



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 2165 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2165 that 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 Hawai'i system or any community college campus, appropriates funds to establish and implement the program, and creates a special fund.

Last session the State Legislature appropriated \$1.8M for the Hawai'i Promise program providing for scholarships to assure that community college students with unmet direct costs of their education would have those costs met by grant aid. The program is a last dollar scholarship, meaning that students are first awarded Pell grants, UH scholarships, and private scholarships before being awarded the Hawai'i Promise scholarship if it is needed to eliminate those unmet direct costs.

The program was implemented for Fall 2017 students and as of today approximately 1500 students have benefited from the Hawai'i Promise program at a cost of approximately \$2.2M. The funds needed beyond the \$1.8M appropriated by the legislature were provided from community college operating reserves. Implementation rules for the program were initiated this year and are being incorporated into University of Hawai'i Board of Regent and executive policies.

The University fully appreciates the Legislature's expansion of the Hawai'i Promise scholarships through HB2165 to reach students beyond the community colleges and to be available to students enrolled at any UH campus who qualify for Hawai'i resident tuition. This broadened accessibility of the program to students at all UH campuses will attract more students, make college more affordable, and create opportunities for 4-year as well as 2-year degrees.

The University of Hawai'i looks forward to working with the Legislature to fine-tune the language of this bill as it continues through the process. As currently drafted, the language for the repayment provision on pages 6 and 7 would be considered a loan rather than a scholarship. In addition, the University would like to request that the GPA

requirements be consistent with federal and institutional academic progress guidelines for receiving financial aid.

Finally, HB 2165 proposes to establish a special fund for the Hawai'i Promise program. A separate fund is not required to implement the program and would not be appropriate given the general fund source for the program. A sub account can be created within the University of Hawai'i general fund to provide for a full accounting of the Hawai'i Promise awards.

The University of Hawai'i fully supports HB 2165, and is grateful for the opportunity to provide these comments.



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 2165 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 enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system or any community college campus. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. Creates a special fund.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2165. The Department supports opportunities for all public school graduates to have affordable access to quality higher education opportunities at any University of Hawaii campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2165.

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.



The House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
2:10 PM, Conference Room 309

RE: HB 2165 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

Attention: Chair Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair Mark Hashem and
Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) requests that the committee support HB 2165. For many of our students, even a small amount of funds can make a difference in keeping them engaged in learning and moving toward meeting their educational goals. A wide range of Hawaii students must make hard choices between supporting their families and being able to continue their education. This legislation is important in making education accessible to more students and reaffirming the commitment to support affordable education.

UHPA requests the committee's support for HB 2165.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristeen Hanselman
Executive Director



OFFICERS

John Bickel, President
23404
Alan Burdick, Vice President
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer
Karin Gill, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Guy Archer
Jan Lubin
Juliet Begley
Gloria Borland
Chuck Huxel
Jenny Nomura
Stephen O'Harrow
Doug Pyle

MAILING ADDRESS

Cameron Sato
George Simson
Honolulu
Hawai'i 96823
P.O. Box

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



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 2165 - 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 2165 as it is currently written.

I am in support of HB 2165, that 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 or any community college campus, appropriates funds to establish and implement the program and creates a special fund. 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. 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.

I show my appreciation for the establishment of the Hawaii Promise Program to be System-wide as outlined in HB 2165. Cost of education, and furthering the education for all students, is an an issue and a priority for those at community colleges and at four-year universities. I also show my appreciation for the creation of a special fund, as would provide students a sense of security of the funding for this program, and for their student needs as it could be covered by this program.

Furthermore, I would like to share comments on the program requirements outlined HB 2165. As a representative of many students, I support tuition assistance for as many as possible, if not all. I feel that the Hawaii Promise Program should include all full-time students who are enrolled at a University of Hawaii campus other than a community college campus. The requirement that the student must be enrolled with fifteen or more credits per semester (and thirty credits in one academic year) limits students who are dual-enrolled in other programs or campuses, and limits students that are considered full-time but

do not take fifteen or more credits from scholarship opportunity that could move them towards graduation. A full-time student at campuses such as UH Manoa must taken a minimum of twelve (12) credits per semester. I recommend that the credit requirements be reconsidered to support as many students as possible.

Once again, I share my support for HB 2165.

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 2165, 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 2165, relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program, which will provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawai'i system or any community college campus.

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. 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.

HB-2165

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 4:47:37 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-2165

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:12:51 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Margaret Maupin | | Support | No |

Comments: