



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

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

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

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

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

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 initiated this year are consistent with the conditions described in section 2b of the proposed HB 2501 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.

The University does have concerns with the additional conditions described in section 2c of the proposed legislation. The requirements to stay eligible for the Hawai'i Promise program described in section 2c are higher and inconsistent with those required to remain eligible for Federal financial aid as described in section 2b(4). Additionally, the requirement that the recipient of the scholarship potentially must repay the scholarship converts the program to a loan program and students would have to be counseled about the repayment requirements prior to awarding the Hawai'i Promise scholarship. Since the financial aid award to the student is a mixture of Federal, University, and Hawai'i Promise dollars, the University would prefer to use a single set of conditions, as outlined in 2b(4), in order to effectively and efficiently manage the financial aid awards to the students. As currently written, the situation could arise where a student would be out of compliance with the Hawai'i Promise program while remaining fully compliant with the University and Federal requirements and the student would find him or

herself required to use their Federal financial aid to repay the Hawai'i Promise program rather than pay for their education costs.

Finally, HB 2501 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.



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 2501 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: 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. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2501. The Department supports opportunities for all public school graduates to have affordable access to quality higher education opportunities at any University of Hawaii Community College campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2501.

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.

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 2501, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Community College 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 2501, relating to the University of Hawai'i Community College Promise Program, which will provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawaii and appropriate 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'ōhe hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 2:10 P.M.

By
Bernadette Baraquo

HB 2501 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2051 which provides “last dollar” scholarships for the unmet need to qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawaii system who meet the certain criteria.

I strongly support HB 2501. 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.

The University of Hawaii Community College 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 quality without first addressing funding to preserve and enhance the worth of education.

The University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program will continue to work toward our goal of having 55% of working-age adults hold a two- or four year degree by the year 2025. Achieving this goal is critical to Hawai'i's future economic health, and our community's wellbeing.

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 Baraquo, UH Alumni Association President

LATE

HB-2501

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 2:22:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rufino Dan Magliba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the

House Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 2:10 P.M.

By Rufino Dan Magliba

HB 2501 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2051 which provides “last dollar” scholarships for the unmet need to qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawaii system who meet the certain criteria.

I strongly support HB 2501. As a proud *UH Alum and Board of Director for the UH Alumni Association*, I am grateful for the education I received at Honolulu Community College, Kapiolani Community College, and the University of Hawaii West Oahu. I recognize the critical role UH plays in educating the future generations of our state.

The University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program 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.

The University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program will continue to work toward our goal of having 55% of working-age adults hold a two- or four-year degree by the year 2025. Achieving this goal is critical to Hawai'i's future economic health, and our community's wellbeing.

This bill will greatly help the future of Hawai'i's students, 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 economy, and opportunities for students to pursue higher education needs to be increased in order to compete globally.

HB 2057 is a very sound and common-sense initiative. The University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program would be an investment that will reap far-reaching rewards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

HB-2501

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 4:45:40 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-2501

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:09:56 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: