



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
April 5, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

By

Risa E. Dickson, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1294 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1294 SD1 HD1. This testimony represents collaborative leadership that includes Chancellor Maenette Benham, University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu; Chancellor Don Straney, University of Hawai'i at Hilo; and Dean Jerris Hedges, John A. Burns School of Medicine.

This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, including the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu Allied Health Program, to increase the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians have lower educational attainment and income, and are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.
- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate

in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.

- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher, considerably lower than other ethnic groups.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

The legislature's consideration is appreciated, as state funds could leverage private and federal support for this program. The University of Hawai'i supports passage of SB 1294 SD1 HD1 on the condition that any requested funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Biennium budget request.

Thank you for your consideration, and the opportunity to testify on this measure.

April 5, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294 SD1 HD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Increasingly, attention and resources have been given to the physician shortage. Unknown to most, there is an even greater shortage of professionals in the Health Sciences. Health Sciences is a multidisciplinary “hands on science” field that combines bio-medical, psycho-social, organizational and societal aspects of health, disease and health care. The Bureau of Labor statistics predicts that 9 out of the top 12 fastest growing occupations from 2014 to 2024 are in the Health Sciences . Growth rates range from 30% (Physician Assistants) to 43% (Occupational Therapy Assistants).

Career fields include:

- Support Services – Community Health, Long Term Care
- Therapeutic Services – Respiratory Care, Dental Hygiene, Nursing, OT, PT, Speech Pathology
- Health Informatics – Health Information Management
- Diagnostic Services – Medical Technology

Hawaii truly has an opportunity to become a leader and innovator in the Health Sciences. UH West Oahu is the perfect incubator. Kapolei, Waipahu, Campbell, Waianae, Nanakuli, Farrington, Wailua , Wahiawa and Leilehua are the high schools our students come from. Most are Native Hawaiian (28%) and Filipino (21%). They are underrepresented in all health care career fields. Their abilities, talents and ambitions are also underestimated by most. They have shown us their creativity, professionalism and capability. Their life's experiences made them more compassionate and more ambitious.

These students need a program that will give them purpose. They need careers that will allow them to serve their communities as well as allow them to make a living. Hawaii needs a pipeline of high schoolers and undergraduates training to be Health Science professionals. Specific stakeholders include the communities of:

- 1) Waianae & Nanakuli - Highest concentration of Native Hawaiians in the world who disproportionately suffer from obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer.
- 2) Kapolei - Growth of a huge “Second City” with increased housing, young families, crowding and no parallel increase in infrastructure.
- 3) Waipahu, Ewa Beach, Wailua & Wahiawa - Old plantation towns with a growing number of elderly.

Please support SB 1294. The future health and wellness of Hawaii’s people depends on the success of this endeavor. The final evaluation of success will be in the quality and number of our graduates serving their communities. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact us through:

Dr. Ric Custodio; ricardo8@hawaii.edu, 808-799-8634 cell.

Sincerely,

UH West Oahu Allied Health Faculty

Dr. Kristina Guo, Public Administration; Division Chair

Dr. Ricardo C. Custodio, Associate Professor of Allied Health

Dr. Camonia Graham-Tutt, Assistant Professor of Community Health

Dr. Robert Vega, Director Respiratory Care Program

Dr. Susan Young, Assistant Professor of Health Care Administration

April 5, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**
by
Dr. Ricardo C. Custodio

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I have provided health care to the poor and underserved in this wonderful state of Hawaii for over 35 years. I have practiced pediatrics in Kalihi, Hilo, Puna, Kau, Waianae, Waipahu, Nanakuli and Kapolei. In addition, for over 25 years, I have been a Medical Director at 3 community health centers (Kalihi-Palama, Bay Clinic and Waianae Coast Comprehensive). I know and have experienced the physician shortage first hand. This is the reason I helped start the A.T. Stills School of Osteopathic Medicine in Waianae, the Nurse Practitioner Residency Program at Kalihi-Palama and the Kulia Mentorship Program.

A true epiphany occurred when I accepted the position of Associate Professor of Health Sciences at UH West Oahu. When initially offered the position, I had to learn what the Health Sciences were. To my surprise I found that the health care worker shortage in Health Science is greater than the shortage for physicians and nurses. The Bureau of Labor statistics predicts that 9 out of the top 12 fastest growing occupations from 2014 to 2024 are in the Health Sciences . Growth rates range from 30% (Physician Assistants) to 43% (Occupational Therapy Assistants).

Hawaii truly has an opportunity to become a leader and innovator in the field of Health Sciences. UH West Oahu is the perfect incubator. Kapolei, Waipahu, Campbell, Waianae, Nanakuli, Farrington, Wailua and Leilehua are the high schools my students come from. Most are Native Hawaiian and Filipino. They are underrepresented in all health care career fields. Their abilities, talents and ambitions are also underestimated by most. I have been surprised by the capability, creativity and professionalism I have seen. Their family and life experiences have made them more compassionate and more motivated.

These students need a program that will give them purpose. They need careers that will allow them to serve their communities as well as give them a means of making a living. Hawaii needs a pipeline of undergraduate trained Health Science workers because there are no bachelor's level degrees offered in Hawaii.

Please support SB 1294. The future health and wellness of Hawaii's people depends on the outcomes of this endeavor. The final evaluation of success will be in the quality and number of our graduates serving their communities. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ricardo C. Custodio, MD, MPH
rcustodio1@hawaii.rr.com / 808-799-8634

Native Hawaiian Health Task Force

Co-chairs:

Keawe'aimoku
Kaholokula
Kamana'opono Crabbe
Virginia Pressler

Members:

Lola Irvin
Lorrin Kim
Noa Emmett Aluli
Puni Kekauoha
Kamaki Kanahale
Nalani Benioni
Keola Chan
Diane Paloma
Dane Keohelani Silva
Nalei Akina
Sharlene Chun-Lum
Claire Hughes
Joelene Lono
Michelle Hiraishi
Kamahanahokulani
Farrar
Sheri Ann Daniels
Kuhio Asam
Mary Oneha
Sean Chun
Joey Gonsalves
Shawn Kana'iaupuni
Neil Hannahs
Keopu Reelitz
Malia Taum-Deenik
Mervina Cash-Kaeo
Maenette Benham
Mahina Paishon-Duarte

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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
TIME: 2:30 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION
AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH
SCIENCES ACADEMY

By

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force convened pursuant to S. R. No. 60
S.D. 1, regular session of 2014 .

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force, we wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and develop an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawaii system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

We strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to

Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.

- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.
- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher, the latter is considerably lower than other ethnic groups.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force

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DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
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415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION
AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES
ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, I am Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, PhD, Professor and Chair of Native Hawaiian Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I wish to submit this personal testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

I was one of these students the bill is seeking to support. I come from a low-income working-class family, graduated from our public school system, a system that did not prepare me for or encourage me on for higher education. In fact, I barely graduated from high school. I eventually found my way to college through Kapi'olani community college and eventually UHM where I became the first in my family to earn a college degree.

I know first-hand the importance of creating an educational support system that is rooted in Hawaiian values and practices, especially in the area of health sciences. It were these values and practices, these supports, that gave me the determination and fortitude to overcome the economic and cultural challenges I faced in higher education as a Native Hawaiians. Yes, there are cultural challenges in higher education for many Native Hawaiians, such as a focus on individual success and accomplishments over collective

efforts and sharing of success. I recall often feeling alienated and out-of-place in my classes.

Not only has a college degree allowed me as a Native Hawaiian to rise above the economic circumstances I was born into, it has allowed me to give back to my community as a health professional and scientist addressing the health inequities experienced by Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. The health professions and sciences offer Native Hawaiians a wonderful opportunity to make a livable wage in their own ancestral lands and at the same time do so in professions that improves the quality of life for all.

Kihe, Maui Ola. Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph K. Keawe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, PhD

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF
SB1294, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION
Hearing: Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 2:30 p.m., Room 308

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Finance

Aloha,

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus, DPH, continues to support SB1294, SD1, HD1, Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education that would establish an Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy at the University of Hawaii to increase recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students. We support appropriations for this initiative.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and, in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

For the many reasons articulated in this bill itself and in the numerous testimonies of support that provided informed information, we encourage your passage of SB1294, SD1, HD1.

Me kealoha pumehana

/s/ Leimomi Khan (On-line)

LEIMOMI KHAN
Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2017 9:49 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mahina@kalo.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM*

SB1294

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for FIN on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mahina Duarte	Kanu o ka Aina Public Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 8:27 AM
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Cc: KehaulaniLum@Ameritech.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM

SB1294

Submitted on: 4/4/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Lum	Ali`i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Finance Committee, Mahalo nui loa for your serious consideration of SB 1294, which Establishes an Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy at the University of Hawaii to increase recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students. Ali`i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports this measure. Ali`i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club was established over 40 years ago, in honor of our beloved Princess Bernice Pauahi, by Hawaiian kupuna educators who envisioned a thriving future of cultural, educational, physical and spiritual advancement for our people. Our founding motto, "Ka Ikaika a ka mana`o a me ke kino a me ka `uhane," reveals the value which they placed on strength of mind, body and spirit. The path to the full enlightenment and well being of the Hawaiian people lies in great works such as this. It is imbued with the spirit of Aloha and will yield enormous physical and spiritual benefits not only for our community, but for the people of Hawai`i Nei and the world. In approving this important initiative and fueling it with necessary light and resources, you, too reveal yourselves as loving practitioners of the Aloha Spirit law, as well as devoted stewards of our precious treasures. In gratitude, we thank you for your vision and support and bid you a very fond Aloha nui loa. Kehaulani Lum Pelekikena Ali`i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club

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SB1294

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for FIN on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
TIME: 2:30 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294 SD1 HD1

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, I am Claire Townsend Ing, from the John A Burns School of Medicine. I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

I am in full agreement with the University of Hawai'i support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.

- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH
Assistant Professor
Native Hawaiian Health
John A Burns School of Medicine

April 5, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I was born Philippines, but was raised on West Oahu to better my future. I graduated from Pearl City High School Class of 2014.

I am also a student at UH West Oahu and I am writing to request your support for SB 1294. This bill will enable the State of Hawaii to build an innovative Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy by supporting and hiring highly qualified faculty and staff.

Presently, there are no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill ensures that Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college attendees have access to health career training. It also enables motivated high school students to earn college credits in three distinct healthcare tracks: Medical, Behavioral Health and Allied Health. Whether it be in high school or college, these vital skills will be taught in our own communities. This will create a healthcare workforce pipeline and increase the chances that we will return and serve our communities.

A vast majority of the students attending UH West Oahu are from Waianae, Nanakuli, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Wailua and Wahiawa. We strongly support this bill and the empowerment it brings. YOUR SUPPORT will help in securing a successful future for thousands of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, other First Generation college attendees and their descendants. Healthcare is more than just giving our pills, it is about providing higher education and employment that will enable us to live and thrive in West Oahu, our home.

Sincerely,

Ashley Jane Bonilla

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 9:26 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kimcoco@kimcoco.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM*

SB1294

Submitted on: 4/4/2017

Testimony for FIN on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
TIME: 2:30 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, I am Annette Jones, from Department of Native Hawaiian Health and strong advocate for Native Hawaiian STEM research. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Annette Jones

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 8:05 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
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SB1294

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

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Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti	

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
TIME: 2:30 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

I am Dr. Winona K. Lee, a Native Hawaiian Pediatrician and Assistant Professor in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, was a valuable resource within the community.
- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college when compared to other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students

who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower when compared to the general student population.

- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai‘i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor’s degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor’s degrees. This pathway would provide a strategic approach to allow Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students the ability to pursue higher education and the potential to enter a health professions career.

Respectfully submitted by,

Winona K. Lee, MD

April 5, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Teofilo B. Rellesiva Jr. I was born in the Philippines and raised in Kalihi where I graduated from Farrington High School. I stand by my testimony in support of SB 1294 because as a First-Generation college student and a non-traditional student, I did not have the opportunity to attend college right away because of the lack of preparation and inadequate finances. That is the reason why I joined the U.S. Marine Corps right after High School. It is through my military service that I was given the opportunity to go back to college and better myself. By supporting this bill, you will also can give the Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and First Generation college attendees the opportunity to go to college and have access to health sciences programs.

I am also a student at UH West Oahu and I am writing to request your support for SB 1294. This bill will enable the State of Hawaii to build an innovative Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy by supporting and hiring highly qualified faculty and staff.

As of today, there are no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill ensures that Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college attendees have access to health career training. This is important because as more people getting older and living longer, all the more we need trained healthcare professionals that will take care of the elderly population. It also enables motivated high school students to earn college credits in three distinct healthcare tracks: Medical, Behavioral Health and Allied Health. Whether it be in high school or college, these vital skills will be taught in our own communities. This will increase the chances that we will return and serve our communities.

Students attending UH West Oahu from Waianae, Nanakuli, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Wailua and Wahiawa strongly support this bill and the empowerment it brings. YOUR SUPPORT will help in securing a successful future for thousands of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos and other First Generation college attendees. Healthcare is more than just giving our pills, it is about providing higher education and employment that will enable us to live and thrive in West Oahu, our home.

If you have any question you can contact me on my cellphone at 808-230-5094 or via email at tbrelles@hawaii.edu. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Teofilo B. Rellesiva Jr.

**SB1294 - SD1, HD1: Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education
Supporting Appropriations for an Undergraduate Health Sciences
Academy administered by the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu**

Testimony By: Ryan Bradley Domingo || University of Hawaii West Oahu - Student || 1001 Farrington Hwy, Kapolei, HI 96707

Addressing

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair & Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Members

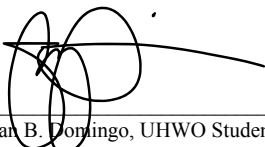
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On behalf of the students pursuing a higher education within the University of Hawaii System, I, Ryan Bradley Domingo, a student at the University of Hawaii at West Oahu, fully support the objective of SB1294 - SD 1, HD1, specifically in its pursuit of standardizing a proper bachelor's program relating to Health Sciences, most notably within the areas of Allied Health.

University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu (UHWO) sits on a community that is encompassed by several neighboring areas most notably Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Waianae, Nanakuli, and Wahiawa. West Oahu caters the state's highest collegiate ratio of Native Hawaiians, accounting 27% of the total student body. Additionally, UHWO also has a diverse student body, made up of Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, and other first generation college attendees. Showcasing a trend of exponential growth with a projected enrollment of 20,000 students by the year 2030, West Oahu is pioneering an educational pedagogy that strives to service the aforementioned communities.

As a student at the University of Hawaii - West Oahu, I have been continually pursuing a degree in pre-professional health, most importantly within the areas of medicine. Wanting to go into the medical field brings upon challenges, specifically in terms of the selection of programs that are currently available. As of now, there is no proper bachelors of allied health program within my university, or better yet, the whole state of Hawaii, indicating that there is a niche that is left unfulfilled. With the introduction of the Health Sciences Academy as mentioned in SB1294, relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education, we can jump-start a program that would engage the underrepresented communities within the allied health professions. Myself being a part of such community, brings upon possibilities that opens the door to many opportunities. My university, UH West Oahu, pioneers an educational pedagogy that strives to service community, following the Native Hawaiian ideology of "kuleana". With our aging population, there is a need for a proper program that caters towards the prospects of the future. Conclusively, this can be fulfilled through the establishment of the programs presented within SB1294.

The area that our university sits at has historically been a place of cultivation, sustaining the indigenous population that used to live there. Conforming with such traditions it is only right to observe such customs - by metaphorically cultivating students, flourishing the areas of allied health professions. SB1294 is not limited in its agenda of catering to our diverse body of students, but also to the many communities that the University of Hawaii at West Oahu gives service to.


Ryan B. Domingo, UHWO Student

University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu
1001 Farrington Hwy, Kapolei, HI 96707
(808) 689-2800

April 4, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD 1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I currently live in West Oahu and am a student at University of Hawaii West Oahu. I am writing to request your support for SB 1294. This bill will enable the State of Hawaii to build an innovative Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy by supporting and hiring highly qualified faculty and staff.

The state of Hawaii does not have a health program that goes past two years. This program will create access to Health Care training for residents of the community, specifically students of the West side of Hawaii, but open to all. Many Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and first generation college students would like to stay close to home and their families, this program will allow them to do that while completing a four-year degree program in the Health Care field. By teaching in the community to people of the community, it will increase the chances that these students will stay and provide health care to the west side.

As a student of UH West Oahu I strongly support this bill and the opportunity it brings to this community. Healthcare is important to everyone and by empowering high school and college age students to create a career we will be working towards providing much needed care to everyone in the community.

Sincerely,

Molly Heffernan
UH West Oahu Student

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Members of the Committee on Finance

Latanya Edwards
Student of University of Hawaii-West Oahu

April 4, 2017

Support SB 1294

I am a military spouse who is the product of the Hawaii school system. I was born and raised in West Oahu, and was part of the last class from Makakilo to graduate from James Campbell High School. I attended Kapiolani Community College (KCC) and became nationally certified in Phlebotomy. Recently, I returned to Hawaii and once again graduated from KCC with a degree in Medical Assisting, and I am now pursuing my Bachelor's degree at UH West Oahu.

Everything that I have achieved in life, is because of the education that I have received here. I purposely waited for my husband to be stationed again in Hawaii just so I could finish my schooling, because I knew the values, dedication and knowledge that I would receive here could not be matched anywhere else.

Over the course of my travels, I know firsthand that the proposed curriculum for the new Allied Health program/building at West Oahu, can rarely be found anywhere else. Bachelor's degrees in subjects like Community Health and Minority Health usually can only be found at the Master's level. This means that students must go through years of education, before they can receive the schooling to fulfill the immediate needs in our local community. By offering these, and other degrees at the bachelorette level, Hawaii will be ahead of the changes that are currently taking place, and will take place in health care.

Presently, there are no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill ensures that Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college attendees have access to health career training. It also enables motivated high school students to earn college credits in three distinct healthcare tracks: Medical, Behavioral Health and Allied Health. Whether it be in high school or college, these vital skills will be taught in our own communities. This will increase the chances that we will return and serve our communities.

I strongly support this bill and, your support will help in securing a successful future for thousands of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos and other First Generation college attendees. Healthcare is more than just giving out pills, it is about providing higher education and employment that will enable us to live and thrive in West Oahu, our home.

Thank you,



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
TIME: 2:30 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, I am Mele Look, a resident of Waimanalo, O'ahu, a health researcher for the past 35 years, and presently the Director of Community Engagement the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I speak today as an individual and am submitting testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. I support this bill for numerous reasons including:

- Health Science is a growing career area in Hawai'i, across the nation and across the world. A Health Science Academy would promote the economic opportunity for individuals and the state. Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Malama pono,
Mele Look (41028 Manana Street, Waimanalo HI 96795)

April 4, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I have been a Hawaii resident since 1984 and living in West Oahu for the last 25 years.

I am also a student at UH West Oahu and will soon obtain a bachelors degree in public administration with a concentration in health care administration. I am writing to request your support for SB 1294. This bill will enable the State of Hawaii to build an innovative Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy by supporting and hiring highly qualified faculty and staff.

Presently, there are no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill ensures that Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college attendees have access to health career training. It also enables motivated high school students to earn college credits in three distinct healthcare tracks: Medical, Behavioral Health and Allied Health. Whether it is in high school or college, these vital skills will be taught in our own community. This will create a healthcare workforce pipeline and increase the chances that we will return and serve our communities.

A vast majority of the students attending UH West Oahu are from Waianae, Nanakuli, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Wailua and Wahiawa. We strongly support this bill and the empowerment it brings. YOUR SUPPORT will help in securing a successful future for thousands of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, other First Generation college attendees and their descendants. Healthcare is critical to Hawaii's sustainability, fundamentally and economically, considering our location in the Pacific and service to other island nations and countries. Your support for SB 1294 means providing higher education and employment that will enable us to live and thrive in West Oahu, our home.

Respectfully,



David Aponte
92-1260 Makakilo Dr
Kapolei, HI 96707
(808) 672-6499
Email: aponted@hawaii.edu

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
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DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, I am Andrea H. Hermosura, PhD, from the Department of Native Hawaiian Health, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai‘i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai‘i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai‘i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai‘i’s entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai‘i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai‘i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.

- Many studies, including those done in Hawai‘i, find that a person’s income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person’s educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.
- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor’s degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai‘i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor’s degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor’s degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea H. Hermosura', written in a cursive style.

Andrea H. Hermosura, PhD

April 4, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Irvin Santos and I was born and raised in Ewa Beach and I graduated from Moanalua High School.

I am also a student at UH West Oahu and I am writing to request your support for SB 1294. This bill will enable the State of Hawaii to build an innovative Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy by supporting and hiring highly qualified faculty and staff.

Presently, there are no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill will ensure that Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college attendees have access to health career training. It also enables motivated high school students to earn college credits in three distinct healthcare tracks: Medical, Behavioral Health and Allied Health. Whether it be in high school or college, these vital skills will be taught in our own communities. This will create a healthcare workforce pipeline and increase the chances that we will return and serve our communities.

A vast majority of the students attending UH West Oahu are from Waianae, Nanakuli, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Wailua and Wahiawa. We strongly support this bill and the empowerment it brings. With your support, it will help in securing a successful future for thousands of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, other First Generation college attendees and their descendants. Healthcare is more than just giving our pills, it is about providing higher education and employment that will enable us to live and thrive in West Oahu, our home.

I stand by my testimony.

Sincerely,
Irvin Santos

Jaimeanne Bantug
Jaimeannebantug@gmail.com

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the Finance Committee

RE: SB 1294, Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Finance Committee,
I am support of SB1294. I am a resident of Hawaii and I live in Honolulu. Currently, I am a student attending University of West Oahu. A majority of the students who are enrolled are Native Hawaiians. The establishment of a health sciences academy is detrimental for future generations especially for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and first generation college students.

The building of a health sciences academy at University of West Oahu provides easy access and is important to establish an allied health building for the betterment of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and first generation college students. An establishment of a health sciences academy provides access to health sciences education and it eliminates health disparities, while achieving social justice through educational achievement.

The access to health sciences education can impact the social and cultural determinants of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and other indigenous population in the State of Hawaii. The undergraduate health sciences academy can create a generation of creators and leaders. The number of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other indigenous population would increase in health professions and science careers as a result. Currently, there are no health sciences programs past the two year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill also allows for high school students to earn college credits in three healthcare tracks. They are medical, behavioral health, and allied health.

Your support on SB 1294 will help in the future for many Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, and first generation attendees. There is more to healthcare than just prescribing medication to patients. With access to higher education and employment, that will allow us to prosper in Oahu and specifically in West Oahu, where many people call home.

Sincerely,

Jaimeanne Bantug

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 2:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: holderkay8@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM

SB1294

Submitted on: 4/4/2017

Testimony for FIN on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kayla Holder	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Kayla Holder, am representing the student body of UH West Oahu in support of bill SB1294. Upon entering UH West, I and other students had to design our own programs to pursue health professions due to lack of an official, established degree program at the college. This is unfortunate because the school has great potential for health education. What we need is funding for resources and structures to carry out the official establishment of these programs. The state of Hawaii is in high demand for doctors and health professionals. Establishment of these degree programs can (1) greatly improve health access; creating smaller provider to patient ratios (2) improve quality of Hawaii's healthcare; increasing the size of the workforce to allow providers to give more individualized and intimate attention to their patients. If this policy isn't passed, many Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and first generation college students will miss the opportunity to go to college and pursue health professions. I would like to see my peers and successors have space and opportunity to reach their full potential. Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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April 4, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I am a first generation American and first generation college student born in California. Before I turned one my parents sporadically moved to Hawaii, I was raised on the East and West side of Oahu ultimately graduating from Pearl City High School in 2008. Upon graduation, I enlisted into the Navy to support my country and to obtain a means to pay for my higher education.

I am a Hospital Corpsman in the Navy and have been working in the health care industry for eight years as medical support staff. I am also a full-time student at UH West Oahu and I am writing to request your support for SB 1294. This bill will enable the State of Hawaii to build an innovative Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy by supporting and hiring highly qualified faculty and staff.

Presently, there are no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level in the State of Hawaii. Through the passing of this bill we would be able to improve the health equity of our local community by creating a stronger healthcare workforce through the employment of our future graduates. It also enables motivated high school students to earn college credits in three distinct healthcare tracks: Medical, Behavioral Health and Allied Health. Whether it be in high school or college, these vital skills will be taught in our own communities. This will increase the chances that we will return and serve our communities.

Students attending UH West Oahu strongly support this bill and the empowerment it brings. Please consider the funding of the Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy because it will help in securing a successful future for thousands of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos and other First Generation college attendees. With your help, this program will allow our community to thrive on its own without the need to outsource.

Sincerely,

Canada Spees
cspees@hawaii.edu
904-416-4558

April 4, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294, SD1:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I was born and raised in Waipahu I graduated from Waipahu High School.

I am also a student at UH West Oahu and I am writing to request your support for SB 1294. This bill will enable the State of Hawaii to build an innovative Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy by supporting and hiring highly qualified faculty and staff.

Presently, there are no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level in the State of Hawaii. This bill ensures that Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college attendees have access to health career training. It also enables motivated high school students to earn college credits in three distinct healthcare tracks: Medical, Behavioral Health and Allied Health. Whether it be in high school or college, these vital skills will be taught in our own communities. This will create a healthcare workforce pipeline and increase the chances that we will return and serve our communities.

A vast majority of the students attending UH West Oahu are from Waianae, Nanakuli, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, Waipahu, Wailua and Wahiawa. We strongly support this bill and the empowerment it brings. YOUR SUPPORT will help in securing a successful future for thousands of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, other First Generation college attendees and their descendants. Healthcare is more than just giving our pills, it is about providing higher education and employment that will enable us to live and thrive in West Oahu, our home.

Sincerely,

Jefferson Hidalgo

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Rep. Romy M. Cachola	Rep. Nicole E. Lowen
Rep. Isaac W. Choy	Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura
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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, I am Robin E. S. Miyamoto, with the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at JABSOM. I am a Clinical Psychologist. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.

- Many studies, including those done in Hawai‘i, find that a person’s income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person’s educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.
- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor’s degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai‘i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor’s degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor’s degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii at Manoa
677 Ala Moana Blvd. 1016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Office: 808-692-1012
Fax: 808-587-8576
robinemi@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 2:58 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hawaiifishingfanatic@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM*

SB1294

Submitted on: 4/4/2017

Testimony for FIN on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294
AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES
ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, I am Bianca Paishon, a student from the University of West Oahu. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.
- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.

- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bianca Paishon

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LATE

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
TIME: 2:30 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, I am Dr. Kau'i Baumhofer, an epidemiologist, and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294. This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill for numerous reasons:

- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource within the community.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native

Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.

- Current data suggest that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college than other ethnic groups partly due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For those Native Hawaiian students who do attend college, graduation and retention rates are consistently lower than the general student population. Students also identified that a strong desire to live close to family and participate in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.
- Multiple studies testing factors leading to retention identified that the more involved Native Hawaiian students are in school activities and interact with faculty members and other peers, the more likely they are to persist in their education. The development of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Native Hawaiian student retention would target integration of both the student and their family in school activities.
- 30% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander children have parents with high school degrees as their highest education level while 18% have parents with a bachelor's degree or higher. During the 2007 - 08 academic year, 34% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduate males were enrolled in postsecondary education, yet smaller sample size of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population made it difficult to provide data for undergraduate completion.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, and currently, about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Born and raised in 'Aiea, I have a strong personal connection to Leeward Oahu and am eager to see the development of an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i. Having a dedicated program to assist students and guide them through their academic programs with a special emphasis on retention is essential. Without family members to guide and mentor me into a health profession I struggled as an undergraduate and post-baccalaureate pre-medical student. Today, I strongly credit much of my academic and professional success to my many colleagues and mentors at the Department of Native Hawaiian Health who have assisted in my development over the past twelve years from graduate research assistant to Assistant Professor. They understood where I was coming from and where I needed to go. It is my hope that the health sciences academy will guide and nurture the next generation of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander healthcare professionals and scientists.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,



Kau'i Baumhofer, ScD, MPH, MA
Assistant Professor
Health Equity Research Fellow
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

LATE



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Finance Committee

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Date: April 5, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the House Finance Committee

RE: SB 1294, SD1, HD1, Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Cullen a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai 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 Group of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to support SB 1294, SD1, HD1, relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education and offer the following comments: This measure establishes an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i to increase recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students and makes an appropriation. We believe that this is an important step toward increasing the number and quality of higher education paths available to Native Hawaiian 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'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 7:45 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hedgesew@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM

SB1294

Submitted on: 4/5/2017

Testimony for FIN on Apr 5, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerris Hedges	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha kakou, I have previously been a contributor to testimony (both as an individual and as a representative of the University of Hawaii) in support of this measure which provides needed state investment to build meaningful health career educational programs for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students. It will foster cross- campus educational efforts for these students who seek relevant and affordable education here in Hawaii. Please support this bill in spirit and by providing the requested financial support. Jerris Hedges, MD Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
TIME: 2:30 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, my name is Shelley Soong, I am a student and a staff member at the University of Hawai'i. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1294.

This bill would develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system, in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i. I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Within the labor force, Native Hawaiians have a lower rate of college degrees and are less likely to be employed in high paying management and professional occupations.
- **Only 6.2% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians (i.e., Nanakuli) hold a bachelor's degree compared to 21.6%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Graduate school attendance, after completing an undergraduate degree, is considered an important outcome for increasing the nation's professionals in health science careers. As access to graduate education is limited to those who excel at the undergraduate level, increasing the number of Native Hawaiian students that successfully complete and excel in undergraduate science degrees is critical at a national level.
- **Only 1.9% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians (i.e., Nanakuli) hold a graduate or professional degree compared to 11.1%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Data also suggests low graduation rates in science fields among Native Hawaiians, and attrition from the sciences is associated with an overall shortage of professionals in the science and health fields.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum.
- Ultimately, a strong network of highly trained Native Hawaiian health professionals is needed to work in health care, conduct health disparities research and eliminate the racial and ethnic disparities that exist in health care.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,
Shelley Soong

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, I am Regina Cummings, MBA, an administrator of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. However, I submit this testimony as a private citizen and as a Native Hawaiian woman and mother, alumni of the University of Hawai'i West Oahu and alumni of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am in strong support of SB 1294.

This bill will develop a much needed undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system in cooperation with relevant educational institutions, to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and first generation college attendees. This bill would also appropriate monies out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i for twenty permanent faculty and staff positions to establish and implement an undergraduate health sciences academy at the University of Hawai'i.

I have personally experienced the difficulty of trying to navigate an undergraduate and graduate educational journey without a structured pathway. Graduating from high school in 2002, it took me 12 years, 6 different institutions, and over \$40,000 in student loans to obtain my Bachelor's Degree from UH West Oahu and finally my Master's Degree from UH Mānoa.

My mother, a single parent from Waimānalo did everything she could to provide for me and my brother and sisters. She would tell you I was a highly driven self-motivated person who completed everything I put my mind to. I am a first generation college graduate and attended college consistently from 2002-2016 while raising 4 children and working full time (non-traditional student). Since receiving my Bachelor's

degree in 2014 and my Master's degree in 2016 I was able to reflect back on my educational journey. Although I do not regret my journey, I do believe there could have been an easier way. My tenacity and determination was what got me through...but the truth is, not all students would have been able to stick it out that long. As I look toward the future and try to map out the educational journey of my children and my nieces and nephews, I have no other choice but to back a measure like SB 1294 in hopes that the next generation will be given the necessary tools and support they need to succeed without trying to navigate the system blindly, or by trial and error like I did. This measure gives me hope that Native Hawaiians like me will be encouraged and empowered to know that they can succeed and become a part of Hawaii's health workforce. This measure will ensure a safe and supportive environment for Native Hawaiian and Pacific islander students to thrive in.

I support SB 1294 for the following reasons:

- A structured pathway that targets Native Hawaiians into Health careers will lift the unnecessary burdens Native Hawaiian students experience when trying to navigate the college system.
- A pathway will provide the necessary support students need to succeed. A structured pathway of courses that will guide them from point A to point B without confusion and unnecessary burdens associated with trying to figure out your next move.
- College is expensive, a structured pathway will assist students in making sure they are taking the right courses and making the most of their tuition dollars. Taking unnecessary courses takes away valuable time from family or even work opportunities that allow students to financially support themselves and their families. Today there are more and more non-traditional students enrolled in colleges, a structured pathway will make sure that parents and working adults are making the most of their time.
- Supporting Native Hawaiian students through their educational journey with the necessary mentors they need to guide them will keep the student engaged, informed and empowered.
- We all know the health care system is constantly changing and will require diverse and highly trained health professionals to meet the health care demands of our state. Why not target Native Hawaiian students into health care careers, allowing consumers the opportunity to receive health services from professionals they can relate to. Health professionals that look like them, that understand their needs and are aware of the cultural and social effects of their daily lifestyles.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Regina Cummings

Regina Cummings, MBA
Waimānalo, HI