



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 14, 2017 at 1:15 p.m.

By
David Lassner, President
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1594 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of HB 1594 HD1**. This measure would establish a new scholarship program called Hawai'i's Promise that provides support for students with financial need, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, to attend any campus of the University of Hawai'i system.

Hawai'i's Promise would be a "last dollar" scholarship. Other sources of financial aid such as federal Pell grants, UH opportunity scholarships, and other public and privately sponsored scholarships would be applied first, and then Hawai'i's Promise would support unmet needs for tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation. This measure would allow any Hawai'i resident who meets the eligibility criteria to attend a UH campus, at no direct cost beyond the Estimated Family Contribution. We are confident that this measure will encourage more students to attend a UH campus and will advance the State's 55 by 25 goal -- that 55% of the Hawai'i's working age population should hold a post-secondary degree by 2025.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates all the support that the Hawai'i Promise Program is receiving and looks forward to working with the Legislature in fine-tuning the language of this bill as it continues thru the process. However, as currently drafted the program would only be available to full-time students. Additionally, the University wanted to point out that as currently drafted, the language for the repayment provision on page 6 would be considered a loan rather than a scholarship and would require all students to sign a written agreement understanding the payback provisions of such a loan before receiving any funding. In addition, the University would like to request that the GPA requirements be consistent with federal guidelines for students to receive a Pell Grant. Without this alignment of requirements, a student could be placed in a position where they were in good standing with the Federal and other University programs but out of compliance with the Hawai'i Promise scholarship. The student would be placed in the position of having to use his or her need based financial aid to pay back the State rather than having it applied to the cost of attendance. Finally, the program as currently drafted would only be available to full-time students. This would exclude significant numbers of students, especially in the community colleges.

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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1594, HD 1
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

March 13, 2017

The Senate Higher Education Committee

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, *Chair*

Michelle N. Kidani, *Vice Chair*

Members:

Senator Will Espero

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Senator Brian Taniguchi

THANK YOU for hearing HB 1594, HD1, the companion bill of SB 1162 which you so thoughtfully recommended to be passed.

The Faculty Senate at Leeward Community College, voting unanimously, strongly supports HB 1594 to establish the University of Hawaii Promise Program, providing scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any of the campuses of the University of Hawai'i.

The Leeward CC Faculty Senate represents over 300 faculty members of the College in the various disciplines such as the Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Math and Science, Language Arts, Business, and Professional Arts & Technology. In terms of residence, faculty members are widely dispersed across Oahu.

The Leeward CC Faculty Senate particularly supports a "tuition-free" community college education, but recognizes the broader impact of a scholarship program for qualified students across the university system. Most of our students work part-time as they navigate the rigors of higher education. Many of them have taken out loans with high interest rates just to pay for college. Some promising students have discontinued their studies because of financial limitations.

HB 1594 is a very a sound and common-sense initiative. The University of Hawai'i Promise Program would be an investment that will reap far-reaching rewards. We ask that you pass the bill.

On behalf of the Leeward CC Faculty Senate,

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

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

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



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
LEEWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Arts & Humanities Division
Philippine Studies Program

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF **HB 1594, HD 1**
Relating to the University of Hawai`i Promise Program

March 13, 2017

The Senate Higher Education Committee

Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Members:

Senator Will Espero

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Senator Brian Taniguchi

My name is Raymund Liongson, associate professor and coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program (Arts & Humanities) at the University of Hawaii-Leeward, and a resident of Ewa Beach, HI. The Philippine Studies Program is in strong support for HB 1594, relating to the University of Hawai`i Promise Program.

As a college faculty member and student club adviser, I have been privileged to work with hundreds of young promising students. I have witnessed their personal struggles and successes. I have seen them dream and strive, celebrate and resign. Many of them are able and gifted; but as many are not as blessed in their resources. Many of them struggle to make a living while studying, sometimes not knowing which one to yield to first – to the economic requirements of life or to the financial demands of education. I know of students buried in educational loans and struggling hard to start a productive and rewarding life even after graduation. I am also aware of numerous students who have given up their dream of obtaining higher education because they can no longer afford it. Our students need a “life line” and we are confident the State can help provide that.

Our youth and the future should be our primary concern. This is why we educate. This is why we legislate. This is why we govern. It is because we care not only of the present, but because we recognize the future as sacred and inescapable. Let us, therefore, invest in them.

Society is increasingly becoming more sophisticated and competitive. To prevail, one needs to be equipped with higher-level knowledge and optimized capacities. Higher education is the path to realize that and HB 1594, the House counterpart bill for SB 1162, is the courageous and prudent initiative to fulfill it. This is why we give our full and strong support for this bill. We ask the Senate Higher Education Committee to please pass it.

Thank you for hearing HB 1594, HB 1 and for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

Raymund Liongson, Ph.D.

liongson@hawaii.edu

(808) 381-4315 (Mobile)



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

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594, HD 1
Relating To The University of Hawai'i Promise Program

To: Senate Higher Education Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
Attn: Sen Kaialii Kahele, Chair
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Sen. Will Espero
Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi

Date: March 11, 2017

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

My name is Aelyssa Grace Sabado-Macanas, president of KASAMA, the Philippine Studies Student Society at University Of Hawai'i: Leeward Community College. KASAMA stands in full support of House Bill 1594.

We are pushing for the UH Promise Scholarship because we believe that higher education is a pathway for a more stable life and career. Many of us have to work, sometimes multiple jobs in order to pay for our tuition fees and book expenses which greatly affects our studies. Some have to take out loans to pay tuition and purchase books. Tuition and book costs has been increasing throughout the years making it more difficult for us to afford higher education. As higher education fees increase, the amount of loans being taken out by students also increases making it harder for low-income students to attend college. Some of those who can no longer afford to buy their books and pay their tuition ends up dropping out of college and lose their opportunity to improve their lives. In addition to that, the high cost of living in Hawai'i makes it difficult to afford college and university education.

The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will greatly help us, especially those who really want to continue their studies but are not able to due to financial difficulties. Higher education is an instrument for social and economic mobility. We are living in a highly competitive global

economy, and opportunities for students to pursue higher education need to be increased in order to compete globally.

I want to thank Chairman Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani, and the Senate Higher Education Committee for the opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 1594.

Sincerely,

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



Senate Higher Education Committee
1:15pm March 14, 2017

Testimony in support HB1594 HD1 UH Promise Program
Testimony submitted by Faye Kennedy, co-chair
3071 Felix St, Honolulu 96816

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee

I am representing, the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights in strong support of HB1594 HD1. HFCR supports policies and programs that support diversity, inclusion, access and non-discrimination. This bill provides needed scholarship support to financially needy students at the Community Colleges, Hilo, Manoa and West O'ahu. HB 1594 HD1 would include financially needy students at all the ten campuses of the University. There are financially needy students at all our campuses. An investment in our students will help these students and their families obtain a college education, become educated citizens and become productive members of our state's workforce.

Senate Committee on Higher Education
1:15pm March 14, 2017

Testimony in support HB1594 HD1 UH Promise Program
Testimony submitted by
Amy Agbayani, chair
Filipino-American Advocacy Network (FAN)
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hi 96819

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee

I am representing, Filipino-Americans Advocacy Network in strong support of HB1594 HD1. FAN advocates for equity, diversity and inclusion for Filipino students and families in our state. Filipinos are now the second largest group in the state and the public schools. They are adequately represented among the Community Colleges although not enough transfer to the four year campuses. They are most under-represented at Manoa. The Filipino community continues to struggle financially and this bill would help Filipino and other low income groups with low percentages with two or four year degrees.

We respectfully urge you to approve HB1594hd1 to provide financial support for low income students at all ten campuses on all islands. We strongly support HB1594 hd1 because it includes four year campuses. There are financially needy students at Hilo, Manoa and West O'ahu campuses.

This bill will not only help our students and their families fulfill their hopes but will also help our economy and our future.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1
House Higher Education Committee
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

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

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories. I am happy to submit strong support for this bill.

Institutional support through scholarships for qualified students consistent with the provisions of this bill is essential to promote access, diversity, and leadership development for Hawai'i's future leaders. Inadequate financial resources is an obstacle for students who cannot rise above the systemic and persistent disparities without financial assistance. While financial need affects students across the board, one example of the insurmountable uneven barrier is seen with Filipinos, where they comprise 21 percent of public school students, but only 12 percent of students at UH Mānoa; where Filipinos make up a large segment of community college students, but their transfer rates to 4-year degrees and advanced professional degrees at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa are disproportionately low. Subsequently, it is unacceptable that Filipinos, compared to other groups, are overrepresented in entry level service jobs and underrepresented in executive positions. Rising to become the second largest ethnic group (15% by one race only, 25% by more than one race) in Hawai'i since 2010 is not keeping pace with the investment in resources needed for parity to uplift a disproportionate part of our community from service workers to colleagues. If given the support today, more Filipinos will have the potential to make substantive contributions in fields vital to Hawai'i's economic health and quality of life. More importantly, this bill will build the capacity of qualified scholarship recipients to break the cycle of income inequality in their own family, in this generation, in our Aloha State.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to offer strong support for you to advance student excellence and equity for qualified students in Hawai'i's institutions of higher learning on every island.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

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

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

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Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1 House Higher Education Committee March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

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

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

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

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

As a registered voter and constituent in District 32, Salt Lake, and as community research partners and mentors with University of Hawai'i Filipino students who are first to go to college in their family, low income, and under-represented in higher education, NAMI and I have seen firsthand, the successful track record of student achievement. Scholarships for eligible students with unmet financial needs are essential for Hawai'i's economic and social well-being. Our students have gone on to medical school, and are nursing and public health professionals who are addressing health disparities and helping to keep the cost of health care down with education and prevention.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit testimony to encourage this bill's passage.

Sincerely,

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

Filipino American Citizens League

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1
House Higher Education Committee
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Subject: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594**

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

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of this bill. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over twenty years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

The achievements and contributions of Filipinos in Hawai'i since 1906 have been well documented. But as we enter upon the 111th year of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Filipinos and other disadvantaged groups including Native Hawaiians, Samoan, Pacific Islanders, low income, LGBTQ, Hispanics, African Americans and more still have a long way to go to attain parity in society.

Our Coalition is concerned about all disadvantaged students. In particular, we are aware of the disproportionate number of Filipino students who are under-achieving and struggling in our public schools and underrepresented in our state colleges and university. What are the root causes of this? Filipinos are under-represented in executive positions, and over-represented in low-paying entry level positions with little or no job security in the visitor, service, food, retail, construction, and agricultural industries. This segment of Filipinos in Hawai'i's workforce can never afford the cost of middle class comforts and stability for themselves and their families because of income inequality, no matter how many part-time jobs they squeeze into 24 hours, often, at the expense of not seeing their children.

That is why we taxpayers should be investing in, not divesting from education. Students who would qualify for these scholarships will be the economic engine for Hawai'i's future.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill and advocate for the financial assistance for all qualified students in our UH system.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
Senate Higher Education Committee
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Members:

Sen. Will Espero

Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi

From: Djojeanne Simon

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 to establish the University of Hawaii Promise Program, providing scholarship for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system.

My name is **Djojeanne Simon**. I am a University of Hawaii student, studying at UH Leeward. I graduated from Waipahu High School with honors. Now, aside from school, I also work at a theater. However, despite that I have been working, my mom still refuses to let me contribute to our bills. She said that I should save the money for the future just in case FAFSA stops to provide for my tuition. And that is why I support HB 1594.

If it were not for FAFSA, I would not be able to continue studying, as the money I earn is not enough to cover my tuition either. My mom is still paying off the loans of my older brother, added to that is the house rent, phone bills, and other necessities. I am in support of the said bill, not only because of me, but also, I know there are other students who are doing their best to balance work and school. We also have to think of those who aspire to study but cannot afford to. Personally, I am afraid if I will be able to continue due to college costs. My dream is to be a clinical psychologist, or even psychiatrist. Would it be too much to say that I also want to be a drama teacher? It is really heartbreaking that what is hindering you from achieving your dreams is money.

So, I am really grateful to those who submitted HB 1594. You gave us, who really loves learning, a hope.

Thank you,
Djojeanne Simon

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele
Chair, Higher Education Committee

From: Marjorie Kay Raquiz

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594, HD1

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

Hi my name is Marjorie Kay Raquiz. I am a resident of Waipahu, District 94. I am a current student of Leeward Community College. This is my second semester in college. I am majoring in Computer Science and currently working on my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. I will be transferring to University of Hawaii Manoa in Fall 2018 to pursue my Master's Degree in Computer Science.

I am supporting UH Promise Program because I know it will help a lot of people who wants to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams like me. College cost a lot of money and money should not be the reason for people not to go after their dreams. In my family, there's two of us that are attending college. My sister is attending UH Manoa and I'm attending Leeward Community College. Since community colleges only offers Associate's degree, I will need to transfer to graduate school to get my Master's degree. Universities like UH Manoa, where I will be transferring to, cost a lot more than the tuition fee at any community colleges. Because of the cost of attendance, I must work longer hours just to save up for my education. This is not just me, but almost everyone who goes to college. This bill is a very big help to every college students who are struggling to balance work and their studies at the same time.

I would like to thank you for supporting the bill. It will help a lot of people who wants to pursue higher education, but are not financially ready to pay for all the fees and the tuition. I am sure that everyone is willing to work hard to meet all the requirements that comes with the bill and make sure that all your hard work to pass this bill and help college students will not go to waste. Once again thank you very much.

The Senate HRE

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear HRE Chair Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele,

My name is Sheldene Pola and I reside in Newtown Estates, Hawaii. I am a business student currently attending Leeward Community College and I am finishing up my last semester before I graduate with an Associate's Degree.

I am writing in strong support for HB 1594, HD1. Providing scholarships for deserving students will establish a successful and rewarding future for those who were unable to get financial assistance. With more people having the opportunity to pursue a higher education, it will give those people and future generations a more financially secure life. This bill along with its companion bill, SB 1162, will assure Hawaii's promising students that they will get their chance at a better education and a better life. Thank you for taking the time for reading this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Sheldene Pola

Dear Senator Kaiali'i Kahele,

First of all, Thank you for hearing the HB1594 bill that seeks to provides a scholarship for deserving but financially in need students. My name is Marc Agacid and I currently reside in the city of Ewa Beach. I am currently attending Leeward Community College in hopes of finishing my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. My goal after getting my two-year degree is to major in Kinesiology and get my Bachelors degree in UH Manoa and after that hopefully get my Masters Degree in Physical Therapy. I have been working really hard to keep my grades up like many other students in the campus. I am writing this letter to show my support for the HB1594 which is the companion bill of SB1162 bill regarding the state of Hawaii offering free community college to their students. This bill will not only help me in the future but also many other students who are currently going to the school and also others who are planning on attending a community college.

I really hope that you the Senator of the Higher Education Committee really take all the hard working students into consideration when deciding whether to pass this bill or not. I believe that giving the scholarship to students in need will be really helpful to many students like me who are full-time students and are to find time to get a job to help pay for the tuitions. In my experience trying to look for a job to fit my schedule at the same time trying to keep my GPA up is pretty tiresome, with free college it could really lighten up a lot of the burden and worry I have about paying tuition. Also, I currently read online that San Francisco has recently approved a similar bill that gives free community college to students so if San Francisco can do that Hawaii too can have a free community college. All of the hard working students really need help from our government and you, the Senator of the Higher Education Committee have the power to help our struggling students. Show us that all our strive and hard work is really worth it, in the end, our strive to get a higher education should be enough proof that we the students will not take what this bill have to offer for granted.

I hope and pray that you the Senator, will make the right decision and pass the bill to help many deserving students. I would like to thank you the people in the Hawaii State Senate for giving this bill a chance to help many community colleges a chance of getting a higher education. Whatever the decision, in the end, will be I hope students will benefit and still get what they strive for. Thank you for hearing my thoughts on this topic and I wish you all well on this very important state matter.

Sincerely,
Marc Agacid

Testimony in support of HB 1594, hD1

13 March 2017

Filemon Evangel Lancelot C. Lagon III
94-464 Mahoe St.
Flagon@hawaii.edu

Good Morning my name is Filemon Evangel Lancelot C. Lagon III, I am a student of Leeward Community College, and Currently working at United Parcel Services in airport ramp, also a member of US Hawaii Army National Guard E-4/Specialist.

Dear honorable Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair Higher Education Committee

As a full time student here in Leeward Community College i am financially stable and are able to pay for all my classes with the support of my military benefits as i take full advantage of the things that the military has provided me. Some students Doesn't get the benefits that i have because as most of them are not part of service and some of the students needs support financially as not only they struggle on how to pay for school but also has to help their families and themselves in order to live.

I Support HB 1594,HD1 Because I believe that Students with low income needs all the support as they are preparing to serve and work for Hawaii one day as they graduate with a degree. Students could have a good lift if we support this bill
All of the younger generation students also would not have to worry about going to school and find a way to pay for what they need in school as they are more focused on studying and getting a good grade in Schools like Community Colleges. The bill will also be a great investment in the future as if it will be passed down.

Dear Senator Kaiali'i Kahele,

First of all, Thank you for hearing the HB1594 bill that seeks to provides a scholarship for deserving but financially in need students. My name is Marc Agacid and I currently reside in the city of Ewa Beach. I am currently attending Leeward Community College in hopes of finishing my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. My goal after getting my two-year degree is to major in Kinesiology and get my Bachelors degree in UH Manoa and after that hopefully get my Masters Degree in Physical Therapy. I have been working really hard to keep my grades up like many other students in the campus. I am writing this letter to show my support for the HB1594 which is the companion bill of SB1162 bill regarding the state of Hawaii offering free community college to their students. This bill will not only help me in the future but also many other students who are currently going to the school and also others who are planning on attending a community college.

I really hope that you the Senator of the Higher Education Committee really take all the hard working students into consideration when deciding whether to pass this bill or not. I believe that giving the scholarship to students in need will be really helpful to many students like me who are full-time students and are to find time to get a job to help pay for the tuitions. In my experience trying to look for a job to fit my schedule at the same time trying to keep my GPA up is pretty tiresome, with free college it could really lighten up a lot of the burden and worry I have about paying tuition. Also, I currently read online that San Francisco has recently approved a similar bill that gives free community college to students so if San Francisco can do that Hawaii too can have a free community college. All of the hard working students really need help from our government and you, the Senator of the Higher Education Committee have the power to help our struggling students. Show us that all our strive and hard work is really worth it, in the end, our strive to get a higher education should be enough proof that we the students will not take what this bill have to offer for granted.

I hope and pray that you the Senator, will make the right decision and pass the bill to help many deserving students. I would like to thank you the people in the Hawaii State Senate for giving this bill a chance to help many community colleges a chance of getting a higher education. Whatever the decision, in the end, will be I hope students will benefit and still get what they strive for. Thank you for hearing my thoughts on this topic and I wish you all well on this very important state matter.

Sincerely,
Marc Agacid

Analyn Shimabuku
617 Hoohale Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

03-12-17

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

My name is Analyn Shimabuku and I reside at 617 Hoohale Street, Pearl City, Hawaii. I am a second year college student at Leeward Community College. I am taking associates in physical science. My future goal is to be a nurse.

I am writing you to ask that you make HB 1594 a priority bill because it will help students who are struggling with the high cost of education while pursuing their degree. I am grateful for the opportunity that the grants have provided for my education. I would implore you to fight for our opportunities to receive funding to continue our education.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letter letting me know if you are able to pass a Bill that would establish scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any University of Hawaii campuses and to appropriate funds to establish and implement the program.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,

Analyn Shimabuku

Dear Senator Kaiali'i Kahele,

I support HB 1594 because it supports the future of our nation, the future of the people who will be running our nation, and creating a better future for those who may not be as privileged as others.

I support this bill because it will provide scholarships for deserving, hardworking, and motivated individuals who need financial help. A lot of the time, individuals are so motivated to earn a better education for themselves in order to create a better life for their own kids one day. I do have to say that many of the immigrants here, no matter where they came from, they have a common goal. And that goal is to provide a better future for their kids someday. My parents immigrated to Hawaii to work and save money so that they can send me to college to earn a degree. They work at a farm and no matter how hard it is and how hot it is on the field, they continue to work hard so that they can afford to support our family and send me to college. Living in Hawaii is expensive as we all know, this bill will help the less privileged families live a little more comfortably.

America is known as the land of opportunity and equality but some of us may know that, that is not quite true in some ways. The rich gets richer, and the poor gets poorer. The biggest aspect to this concept is because the poor cannot afford a higher education and thus causes the rich to become richer. The rich becomes richer because they are simply more privileged, financially and economically. I hope that the passing of this bill will help decrease the distance of equality between those seeking a higher education.

I want to say thank you for supporting the youth and our future. I do hope that this bill will be passed. The results will be amazing and being apart of the passing of this bill will be memorable and life changing for thousands of people.

Aloha Senator Kaiali'i Kahele,

My name is Glen Esteban, a second-year student at Leeward Community College. I'd like to share my testimony on the bill HB 1594. In many ways, this bill provides the benefits and advantages that would not only support students entering colleges or universities but also anyone seeking a higher education without the expense of holding/increasing a financial burden. As a student, I can see how difficult it would be to climb up and gain a higher education due to the weight of debt pulling down. It's not just me but also many others before and ahead of me. Seeing how this bill can liberate students from these limitations, I support this bill and the brighter future it promises.

The bill HB 1594 allows everyone to ascend higher in their education and ultimately in life. This isn't something to be taken away or prohibited. I certainly feel this way. I see other states and even countries like the Philippines where students can attend community colleges without being placed under a loan or debt. I see my mother who wishes for a better job but can't go any further because of the overall cost of gaining a higher education. I see my little brother and my little sister and the better future that they *can* have without worrying about college costs.

I support the bill HB 1594 on the basis that it will provide financial relief and open opportunities for all in forthcoming school years. I think being limited in one's education because one can't afford to improve it is stupid and absurd. This bill shouldn't be seen as a free pass to students, rather, a much needed leap forward for improving the availability of a higher education. I believe this bill will plant the seeds for a generation where education requires a strong will and not a fat wallet. I see the future and just how bright it can be.

Mahalo,
Glen Esteban

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele

HRE Chair

From: Christine Kaye Guira

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1

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

Hello my name is Christine Kaye Guira, I am currently studying at Leeward Community College and I am majoring in computer science. This is now my second semester in college. Someday, I want to achieve my goal of becoming a computer science degree holder because I want to contribute in expanding the industry of technology and give back what society have given me.

I support this bill because this is the companion bill of SB 1162 that seeks to provide scholarship for deserving but financially in need students. I also believe that education is very important because it gives us the baseline to survive as adults in this world. The courses that each of us are achieving will someday help our economy grow, every individual have their own dreams and we all want to achieve those dreams that we have but if money is a problem for everyone, I hope that you will help us. Education is always the key to success and getting a higher-level education will help us get a secure and decent job that can produce enough money for our everyday spending.

Thank you for supporting this bill, that can help a lot of college students with their problem with money and not only that you support it, instead you really pushed it to be put in hearing. I hope this bill will be passed as soon as possible. We are willing to study hard to get the grade that you require.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
The Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members: Will Espero, Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Brian T. Taniguchi

From: Tricia May A. Mauricio

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at a University of Hawaii community college. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

My name is Tricia May A. Mauricio. I am a University of Hawaii student at the Leeward Community College campus. I live in Pearl City, District 35, my Senate Representative is Senator Clarence K. Nishihara and my House Representative is Representative Roy M. Takumi. I strongly support HB 1594.

I am in strong support for this bill because I am the first in my family to attend college. My mother and I are the only breadwinners in our family and we live paycheck to paycheck, supporting our household and extended family. My mother endures weeks at a time working and only coming home for a change of clothes and a bite to eat. Whereas I spend weeks with little to no sleep working two jobs and attending school full time. This scholarship would greatly help to alleviate, at least, the expenses needed for school. This bill will be especially helpful because my younger brother will be entering college this fall, and my sister will follow soon after. My family, as is for others, strongly believes that higher education means attaining a better job, therefore improving Hawaii's economic and social mobility. If that is the case, then higher education needs not only to be encouraged, but also affordable and attainable for those willing and dedicated to gain the higher education they deserve.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass HB 1594.

Sincerely,
Tricia May A. Mauricio

Dear Senate's Higher Education Committee,

Good day Senator Kaiali'i Kahele and all the members of the HRE committee. I am writing this testimony as a support for the House Bill 1594 (UH Promise Program) about free higher education for students who meet the requirements of the bill. Before I further show my support for this bill, I want to introduce myself first. My name is May Christine Ines. I am from Waialua in the North Shore of Oahu. I studied at Waialua High and Intermediate School. I graduated as one of the valedictorians last year as a part of the class of 2016. I am currently in my second semester of college at Leeward Community College. For further clarification about my stance, you can freely call me at (808)723-0795 or email me at ines2@hawaii.edu.

"Higher education should not be a debt sentence," a quote from my ASAN205 class. This quote was written in a white paper as my fellow classmates went downtown to rally for support of HB Bill 1594 back before the HER committee first held a hearing for this bill on February 9, 2017. I think this quote is pretty powerful considering the fact that it is true. I have a few friends who have loans after loans after loans just to finance themselves to go to college. As soon as they graduate from college, they pay these huge amount of debts that were piled during the course of their college life. I believe that that should not be the case. We should not pay to learn. We should not get loans in order to have a knowledge; a knowledge the world will need in the future. Or should I say, we, ourselves, are the future? We have the potential to better the world we live in today. There are people (especially the poor ones) who weren't even given a chance to go to school, in the first place, just because of financial issues. What if those who didn't have an opportunity to maximize their potentials have the knowledge to cure cancer? We wouldn't probably know about that unless they are given an opportunity to show off their skills. All I am saying is, students should not be in debt just to have the knowledge all of us will be benefited for

in the near future. Poverty should never be a hindrance to learn but rather a motivation to go on. Knowledge shouldn't be hindered by lack of finance, alone. We should all have equal opportunities to go to school, have a degree, and change the world.

Before I end this letter, I want to thank you for considering this bill. Thank you for making this bill a *bill*. I appreciate all the efforts you guys have given in order for this bill to happen. I will pray and hope for the best in the upcoming hearing tomorrow, March 14th. I will be with you along the way.

Respectfully Yours,

May Christine Ines

Attention: Senate Higher Education Committee,

My name is Ro-Ann Delos Reyes and I am currently a student at Leeward Community College. I am currently residing in Kapolei. Personally as a mother and a student I strongly support bill HB 1594, HD1 because I feel that higher education will benefit our society. Not only that, if this bill will be passed it will benefit not only to our current students but it will be beneficial for our younger generations. This bill will not only benefit me but will all benefit my daughter in the future. This bill will help me to pursue my career and hope to be an asset for our society. This will definitely assure me that I can continue my education. The outcome of me being able to achieve my educational goal will be rewarding for my family and I because I know that I will be able to provide for them and have stability in our lives. Lastly, I would like to thank you for passing this bill, supporting our youth and most importantly investing in the future.

Sincerely,
Ro-Ann Delos Reyes

TO: Senate Committee on Higher Education

Senator Kaiali‘i Kahele, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: Support for HB1594 Relating to the University of Hawai‘i Promise Program

Good day! I'm Joellah Fuentes, a student from Leeward Community College. I'm from a family of seven, and I'm the second one to be in college. I will be earning my AA in Liberal Arts this year and am planning on getting my bachelor's degree in Accounting afterwards. I have three younger siblings, two of them are in high school and one in middle school. I work as a math tutor in LCC Waianae but my salary is not enough to support all my basic needs as well as my family's. My mother is weak and currently incapable of working so my step father is the only one who can support our family. When the time comes that he will be unable to work, it would be a challenge for us financially. Therefore, the implementation of the House Bill 1594 is an important and beneficial thing not only for my siblings but also to those who are in need of it.

I believe in the value of higher education. It would enable many people to become a more productive citizen of the society. Everyone who are pursuing higher level of studies, would have more freedom to hone their talents, try new ideas, and seek the lives they want if they didn't have to start off in debt or stay stuck in a low-wage job. We would be able to focus more on our studies rather than worrying about how to scrape together enough funds for each upcoming school term. The implementation of the bill would be a development that will be the driver of a new era of Hawaiian prosperity. We will have a stronger economy and a stronger democracy when all young people with the ambition and the talent can reach their full potential, regardless of their circumstances.

So, I would like to thank you for investing for the future. There would be no change if people don't act on what they believe. I hope that the rest of the country and the world would follow your actions. We couldn't make this happen if we didn't stand together and demand that public higher education is a right for everyone, and not a privilege for the few.

Sincerely,

Joellah Fuentes
joe_ellah@yahoo.com
(808)265-0660

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

The Senate Higher Education Committee

March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Sen. Michelle N. Kidani
The Senate HRE

From: Ashley Nakasone

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

My name is Ashley Nakasone, I am an American citizen and registered voter. I am from District #42, my House Representative is Sharon Har and my Senator is Mike Gabbard. I am in my second semester at the University of Hawaii at Leeward Campus. Ultimately, I will be pursuing my nursing degree at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I strongly support this bill because I believe in the power of intellectual growth through higher education. As a result, this bill would provide an equal opportunity for all social classes to attend and possibly graduate college without the impediment of tremendous debt. The establishment of fundamental tools for underprivileged adults will not only benefit Hawaii, but encourage members to be productive in society. In order to do so, they would need more than what gold can offer; that is the wealth of knowledge through higher education.

As a single mother to a 4 year-old son, I first handedly know the struggles one has to endure without an education. In our society, it is no longer who you know, but what you know and the credentials you have to offer. In Hawaii, minimum wage does not equate the cost of living, it is close to impossible to make a substantial living without an education. However, by having a college degree, it will give people the comfort of creating a life without precautiously worrying how to make a living.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass HB 1594.

Sincerely,

Ashley Nakasone

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 9:25 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: cj.caraang@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CJ Caraang	University of Hawaii– Leeward Community College	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 1594 UH Promise Program because it'll benefit our future children and the future leaders of this state or possibly the nation. Thank you for passing this bill supporting the you and investing our future

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 9:24 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: briana.banua@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
briana banua	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1594 also known as the UH Promise Program because it would take the load of paying tuition off of parent's or people shoulders. I believe this bill will further the education of people who cannot afford to go to college. Although this program will have requirements, i believe this will help motivate college students to learn and understand everything that is going on in class. Thank you for investing this bill and for taking the time out to read this bill. The future college students will not let you down.

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Dear HRE Chair Kaiali'i Kahele,

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

I support HB-1594 because I believe higher education should be free for those in low-income households. Having a college education allows greater access to higher-paying and more sustainable jobs. College tuition is the barrier that prevents people from removing themselves from poverty and therefore should be eliminated.

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

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

Sincerely,
Todd Takayama

March 13, 2017

To: Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, HRE Chair
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, HRE Vice Chair
From: Kaisen Bartolome
Subject: Testimony in strong support of HB 1594

My name is Kaisen Bartolome, I am a student at Leeward Community College and I reside in Pearl City, District 35. I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for *HB 1594*.

I strongly believe that supporting this bill will benefit us citizens since higher education will contribute more productively to the community. Education gives individuals the skills and tools they need to navigate the world. Without it, we won't be able to achieve our dreams.

I, myself, struggle to go to college and at the same time, work in two part-time jobs to sustain my college tuition needs, as well as help my parents with bill payments. After graduating from high school, I was terrified that I would not be able to go to a university due to the high amount of tuition. As a result, I have decided to go to a community college, which is more affordable. In spite of this, I still find it financially challenging.

Thank you for passing this bill and for allowing me to send my testimony in support of it.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 9:21 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: bolosan9@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

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

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

Comments: Jackilyn B. Bolosan 94-1450 Welina Loop #10A Waipahu Hi. 96797 The Senate/Higher Education Committee Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele HRE Chair RE: Support for HB 1594, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program My name is Jackilyn Bolosan and I reside in 94-1450 Welina Loop #10A Waipahu Hawaii. I currently going to Leeward Community College and I'm at my second year taking Liberal Arts and want to pursue nursing. I am supporting the HB 1594 companion bill of SB 1162 that you so thoughtfully drafted because I am a mother whose pursuing my education to provide a better life for my family. Through this bill, students like me who is struggling financially will enable me to continue my education and show to my children and the following generation the value of education. Education is important for me, and having it available to everyone will help us to better ourselves as well as to be a productive member of our community. I am very thankful for scheduling the hearing of this bill and considering my testimony. Sincerely, Jackilyn B. Bolosan

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 9:17 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: mramun@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MICHAEL RAMUN	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senate HRE, I am in support of HB 1594, the UH promise program because this affected me and my family directly. FASFA does help but unfortunately I do not qualify but at the same I also can not afford tuition at UH. The passing of this bill I believe will inspire many local residents to stay in school and not get discouraged or overwhelmed with tuition cost. Thank you for passing this bill. Mahalo, Michael Ramun LCC Student 2013-present

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1

House Higher Education Committee

March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Juanito V. Moises, Jr., Civil Engineering Student (Junior) at UH Mānoa

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Juanito V. Moises, Jr. I strongly support student scholarships. I am currently a junior as a Civil Engineer in the College of Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am also a program assistant and tutor for GEAR UP Waipahu. GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. We help Waipahu students prepare for college by providing financial literacy workshops, tutoring, and many other opportunities that will equip them in their college journey.

I strongly support this bill. It is just as important to support incoming freshmen and undergraduates who also meet the criteria of unmet financial needs for this bill, and who are enrolled at UH Maui, UH Hilo, UH West O'ahu and UH Mānoa. Also, it would give the community college students scholarships if they transfer to any of the UH universities. It would encourage them to pursue a professional career in a higher degree program and not be limited to just an associate's degree if scholarships are limited to just being in a community college. We need more local students in the professional field.

The passage of this bill is important because scholarships have helped me through college to continue my education in the career of engineering. Only one of my parents have been working and making low income, but they have always encouraged me to do well during my high school years so that I can receive scholarships to pay for my college expenses because they were not able to have enough money to pay for my college expenses. Because of scholarships I have been motivated to pursue a career in engineering. Some of my high school classmates has struggled with financial assistance to go college, and many of them has taken a break from school to work and make enough to at least get into a community college. Others who were already in community colleges has stayed there longer and working part time to accumulate enough money that will help them with their financial struggles so that they can transfer to a university in Hawaii. I believe that scholarships for students in any colleges in the UH system would help them pursue their dreams like how I am pursuing my own dreams of becoming an engineer.

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

Sincerely,

Juanito V. Moises, Jr.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1
House Higher Education Committee
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594
Establishes the University of Hawai'i Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

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

I support this bill because scholarships for qualified students will help address education disparities for vulnerable pockets of students from diverse backgrounds, including students who are Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, houseless, LGBTQ, single parents returning to school, and students who may come from families that are caught in the cycle of income inequality with adverse social determinants they are struggling to overcome. Research shows that the more education our students receive today, the healthier, more prosperous, and the greater civic engagement there is for our communities tomorrow. We can achieve these best by prioritizing our limited budget for capacity building investment in our millennial generation, with scholarships consistent with the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the chance to offer my strong support.

Very Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1
House Higher Education Committee
March 14, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

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

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594

I strongly support HB 902. I am speaking as a private citizen. My name is Davelyn Quijano, president of the Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii. Our alumni association was established in 1995 and has grown to 60 members in Hawaii. I also serve as the secretary of the Anak ti Sinait of Hawai'i (Children of Sinait). Our alumni association prides itself in volunteerism both in Hawaii and the Philippines, where we perpetuate our culture, join in disaster relief efforts, finance medical missions to the Philippines, foster good health through outreach programs to our Filipino community, empower our youth through scholarship programs, offer aid to deceased members and their beneficiaries, and engage network opportunities to contribute successfully to Hawaii's economy through entrepreneurship.

I support this bill that would award scholarships for qualified students in the UH system. It is important to me because I am a mother who was born in Ilocos Sur, Philippines and whose children were born and raised in Hawaii. I see the importance and feel the urgency that many parents like me share. We want our children to succeed in school, be prepared for careers, and become civically and responsibly engaged in community life. Too many of our young people are locked into hard and unstable lives for yet another generation. Investment in scholarships for qualified students throughout the state promises to yield high, measurable returns on our taxpayers' investment. We cannot afford not to help financially needy students beyond the community college. The financial help must follow community college students to complete their bachelors degree and continue on to graduate school. Otherwise, students will be frozen in entry level, low paying jobs with little job security. Our economy will not grow healthily if this income inequality persists. Education scholarships is a reasonable and prudent approach to resolve this.

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

Warmest regards,

Davelyn Quijano

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 12:58 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: kimcoco@kimcoco.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

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

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

Comments: Please accept my testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1594, which has received almost unanimous support (except for one non-expository testimony). This bill will smooth the playing field for all Hawaii citizens to have increased access to public secondary education and increase the opportunities that go with that. Thank you for supporting a forward-thinking bill.

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March 12, 2017

Private Citizen Testimony

Testimony

HB 1594 HD1: Establishes the UH Promise Program

To whom it may concern:

As a Filipino graduate of Leeward Community College, a graduate of the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa, and as a current student services administrator at the UH Mānoa College of Education, I strongly write in support of HB 1594 HD1 that establishes the UH Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any UH system campus.

Nationwide, **higher education costs continues to increase** and this negatively impacts those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who also typically represent ethnic groups that are underrepresented in higher education.

The same is true in Hawaii. As costs rises for the UH system to provide quality educational experiences and remain competitive with other higher education institutions, **certain student groups will be affected more negatively than others.**

In particular are **Filipino and Native Hawaiian students** who respectively represent the **2nd** and **4th** largest ethnic groups in our state, and whose ethnic groups are among the lower socioeconomic classes in Hawaii.

HB 1594 HD1 will help to ensure that a significant portion of our Hawai'i population, including Filipinos and Native Hawaiians, will have access to financial resources that support higher education pursuits.

With higher education as a key means to **social mobility** and a **well-educated population** being an important indicator of an economically thriving community, **all of Hawai'i can benefit** from HB 1594 HD1.

If I can be of further assistance,

Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 6:05 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: hlh1430@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM

HB1594

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lei Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Just today, March 10, 2017, I was able to teach a "Better Breathing for Advanced Super Athletes" class in the pool at Nuuanu YMCA because of my education and experience as a Respiratory Therapist. With financial aid, I completed an AS degree in Respiratory Care at Kapiolani Community College. Many benefit from each of us who is educated to care for them. Please find a way to educate as many citizens as possible. Thank you for all that you do in our interests, Lei Ho, retired Respiratory Therapist, KCC '95

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1594, HD 1
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 14, 2017, 1:15 pm, Conference Room 414

TO: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Yasmin Grewal-Kok, graduate student at UH Manoa

DATE: March 9, 2017

TITLE OF BILL: HB 1594 HD 1 – UH Promise Program

My name is Yasmin Grewal-Kok, and I am currently a graduate student at UH Manoa in the Early Childhood Education department. I am writing in strong support of HB 1594 HD 1 because I feel that more people should have the opportunity to receive a college degree. The poverty rate is unacceptably high throughout the United States, and we need to do more to ensure that people--particularly native Hawaiians, low-income individuals, and other marginalized and underserved groups--have access to higher education. Scholarships can do much to level the playing field and ensure that everyone has access to higher education.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to offer my strong support for HB 1594 HD 1.

Sincerely,

Yasmin Grewal-Kok