



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs
February 3, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

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

HB 1542 – RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1542. This testimony represents collaborative leadership that includes Chancellor Maenette Benham, University of Hawaii – West Oahu; 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 University of Hawai'i supports passage of HB 1542 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.



University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

HB 1542 (§304A): 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

Testifier(s):

Ryan Bradley Domingo

University of Hawaii West Oahu - Student Body

1001 Farrington Hwy, Kapolei, HI 96707

Date & Time: Friday, February 3, 2017 9:30 am

Place: Conference Room 312 State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Addressing:

COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

- Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair & Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair
- Honorable Members: Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti, Rep. Gregg Takayama, Rep. Cynthia Thielen

On behalf of the students pursuing a higher education within the University of Hawaii System, we represent the student body of the University of Hawaii at West Oahu, in pursuit of standardizing a proper bachelor's program relating to Health Sciences, specifically concerning the area of Allied Health at which HB 1542: §304A touches upon.

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. 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.

UHWO students not only represents a melting pot of backgrounds, but also of a diversified interest in various fields of study. As an indigenous-serving institution, students are provisioned by the ideology of *kuleana* - our innate responsibility to give back to the community. Through the establishment of a Health Science Academy forefronted by the West O'ahu campus, it opens the door for many students to pursue a career within the fields of medicine, allied health, behavioral health, biomedical, biology, and more. These fields are important when accounting their future prospects and needs within the community, especially when considering Hawaii's aging population. Furthermore, these fields lack a high representation of indigenous groups such as Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos - which UHWO majorly composes of.

The sustainability of such professions are predominantly based on interest and need. Currently, UHWO does not have any localized degree pertaining to health sciences - specifically allied health, which is of necessity if we account the proliferating need within the medical workforce. With a great interest from students in terms of enacting a program that concerns allied health, it grants a future that corresponds to the growing urgency of supplying for such needs within our communities.

University of Hawaii at West Oahu sits on fertile land which is assumed to have been used to cultivate food for the Native Hawaiian communities that resided within the area. Conforming with the traditions, it is time to cultivate students to further serve our communities, flourishing the areas of allied health professions. The actions presented by HB 1542 not only benefits us, the students, but also the plethora of communities that the university serves.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Representative Kaniela Ing, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Friday February 3, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am Andrea Herмосura, PhD, an Assistant Professor, 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 HB 1542. 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, including:

- 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,



Andrea Hermosura, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

February 3, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Kaiela Ing, Vice Chair Cedric Asuega Gates and honored members of the Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs,

Unbeknownst to most, the shortage of Allied Health Workers in Hawaii and in the nation is greater than the shortage of physicians and nurses. Allied Health constitutes 60% of the healthcare workforce (6 million out of 11 million workers). With over 85 different occupations, they include aides, assistants, technicians, technologists and therapists. They work in outpatient clinics, hospitals, health centers, care homes, laboratories, radiology units, surgical suites, ER's and health departments. Job titles include medical assistant, dental hygienist, respiratory therapist, ultrasound technician, comm., health worker, home health aide or occupational therapist. Allied Health has 19 out of the 30 fastest growing jobs in the US 2014 to 2024 (US BLS).

Given this need, Hawaii truly has an opportunity to become a leader and innovator in the field of Allied Health. UH West Oahu is the perfect incubator. Our students come from the communities of Kapolei, Waipahu, Ewa Beach, Waianae, Nanakuli, Wailua and Wahiawa. Most are Native Hawaiian and Filipino. They are underrepresented in all health care career fields. They also are underestimated by most. They have shown us their creativity, professionalism and capability. Their life's experiences have 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 undergraduate trained allied health workers. Although Allied Health 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 to advanced degrees for entry level practice. Presently, Hawaii does not offer a bachelor's level degree in Allied Health.

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 HB 1542. 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. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



UH West Oahu Allied Health Faculty
Dr. Kristina Guo, Health Care 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, Health Care Administration

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

Friday February 3, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542 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 HB 1542. 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.
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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 by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph K. Kaholokula". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'K'.

Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, PhD
On behalf of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Date: February 3, 2017

Where: Conference Room 312

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Ing, Vice Chair Gates, and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 1542 Relating to Native Hawaiian Education.**

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Ing, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū Gates, a me nā Lālā Lunamaka'āinana o kēia Kōmike, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support HB 1542**, relating to Native Hawaiian Education and offer the following comments:

This measure establishes 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 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 a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian learners. We believe that by continuing to engage in dialog around important educational policy decisions, we can contribute in a positive and meaningful way. 'A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:14 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1542 on Feb 3, 2017 09:30AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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HB1542

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for OMH on Feb 3, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	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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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Kaniela Ing, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am Mary Frances Oneha, a member of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force. I wish to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1542. 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:

- 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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- 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 and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Aloha mai, Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, 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 HB 1542. 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.
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Thank you for your consideration.

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

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Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am Claire Townsend Ing, a multiethnic African American, and a faculty 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 HB 1542. 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 is one of 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians offered by the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force, co-chaired by our department. 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.
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African Americans can access Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that are geared toward their needs as a group. Research has shown that, compared to African Americans who graduated from other schools, those with degrees from HBCUs report a greater sense of purpose and community and better social, physical, and financial well-being. The University of Hawai'i is where Native Hawaiians turn for a similar experience. I ask you to help them succeed by voting for the establishment of a health sciences academy for Native Hawaiians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH
Assistant Professor
Dept of Native Hawaiian Health

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Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am Ernel Roque, a Administrative Associate, 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 as well as the Hawaii Chapter Executive for the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of HB 1542. 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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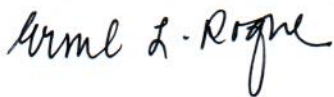
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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnel L. Rojano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Kaniela Ing, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Friday February 3, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, my name is Robin Miyamoto. I am a clinical psychologist and assistant professor at 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 HB 1542. 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,

Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D.

Assistant Professor
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Kaniela Ing, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am Chessa Harris, MBA, a Native Hawaiian, and a faculty 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 HB 1542. 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,
Chessa Harris, MBA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Kaniela Ing, Chair

Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Aloha e Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee,

I am Winona Lee, a pediatrician and faculty member in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of HB 1542. This bill would contribute to the development 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 am in support of HB 1542 for the following reasons:

- Current data suggests 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.
- The development of a Health Sciences Academy would increase access to higher education for these students who have faced challenges to succeed in the health sciences and health professions. By creating an undergraduate health sciences academy, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students would have stronger academic, professional and personal support networks that would contribute to their future success in higher education.
- As a Native Hawaiian/Filipino, first generation college student, I found the navigation through college courses difficult but possible with the help of my family, mentors, and support networks. I would not have become a pediatrician and mentor for other students were it not for the help that was provided to me early in my academic career.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,



Winona K. Lee, MD

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Kaniela Ing, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am 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 HB 1542. 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:

- 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.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040, 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, DrPH(c)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542

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 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 HB 1542.

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 HB 1542 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 HB 1542 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, MBA
Waimānalo, HI

omhtestimony

From: Ryan Bradley Domingo <ryan4652@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:41 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Testimony Revision [HB1542]
Attachments: UHWOSB-StudentTestimony - Ryan Domingo.pdf

Aloha,

I would like to turn in a revision of the testimony that I have submitted pertaining to HB1542. This revision contains an embossed signature that was absent from the original testimony.

The original testimony was for the following event and submitted by the following organization:

Testimony for OMH on Feb 3, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Bradley Domingo	University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu - Student Body	Support	Yes

Thank you!

--
Ryan Bradley Domingo
Student, University of Hawaii - WO

omhtestimony

From: CPH Testimony
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:52 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: FW: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542

From: kim.y [mailto:kyama22@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:47 AM
To: CPH Testimony <CPHTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Representative Kaniela Ing, Chair
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Friday February 3, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 312
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415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1542

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Ing, Vice-Chair Gates and members of the committee, I am a Pacific Islander from the Island of Saipan, 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 HB 1542. 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 and Pacific Islanders 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 Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander 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/Pacific Islander 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.

Si yu'us ma'ase & Mahalo for you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kimberly B. Yamauchi



BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, &
CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Hawaii State Legislature, February 2, 2017

House Bill No. 1542
Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education

Aloha Chair Ing, and Vice Chair Gates,

The Ka Lahui Hawaii Political Action Committee (KPAC) supports HB 1542 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