



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
April 3, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

By  
John Morton  
Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

### HB 2501 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

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 1,500 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 initiated this year are consistent with the conditions described in section 2b of the proposed HB 2501 HD1 SD1 and are being incorporated into University of Hawai'i Board of Regent and executive policies.

The Board of Regents has requested an additional \$700,000 in the supplemental budget to raise the fund to \$2.5M. These additional funds will allow the University to actively market the program to prospective students and provide an incentive for students to pursue higher education.

Finally, HB2501 HD1 SD1 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.

In closing, I wish to thank the Legislature for their commitment to the Hawai'i Promise program and the funding that was provided this past year. Our highest priority is to expand the program to attract more students and we hope that you will give full consideration to our supplemental budget request.



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Date: April 3, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 211

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: **HB 2501, HD1, SD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Community College Promise Program**

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Dela Cruz, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū Keith-Agaran, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo 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 2501, HD1, SD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i Community College Promise Program, which establishes the program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawai'i system and appropriates funds for the program.

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-2501-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2018 10:00:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

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 **HB2501 HD1 SD1** relating to the University of Hawaii; Community College Promise Program; Scholarships; and appropriations.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2501 HD1 SD1** and supports its passage.

**HB2501 HD1 SD1** is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") as it establishes the University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawaii system, and it appropriates funds to establish and implement the program, effective 7/1/211.

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 **HB2501 HD1 SD1** establishes the University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawaii system, and it appropriates funds to establish and implement the program, effective 7/1/211, 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

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