



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 15, 2018 at 1:20 p.m.

By

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

HB 2165 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2165 HD1 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 HB 2165 HD1 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 for our students.

The University respectfully submits one comment on HB 2165 HD1 that 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 looks forward to working with the Legislature to fine-tune the language of this bill.

The University of Hawai'i fully supports HB 2165 HD1, and is grateful for the opportunity to provide these comments.



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

Date: 03/15/2018
Time: 01:20 PM
Location: 224
Committee: Senate Higher Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2165, HD1 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. (HB2165 HD1)

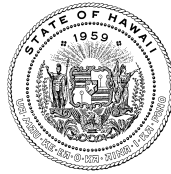
Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2165, HD1. 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, HD1.

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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DIRECTOR

KEN N. KITAMURA
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2165, H.D. 1

**March 15, 2018
1:20 p.m.
Room 224**

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

House Bill No. 2165, H.D. 1, 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; establishes the Hawaii Promise Program Special Fund; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for deposit to the special fund; and appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds.

While the Department of Budget and Finance defers to the University of Hawaii regarding the merits of this bill, as a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. With regards to House Bill No. 2165, H.D. 1, the sources of revenues for the special fund are not specified, so it is difficult to determine if there is an appropriate nexus or if the special fund is financially self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Higher Education

Time: 1:20 p.m.

Date: March 15, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 224

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: HB 2165, HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Kahele, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū Kim, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao Kulanui o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, 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, HD1, 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. This measure also appropriates funds to establish and implement the program and creates a special fund.

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-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 12:47:48 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/15/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i | Support | No |

Comments:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No 2165 HD1 relating to University of Hawaii; Promise Program; scholarships; appropriation and a special fund.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2165 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No. 2165 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") as it 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.

Specifically, the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i provides that "[w]e believe that the future of our state as well as our country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. (Platform of DPH, P. 6, Line 296-300 (2016)).

"Consistent with these goals, we seek to make public college, public university, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs available to all seeking further education tuition free." (Platform of DPH, P. 6, Line 318-319 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2165 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 or any community college campus; appropriates funds to establish and implement the program; and creates a special fund, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 15, 2018, 1:20 P.M.

By Bernadette Baraquio, President, University of Hawai'i Alumni Association

HB 2165 HD1– RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2165 HD1 which 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. We strongly support HB 2165 HD1.

As a proud UH Alum and President of the UH Alumni Association, I am grateful for the education I received at the University of Hawai'i and recognize the critical role UH plays in educating the future generations of our state.

Last session the State Legislature appropriated \$1.8M for the Hawai'i Promise program providing scholarships which assisted community college students in handling unmet direct costs of their education. Since the program was implemented for Fall 2017 students, approximately 1500 students have benefited from the Hawai'i Promise program.

The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges. It will ensure that promising ambitious students have the resources they need to focus on their studies and build a better future for themselves and their families.

Their future success impacts us all.

In times of economic uncertainty, investments in higher education are more critical as institutions of higher learning are essential to preparing students for the current and future workforce.

We all talk of focusing on the quality of education offered at our institutions. However, we cannot speak about quality without first addressing funding to preserve and enhance the worth of education.

As John F. Kennedy once said, "Let us not think of education only in terms of its costs, but rather in terms of the infinite potential of the human mind that can be realized through education. Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our Nation."

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Warmest Aloha, Bernadette Baraquio, UH Alumni Association President

HB-2165-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 2:10:37 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/15/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Randall Francisco | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2165-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 11:10:55 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/15/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joshua Lloreta | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Hi my name is Joshua Lloreta and I am in strong support of this bill. I have always wanted to go to college, but haven't had the means to do so. I am an advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities; who have been told that they will never qualify for this scholarship because they do not qualify for Federal Student Aid because they don't have a High School Diploma. But, on page 4 lines 5-8 it states, "Completes and submits the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each academic year and accepts all federal and state aid, grants, scholarships, and other funding sources that do not require repayment" it doesn't say, must qualify for Federal Student Aid. If I misread this and you must qualify for Federal Student Aid to be eligible for the scholarship, I humbly ask that you fix the language so people with developmental disabilities and individuals who went through SPED can be eligible to apply for the scholarship. During High School our parents decided our pathway (track: diploma or certificate), trying to act in our best interest; not everyone got to make their own choice between a Diploma or a Certificate. As older adults, we see the importance of higher education and would like the opportunity, the choice, to pursue it. Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify. Sincerely, Joshua