017 10:00AM

**SB1294**

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for OMH on Mar 14, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We continue to STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. We seek this committee to pass the bill as is. Mahalo.

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

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**COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan      Rep. Gregg Takayama  
Rep. Lynn DeCoite          Rep. Cynthia Thielen  
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2017  
TIME: 10:00 am  
PLACE: Conference Room 312  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294**

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

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am Kamahanahokulani Farrar, from Na Pu'uwai, Moloka'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.

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.
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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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kamahanahokulani Farrar, MHEM". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Kamahanahokulani Farrar  
Executive Director, Na Pu'uwai  
Moloka'i, Kalaupapa & Lana'i

**COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan      Rep. Gregg Takayama  
Rep. Lynn DeCoite          Rep. Cynthia Thielen  
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE:      Tuesday, March 14, 2017

TIME:      10:00 am

PLACE:     Conference Room 312

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294**

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

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, committees I am Mele Look, a resident of Waimanalo, O’ahu, a health researcher for the past 35 years, and presently the Director of Community Engagement the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa’s John A. Burns School of Medicine’s Department of Native Hawaiian Health.

I speak today as an individual and am submitting 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. I support this bill for numerous reasons including:

Health Science is a growing career area in Hawai’i, across the nation and across the world. A Health Science Academy would promote the economic opportunity for individuals and the state. 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.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Malama pono,  
Mele Look (41028 Manana Street, Waimanalo HI 96795)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** kaulanad@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Mar 14, 2017 10:00AM\*

**SB1294**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for OMH on Mar 14, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.

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

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am Rebecca Delafield, from Honolulu, HI. 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.

This bill is very important to me. My father was fortunate to earn his medical degree from JABSOM. He is a Pacific Islander and one of the first people from his island community to go away to medical school and return home to work as a physician in the public hospital. Observing him I realize how difficult that journey was and how challenging it is being one of the few physicians that speak the native language and understand the culture of the indigenous community. I also have witnessed how few people from the islands are working along side of him. This bill is so important because it provides a pathway for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders to get the support and education needed to address the health of their communities, builds the health workforce, it has the potential to alleviate critical health workforce shortages in areas with high number of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and provides opportunities for higher paying jobs that serve the needs of communities

In addition, the I 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. 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,

Rebecca Delafield, MPH  
Honolulu, HI

**COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan      Rep. Gregg Takayama  
Rep. Lynn DeCoite          Rep. Cynthia Thielen  
Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2017  
TIME: 10:00 am  
PLACE: Conference Room 312  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294**

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

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am Regina Cummings, MBA, an administrator of the University of Hawaii 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.

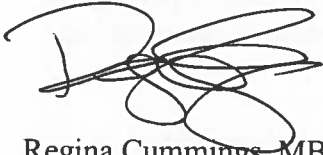
My mother, a single parent from Waimānalo did everything she could to provide for me and my brother and sisters. She would tell you I was a highly driven self-motivated person who completed everything I put my mind to. I am a first generation college graduate and attended college consistently from 2002-2016 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Regina Cummings', with a stylized, overlapping flourish at the end.

Regina Cummings, MBA  
Waimānalo, HI

**COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

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Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294**

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

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am Samantha Herrera, from the University of Hawai'i 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.

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.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- As a program coordinator for health research training programs, I see first hand how much our students, especially Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders benefit from programs created to help them succeed. Our programs provide mentorship, research experiences, and culturally resonate curriculums that support students with the skills, identity, and awareness to work with Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Indigenous communities and prepare them for graduate education. Unfortunately, our programs are grant-based and they will discontinue. With institutionalized faculty and staff positions, the same framework of our programs have the ability to reach Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students for generations to come and ensure that students are equipped to reach academic excellence to advance to graduate school.

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,

Samantha Herrera

## **COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

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### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294**

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

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am Annette Jones, from Department of Native Hawaiian Health, and I wish to submit this testimony in 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 that reads "Annette Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".



March 13, 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,

My name is Irvin Santos and I was born and raised in Ewa Beach and I graduated from Moanalua High School.

I am also a student at UH West Oahu studying under Healthcare Administration 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.

As of right now, there are no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill will ensure that Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college attendees have access to health career training. It will also enable 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.

Most of the students attending UH West Oahu are from Waianae, Nanakuli, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Wailua and Wahiawa. Myself and many students and others who also feel the same way as I do strongly support this bill and the empowerment it brings. With your support, it will definitely 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,

Irvin Santos

March 14, 2017

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

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

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

March 14, 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,

My name is Teofilo B. Rellesiva Jr. I was born in the Philippines and raised in Kalihi where I graduated from Farrington High School. I stand by my testimony in support of SB 1294 because as a First-Generation college student and a non-traditional student, I did not have the opportunity to attend college right away because of the lack of preparation and inadequate finances. That is the reason why I joined the U.S. Marine Corps right after High School. It is through my military service that I was given the opportunity to go back to college and better myself. By supporting this bill, you will also can give the Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and First Generation college attendees the opportunity to go to college and have access to health sciences programs.

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.

As of today, 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. This is important because as more people getting older and living longer, all the more we need trained healthcare professionals that will take care of the elderly population. 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.

Students attending UH West Oahu from Waianae, Nanakuli, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Wailua and Wahiawa 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 and other First Generation college attendees. 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.

If you have any question you can contact me on my cellphone at 808-230-5094 or via email at [tbrelles@hawaii.edu](mailto:tbrelles@hawaii.edu). Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Teofilo B. Rellesiva Jr.

March 12, 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 have been a Hawaii resident since 1984 and living in West Oahu for the last 25 years.

I am also a student at UH West Oahu and will soon obtain a bachelors degree in public administration with a concentration in health care administration. 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 is in high school or college, these vital skills will be taught in our own community. 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 critical to Hawaii's sustainability, fundamentally and economically, considering our location in the Pacific and service to other island nations and countries. Your support for SB 1294 means providing higher education and employment that will enable us to live and thrive in West Oahu, our home.

Respectfully,



David Aponte  
92-1260 Makakilo Dr  
Kapolei, HI 96707  
(808) 672-6499

**COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

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TIME:    10:00 am  
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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294**

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

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates, and members of the committee, I am Dr. Winona K. Lee, a pediatrician and Assistant Professor in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at 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 recently presented its findings and recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 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:

- Current data suggests that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college when compared to other ethnic groups. This is partially 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 employment opportunities are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040. This academy will allow students to pursue valuable degrees and training that will increase their potential to succeed in health professional careers and earn a livable wage in the State of Hawai'i.
- As a Native Hawaiian/Filipino, first-generation college student, navigating through college to eventually become a physician proved to be a difficult journey, made possible with additional resources, mentors, and a supportive family. This Health Sciences Academy will create a strong foundation to help support Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and first generation college students achieve success in higher education.

Respectfully submitted by,

Winona K. Lee, MD

# University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu - Student Testimony

## SB1294 - SD1: 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

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Addressing: COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair & Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Rep. Gregg Takayama, Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Rep. Cynthia Thielen, Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti

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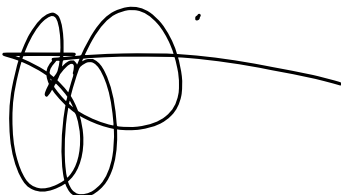
On behalf of the students pursuing a higher education within the University of Hawaii System, I, Ryan Bradley Domingo, a student at the University of Hawaii at West Oahu, fully support the objective of SB1294 - SD 1, specifically in its pursuit of standardizing a proper bachelor's program relating to Health Sciences, most notably within the areas of Allied Health. Currently, involved partnerships form varying stakeholders within the educational setting such as the University of Hawaii System, JABSOM, Native Hawaiian Health Task Force, as well as other entities have come forward to show their support for the bill aforementioned.

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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

March 14, 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 resident of Hawaii and I live in Wahiawa, a proud Alumna of Leilehua High School.

I am also a student at UH West Oahu, currently standing as a sophomore pursuing a Bachelor of Health Care Administration degree 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.

Thank you for your acknowledgement.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lovely Joy Yanuaria

## **COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

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Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

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### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294**

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

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, my name is Robin E. S. Miyamoto, I am a Clinical Psychologist with the 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.
- 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  
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March 14, 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 have provided health care to the poor and underserved in this wonderful state of Hawaii for over 35 years. I have practiced pediatrics in Kalihi, Hilo, Puna, Kau, Waianae, Waipahu, Nanakuli and Kapolei. In addition, for over 25 years, I have been a Medical Director at 3 community health centers (Kalihi-Palama, Bay Clinic and Waianae Coast Comprehensive). I know and have experienced the physician shortage first hand. This is the reason I helped start the A.T. Stills School of Osteopathic Medicine in Waianae, the Nurse Practitioner Residency Program at Kalihi-Palama and the Kulia Mentorship Program.

A true epiphany occurred when I accepted the position of Associate Professor of Health Sciences at UH West Oahu. When initially offered the position, I had to learn what the Health Sciences were. To my surprise I found that the health care worker shortage in Health Science is greater than the shortage for physicians and nurses. 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).

Hawaii truly has an opportunity to become a leader and innovator in the field of Health Sciences. UH West Oahu is the perfect incubator. Kapolei, Waipahu, Campbell, Waianae, Nanakuli, Farrington, Wailua and Leilehua are the high schools my students come from. Most are Native Hawaiian and Filipino. They are underrepresented in all health care career fields. Their abilities, talents and ambitions also are underestimated by most. I have been surprised by the capability, creativity and professionalism I have seen. Their family and life experiences have made them more compassionate and more motivated.

These students need a program that will give them purpose. They need careers that will allow them to serve their communities as well as give them a means of making a living. Hawaii needs a pipeline of undergraduate trained Health Science workers because there are no bachelor's level degrees offered in Hawaii.

Please support SB 1294. The future health and wellness of Hawaii's people depends on the outcomes of this endeavor. The final evaluation of success will be in the quality and number of our graduates serving our communities. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ricardo C. Custodio, MD, MPH  
rcustodio1@hawaii.rr.com / 808-799-8634

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 11, 2017 8:58 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** launahele@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Mar 14, 2017 10:00AM\*

**SB1294**

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for OMH on Mar 14, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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**SB1294**

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for OMH on Mar 14, 2017 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard P. Creagan

Rep. Gregg Takayama

Rep. Lynn DeCoite

Rep. Cynthia Thielen

Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2017

TIME: 10:00 am

PLACE: Conference Room 312

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294**

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

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, my name is Shelley Soong, I am a 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. 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

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

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

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Tuesday February 28, 2017 at 1:35 PM  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294**

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

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee, I am Mahina Paishon-Duarte, a Hawaiian culture-based public charter school principal. 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.

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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.
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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,



Mahina Paishon-Duarte  
Head of School, Secondary Program