



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 28, 2017 at 1:35 p.m.

By

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

SB 1294 – RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1294. 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 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.

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

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday February 28, 2017 at 1:35 PM
Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES
ACADEMY

By

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

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, 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 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.

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 the **Native Hawaiian Health Task Force**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 12:49 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Feb 28, 2017 13:35PM

SB1294

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 28, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We continue to STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill.

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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February 28, 2017

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

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

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. 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. Our students come from Kapolei, Waipahu, Ewa Beach, Waianae, Nanakuli, Wailua and Wahiawa. Most are Native Hawaiian (28%) and Filipino (21%). They are underrepresented in all health care career fields. They also are 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 undergraduate trained Health Science professionals. Although Allied Health programs are offered at the associate degree level within the UH system, a number of professions, e.g. Physical, Occupational and Respiratory Therapy require, or are moving to advanced degrees for entry level practice. Presently, Hawaii does not offer a bachelor's level degree in Health Sciences.

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 our communities. Attached is the most updated brief on the UH West Oahu Health Sciences Program. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

UH WEST OAHU UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAM

Executive Summary: Increasingly, attention and resources have been given to the physician shortage. Unknown to most, there is an even greater shortage of in the Health Sciences. After analysis, increasing trainings is the best solution. The University of Hawaii–West Oahu is well positioned to build an Undergraduate Health Sciences Program that is community, service and team based.

Health Sciences Defined: 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. 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

Health Science Analysis:

As *Stakeholders*, healthcare workers and patients need to prepare for three significant trends:

- 1) An increase in the number of elderly
- 2) A decrease in the number of healthcare workers due to retirement
- 3) Only a small increase in the number of healthcare training programs

Specific Stakeholders include the communities within the mokus of Ewa, Waianae and Wailua:

- 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.

UH West Oahu is an *Educational Resource*. With almost 3000 enrollees, it is a 4-year student-centered, indigenous serving institution that is both affordable and accessible. Tuition at UHWO is \$7K/yr (UH Manoa = \$11K/yr, Chaminade & HPU = \$21K/yr). 28% of students report their ethnicity as Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and 21% as Filipino. In terms of *Financial Resources*, the federal government has invested very little towards Health Sciences Training. This needs to change.

Recommendation: *An unrecognized potential in the community is our underrepresented youth. They comprise a viable healthcare workforce pipeline. By aligning collective ideas, solutions and resources, "Growing our own, from our community, for our community," can be achieved. Health Sciences training needs to be community, service and team based. The optimum site for this training is the UH West Oahu.*

Conclusion: Adding highly skilled Health Science Professionals to healthcare teams in Hawaii will lead to increased access, better quality and lower costs. For UH West Oahu, the transformative changes needed to achieve this goal require:

1. Offering a Bachelor’s Degree in Health Sciences pursuing excellence, innovation and service.
2. Constructing a new Health Sciences Building to provide classrooms and laboratories for learning.
3. Forging and developing community, educational and government collaborative partnerships to integrate and advance learned knowledge and clinical practice.

The future health and wellness of Hawaii’s people depends on the success of this endeavor.

UH West Oahu Health Sciences Program Tenets: Training Must -

1. Be in the Community (Community-Based)
2. Integrate Learning with Doing (Service-Based)
3. Produce Interprofessional Teams (Team-Based)

Inaugural Health Science Program Concentrations:

- o *Community Health*
- o *Respiratory Care*
- o *Pre-Professional*
- o *Long Term Care*
- o *Health Information Management*

Present Healthcare Gaps & Future Knowledge & Skills Needed:

- Patient Centered Medical Home needs = Durable Medical Equipment / Skilled Nursing Competence
 - Hospital Discharge to Home Transition = Patient & Family Education / Discharge Care Coordination / Caregiver Support / Mobile Health Home Monitoring
 - Long Term Care Homes = Frail Elderly / Access and Quality of Care Inequities/ mHealth Monitoring
 - Patient Care Coordination = Specialist Referral/Prior Authorization/Behavioral Health/Wound Care
- Integrated Knowledge & Skills Required in the Future = Nursing, Social Work, Care Coordination, Counseling, Referrals, mHealth, Patient Navigation, Coding, Comm. Health Worker, Pharmacology*

Partnerships:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AlohaCare • Hawaii Department of Health • Hawaii MedQUEST • Kalihi-Palama Health Center • Kapiolani Community College • Kulana Malama • Leeward Community College • Queen’s West Oahu • Queen’s Health Systems • University of Hawaii Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UH Hilo School of Nursing • UH John A. Burns School of Medicine • UH at Manoa School of Nursing • UHWO Creative Media • UHWO Music Department • UHWO Pre-Nursing Program • UHWO Public Administration Program • UHWO Sustainable Food Systems Prog • Waianae Coast Comp Health Center
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Timeline:

- Fall 2016 - Groundbreaking of new Health Sciences Building. Implement Respiratory Care
- Spring 2017 to Spring 2018: Design and implement Community Health & Pre-Professions
- Fall 2017 to Spring 2019: Hire Design & Implement Long Term Care and HIM Concentrations.
- Spring 2019 to Fall 2019: Health Sciences Building Completed. BA Health Sciences is offered
- Spring 2020: First Health Science Graduates. Groundbreaking Clinical Training Center
- Fall 2021: Hire / Design / Transfer / Implement Future Concentrations (see below)

- Dental Hygiene	- Nursing	- Speech Therapy
- School Health Specialist	- Occupational Therapy	- Counseling
- Medical Technology	- Physical Therapy	- Minority Health Policy

Summary: "You can give a person a fish and feed him for a day. You can teach a person how to fish. But true empowerment is access to the stream." - *Theda New Breast (Blackfeet)*. For UH West Oahu Health Science students, true empowerment is access to the stream of higher education and gainful

employment. The final evaluation will be in the quality and number of our graduates serving our communities.

Contact = *Ricardo C. Custodio, MD, MPH; ricardo8@hawaii.edu / 808-799-8634*

2/27/17



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 1:35 p.m.
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Where: Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY
By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee

RE: **SB 1294 Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education**

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku Tokuda, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Dela Cruz a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support SB 1294**, 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: Friday, February 24, 2017 4:08 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: rallyartmax@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Feb 28, 2017 13:35PM

SB1294

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 28, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris C.K. Arakaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The money should come the from private sector.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 12:14 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Feb 28, 2017 13:35PM*

SB1294

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 28, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday February 28, 2017 at 1:35 PM
Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee, I am Robin Miyamoto, a Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Professor with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Departments of Native Hawaiian Health and Family Medicine and Community 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.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which 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.

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.
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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
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robinemi@hawaii.edu

February 28, 2017

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

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 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.

February 28, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1294:
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

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. And, 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. My students come from Kapolei, Waipahu, Ewa Beach, Waianae, Nanakuli, Wailua and Wahiawa. Most are Native Hawaiian and Filipino. They are the underrepresented in all health care career fields. They also are underestimated by most. I have been surprised by their creativity, professionalism and capability. Their life's experiences have 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 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 success of this endeavor. The final evaluation of success will be in the quality and number of our graduates serving our 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

University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu - Student Testimony

SB1294: 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

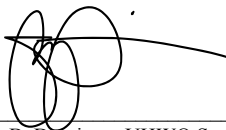
Addressing: THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS || Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair & Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

On behalf of the students pursuing a higher education within the University of Hawaii System, I, Ryan Domingo, a student at the University of Hawaii at West Oahu, fully support the objective of SB1294, specifically in its pursuit of standardizing a proper bachelor's program relating to Health Sciences, most notably within the areas of Allied Health. Currently, involved partnerships form varying stakeholders within the educational setting such as the University of Hawaii System, JABSOM, Native Hawaiian Health Task Force, as well as other entities have come forward to show their support for the bill aforementioned.

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

Jaimeanne Bantug
Jaimeannebantug@gmail.com

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
And Members of the Ways and Means Committee

RE: SB 1294, Relating to Native Hawaiian Higher Education

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Ways and Means 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

February 27, 2017

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I was born and raised in Mākaha and I graduated from Wai‘anae High School. Most of my ‘ohana still live on the coast. I am Native Hawaiian, was considered LIFG (low-income, first generation) when I was in college, and now a proud college graduate of the University of Hawai‘i System schools.

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 Hawai‘i. This bill ensures that Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college students 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 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 O‘ahu from Wai‘anae, Nānākuli, Kapolei, ‘Ewa Beach, Waipahū, 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 out pills, it is about providing higher education and employment that will enable us to live and thrive in West O‘ahu, our home.

Mahalo,

Loea Akiona

The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members of the Ways and Means Committee

Latanya Edwards
Student of University of Hawaii-West Oahu

February 27, 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.

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 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,

Latanya Edwards

February 27, 2017

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 12:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: micahalameda@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1294 on Feb 28, 2017 13:35PM*

SB1294

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 28, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Micah Alameda	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 WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Thursday February 28, 2017 at 1:35 PM
Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz 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, MBA
Waimānalo, HI

February 28, 2017

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I was born and raised in Waipahu and 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.

Currently, the State of Hawaii has no health sciences programs past the two-year associate level. This bill will ensure access and opportunities to health career training for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino and other First Generation college attendees. It will also prompt motivated high school students to earn college credits in three distinct healthcare pathways: Biomedical, Behavioral Health, and Allied Health.

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. Providing higher education and employment will enable a future for the next generations of West Oahu.

Sincerely,

C. Aquino

Christian Aquino

February 28, 2017

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I was born in the Philippines but was raised in Waipahu and 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 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.

I stand by my testimony SB 1294.

Sincerely,

Ashley Jane Bonilla

February 28, 2017

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

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 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. With your guys support, it 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.

I stand by my testimony. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Irvin Santos

February 28, 2017

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

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

NOTICE OF HEARING
Tuesday February 28, 2017 at 1:35 PM
Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Aloha e Honorable Chairs Kahele and Shimabukuro, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Galuteria and members of the committee,

I am Winona Lee, a pediatrician and Assistant Professor in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine. This testimony is 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.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which presented the establishment of an undergraduate health sciences academy as one of its key recommendations.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Current data suggests that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college compared to other ethnic groups in part 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.
- The development of a Health Sciences Academy would increase access to higher education for these students who have faced challenges, providing them stronger academic, professional, and personal support networks that will potentially contribute to their future success in higher education.
- As a Native Hawaiian/Filipino, first generation college student, I found the navigation through college courses difficult but possible with the help of family, mentors, and support networks. I would not have become a pediatrician and mentor for other students were it not for the help that was provided to me early in my academic career.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,



Winona K. Lee, MD

From: [Bianca Paishon](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:40:47 AM

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N.

Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan M.

Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday February 28, 2017 at 1:35 PM

Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

**AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES
ACADEMY**

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee, I am XXX, a XXX, and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa'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.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which 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.

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,
Bianca Paishon

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

LATE

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday February 28, 2017 at 1:35 PM
Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz 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,



Joseph Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula, PhD

From: [Shelley Soong](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1294
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:04:54 AM

LATE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING
Tuesday February 28, 2017 at 1:35 PM
Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee, my name is Shelley Soong, I am a student and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa'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.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which 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.

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.

- 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.
- 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

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Shelley