



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 13, 2018 at 2:10 p.m.

By

Donald O. Straney, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2082 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2082 that establishes the University of Hawai'i Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students pursuing an undergraduate degree in registered nursing, elementary or secondary education, and civil engineering enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawai'i system, and appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

The University of Hawai'i fully appreciates the commitment of the Legislature to the Hawai'i Promise Program and the funding that was provided this past year for community college students. Approximately 1500 students have benefitted from the Hawai'i Promise Program since Fall 2017, at a cost of approximately \$2.2M, of which \$1.8M were appropriated by the legislature, with the remaining funds provided from community college operating reserves.

UH supports HB 2082. The program proposed by HB 2082 is a different type of Hawai'i Promise than the program initiated in Fall 2017 in that it provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of students in particular majors: registered nursing, elementary or secondary education, or civil engineering undergraduates.

The University appreciates the Legislature's support in focusing on these areas of state workforce needs and the requirement to train professionals in these fields. We respectfully request an opportunity to work with the Legislature to clarify the intent of the Legislature, for example, if the program is intended to be limited to need-based students like other Hawai'i Promise Programs, and how we might draft language around requirements, like eligibility, as well as progress over time toward completion of the major.

The University is grateful for the Legislature's creation of the Hawai'i Promise Program, and appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments on HB 2082.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/13/2018
Time: 02:10 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Higher Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2082 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students pursuing an undergraduate degree in registered nursing, elementary or secondary education, and civil engineering and enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2082. The Department supports opportunities for all public school graduates to have affordable access to quality higher education opportunities at any University of Hawaii campus in particular, elementary and secondary teacher education programs.

Should the Committee move the bill forward, the Department recommends the following language change in the bill:

Page 3, Line #3: "engineering; ~~and~~"

Page 3, Line #4: "(2) Enrolled at any University of Hawaii campus; ~~and~~"

Page 3, Line #5: "(3) Committed to three years in the Hawaii public school system as a licensed elementary or secondary education teacher, or committed to employment for three years in the state of Hawaii as a registered nurse or civil engineer."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2082.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 13, 2018 2:10 p.m.
by**

**Laura Reichhardt, MS, APRN, NP-C, Director
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT
H.B. 2082 RELATING TO THE UNIVERISTY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 2082. This bill proposes scholarships, within the UH System, for nursing, teachers, and civil engineering.

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine published a groundbreaking report, *the Future of Nursing*. In this report, it recommended that the nursing profession should strive to have 80% of its registered nurse (RN) population with a bachelor degree in nursing (BSN) or higher by 2020. This goal is to ensure that nurses are well-prepared to care for the increasingly complex patient population of the future. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) has been working towards this goal since 2012 with strong collaborative relationships with all of our in-state schools of nursing and a great number of our employer partners, state-wide. Together, we have identified and achieved pathways to improve access to education. Successes include the UH Consortium, which enables Kaua'i Community College, Maui College, and Kapi'olani Community College students graduating with an associate's degree in nursing to complete one additional year at UH Mānoa to achieve their BSN in nursing. Other efforts include on-site RN to BSN programs at hospitals, increasing the feasibility of working RNs to complete their BSN degree. Nurses at Maui Memorial Hospital, now Maui Health System, Straub Clinic and Hospital, The Queen's Medical Center, Castle Medical Center, and Hilo Medical Center have all benefited from these opportunities with UH Mānoa and Argosy. UH Hilo has engaged in academic progression for RN students seeking a BSN since its inception, and Hawai'i Pacific University and University of Phoenix have programs that both support RNs to achieve advancements in their education. The efforts to enable nurses to continue their education are well established in Hawai'i. Support, however, is still needed.

In 2017, the HSCN stakeholders identified existing barriers to academic progression. Our Academic Progression in Nursing Steering Committee identified that financial barriers have been recognized as one of, if not the most significant barrier to academic progression for nurses in Hawaii's workforce, and nationwide. Further, the 2017 HSCN Nursing Workforce Supply Survey report identified that Hawai'i, as a state, has a BSN rate of 72%, yet the distribution is unequal. Counties with four-year nursing programs are more likely to have higher BSN rates. Honolulu City and County has a BSN percentage of 78% and Hawai'i County is 60% whereas Maui County is at 49% and Kaua'i County is at 45%. Though access to BSN education is a factor, thanks to the innovative strategies mentioned above, gains have been achieved to that regard. Today, the financial barriers are the most significant factor that inhibits nurses to continue their education.

This scholarship will have two major impacts for nursing. First, it will enable those interested in a nursing profession without the financial means to access this valuable career pathway. Second, it will enable nurses seeking to continue their nursing education by removing financial barriers that inhibit their academic progression. HSCN and its partners identified the major focus of removing barriers to practice should focus on enabling our neighbor island nurses to succeed in the goal of being an 80% BSN prepared workforce by 2020. This scholarship will help this goal become more realistic for nurses statewide, including those on neighbor islands.

To ensure that the value of this scholarship directly impacts Hawai'i, HSCN recommends that this scholarship is offered to nursing students who intend to work in Hawai'i.

Therefore, the HSCN respectfully supports the language in H.B. 2082 pertaining to nursing scholarship and commends the legislature for identifying academic support for the highest demand jobs of the future. We appreciate your continuing support of nursing and accessible, quality health care in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS			MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President 23404	Guy Archer	Jan Lubin	Cameron Sato	P.O. Box
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura	George Simson	Honolulu
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Karin Gill, Secretary	Chuck Huxel	Doug Pyle		

February 9, 2018

TO: Honorable Chair McKelvey and Members of the Higher Education Committee

RE: HB 2082 Relation to the U. of Hawaii Promise Program

Support for hearing on Feb. 13

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

Many students today have difficulty financing their higher education. This helped cause shortages of qualified people for jobs in nursing, education, and engineering. Therefore, we support HB 2082 which would both help young people fund their educational unmet direct cost needs and support our job market in nursing, elementary or secondary teaching, and civil engineering with qualified new applicants.

ADA also supports HB 2165 and HB2640 as these bills also expand the Hawaii Promise Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAI'I
STUDENT CAUCUS

LATE

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

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2018
Time: 2:10 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

Re: SUPPORTING HB 2082– RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem and members of the committee:

My name is Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz, and I am the Chairperson of the UH Student Caucus, the UH system wide association of all campus student governments. We represent over 60,000 students in the University of Hawaii System. I would like to share my position and comments as Chairperson on HB 2082 as it is currently written.

I am in full support of HB 2082, that establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students pursuing an undergraduate degree in registered nursing, elementary or secondary education, and civil engineering and enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system and appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

As expressed by the University of Hawaii Student Caucus 2016-2017 through past testimony, the Hawaii Promise Program will enable students to continue their education and pursue careers that will enrich our economy and stabilize our workforce. I would like to see this program continue, and to grow and expand as it is currently supporting many students today. There are still many students who are unable to find enough financial support to cover the full cost of college tuition, and the Hawaii Promise Program is the last dollar scholarship that could move our students towards graduation.

While the Student Caucus had previously shared support for the Hawaii Promise Program to be System-wide, I support the Legislature's general efforts in implementing an established Hawaii Promise Program. Currently the Hawaii Promise Program is not established, therefore it is not financially sustainable. Although HB 2082 is specific to nursing, education, and civil engineering programs, it is an effort towards establishing the Hawaii Promise Program. By providing this program for as many, you will enable students access to the opportunity to further their education.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz
Chairperson
jldc2@hawaii.edu

LATE



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Higher Education

Time: 2:10 p.m.

Date: February 13, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: **HB 2082, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program**

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

We are writing to support HB 2082, relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program, which will provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students pursuing an undergraduate degree in registered nursing, elementary or secondary education and civil engineering, and enrolled in any campus of the University of Hawai'i system.

Post-secondary success of Native Hawaiian students is a significant objective of Kamehameha Schools and we believe that the Promise Program is an important step toward making college accessible for all students. This bill's emphasis on undergraduate degrees in occupations necessary for the future of Hawai'i, especially elementary or secondary education, is important. Please **support** this measure.

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

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

LATE

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 13, 2018 2:10 p.m.
by**

**Katherine Finn Davis, PhD, APRN, CPNP
Director for Community Partnerships
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT
H.B. 2082 RELATING TO THE UNIVERISTY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 2082. This bill proposes scholarships, within the UH System, for nursing, teachers, and civil engineering.

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine published a groundbreaking report, *the Future of Nursing*. In this report, it recommended that the nursing profession should strive to have 80% of its registered nurse (RN) population with a bachelor degree in nursing (BSN) or higher by 2020. This goal is to ensure that nurses are well-prepared to care for the increasingly complex patient population of the future. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) has been working towards this goal since 2012 with strong collaborative relationships with all of our in-state schools of nursing and a great number of our employer partners, state-wide. Together, they have identified and achieved pathways to improve access to education. Successes include the UH Consortium, which enables Kaua'i Community College, Maui College, and Kapi'olani Community College students graduating with an associate's degree in nursing to complete one additional year at UH Mānoa to achieve their BSN in nursing. Other efforts include on-site RN to BSN programs at hospitals, increasing the feasibility of working RNs to complete their BSN degree. Nurses at Maui Memorial Hospital, now Maui Health System, Straub Clinic and Hospital, The Queen's Medical Center, Castle Medical Center, and Hilo Medical Center have all benefited from these opportunities with UH Mānoa and Argosy. UH Hilo has engaged in academic progression for RN students seeking a BSN since its inception, and Hawai'i Pacific University and University of Phoenix have programs that both support RNs to achieve advancements in their education. The efforts to enable nurses to continue their education are well established in Hawai'i. Support, however, is still needed.

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HB-2082

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 4:46:54 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/13/2018 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Francisco	County of Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2082

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 4:20:09 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/13/2018 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan McRoberts		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I have been the Vice-President of the 501(c)3 organization, Growing Our Own Teachers on Kauai, since its inception. This has been a very successful program. The objective of the organization is to financially help out Elementary School Teacher candidates during their student teaching semester, as they are not allowed to have outside jobs. When we started the organization 9 years ago, we had over ten students a year. This was enough to fill most of the elementary school positions each year. In recent years, the number of students has dwindled, which means the schools have to recruit teachers from the mainland.

Mainland teachers do not stay very long and are often young and inexperienced. Hawaii desperately needs to increase the number of college students willing to commit to a career in education. This bill will definitely help recruit more applicants. In the long run, it will not only improve the quality of teachers in our schools but also save money, as recruiting teachers from the mainland is very expensive.