



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 13, 2018 at 1:18 p.m.

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

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

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim, 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 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, HB 2501 HD1 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 Higher Education

Time: 1:18 p.m.

Date: March 13, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 224

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: **HB 2501, HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Community College 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 2501, HD1, 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-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 12:45:38 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/13/2018 1:18:00 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:

PRESENTATION OF
THE OAHU COUNTY
COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF
PRIORITIES HAWAI'I

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Tuesday, March 13, 2018
1:18 PM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2501 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM
To the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair; the Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair,
and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

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
relating to University of Hawaii; Community College Promise Program; Scholarships;
and appropriations.

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

HB2501 HD1 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 appropriates
funds to establish and implement the
program.

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 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 appropriates funds to establish and implement the program, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

you very much for your kind consideration.

Thank

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
Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 1:18 P.M.

By Bernadette Baraquio

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2501 HD1 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 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.

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 about 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 well being.

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.

On behalf of UHAA, its leadership, and members, we thank you for your past commitment and service to our community, our state, and our university.

Warmest Aloha, Bernadette Baraquio, *UH Alumni Association President.*

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 1:16:36 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/13/2018 1:18:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymund Liongson	Testifying for University of Hawaii-Leeward	Support	No

Comments: