



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

By  
Maenette K. P. Ah Nee-Benham, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i West O'ahu

### SB 2320 SD1 – RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2320 SD1. This measure represents the collaborative leadership efforts of the Native Hawaiian Task Force, University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and 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

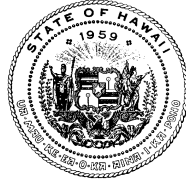
in family activities and cultural pressures as factors that contributed to non-completion.

- 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 2320 SD1 on the condition that any requested funds do not supplant any portion of the University's BOR Approved Supplemental budget request.

Mahalo for your consideration, and the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY  
ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2320 SD1  
RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY.**

SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 21, 2018

Room Number: 211

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified general fund appropriation.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of SB2320 SD1, which
- 3 is to establish an undergraduate health sciences academy to increase recruitment and retention of
- 4 Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first-generation college students.
- 5 Investments in Hawaii's health care future should primarily come from Hawaii itself, for which
- 6 an undergraduate health sciences academy would be a strong foundational element. In addition
- 7 to workforce and economic development opportunities, the distinctly place-based and culturally
- 8 sensitive competencies are unlikely to be learned anywhere else. The department urges this
- 9 measure move forward so this important public policy discussion may continue.
- 10 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Date: February 28, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 211

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk  
Kamehameha Schools

**RE: SB 2320, SD1, Relating to an Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy**

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

We are writing to **support** SB 2320, SD1, relating to an undergraduate health sciences academy and offer the following comments: this measure establishes an undergraduate health sciences academy to be administered by the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu to increase recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students. It requires the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu to submit a report to the legislature regarding educational outcomes and appropriates funds. We believe that this measure represents 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'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

**SB-2320-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 1:39:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Testifying for Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu supports SB2320 SD1 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 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 noncompletion.
- 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.

Mahalo. Please pass SB2320 SD1.



Papa Ola Lokahi  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

## Papa Ola Lokahi

894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**Sen. Donovan DelaCruz, Chair**  
**Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair**

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320 SD1

### RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

February 28, Wednesday, 11:00 AM, Conference Room 211, State Capitol

#### Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

#### Board of Directors

##### Member Organizations

*Hoola Lahui Hawaii*

*Hui No Ke Ola Pono*

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*ALU LIKE*

*Ke Ola Mamo*

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*University of Hawaii*

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of  
Health*

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*Office of Hawaiian Affairs*

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#### Executive Director

*Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD*

Greetings of aloha to Chair DelaCruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 2320 SD1 that proposes to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy at UH West O'ahu.

An important finding in the 1985 *E Ola Mau Native Hawaiian Health Needs Assessment* was underrepresentation of Hawaiians in the health disciplines. The evidence indicates that people seeking care will be more likely to go to providers who look like them.

The triumvirate of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act ([P.L. 111-148, Title 42 USC 122](#)), originally passed by Congress in 1988 and most recently in 2010, are Papa Ola Lōkahi, the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, and the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program. We address health disparities in Hawai'i by being involved in policy, research, data & information, direct and enabling services, outreach, Hawaiian healing traditions, workforce development, and more.

To address the disparities in the health workforce, the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program (NHHSP) was established. Since 1991, the NHHSP has awarded more than 274 scholarships to Kanaka Maoli students in 20 different primary and behavioral health care profession training programs. The NHHSP's requirement to serve in a medically underserved area in Hawai'i commensurate with the length of training time for which the scholar received support (minimum 2 years, maximum 4 years) assures Hawaiian providers are serving in Hawaiian communities.

The establishment of a health sciences academy that targets Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and first generation college students will help build a more representative health workforce, which we believe will improve access to care by those who seek it.

Furthermore, Papa Ola Lōkahi believes the leadership at the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu is ideally suited to establish a sustainable health sciences academy there. We look forward to collaborating with UHWO to recruit and retain more Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and first generation college students in the health professions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT of SB 2320 SD1.**

## Native Hawaiian Health Coalition

### Co-chairs:

Keawe'aimoku  
Kaholokula  
Kamana'opono Crabbe  
Virginia Pressler

### Members:

Lola Irvin  
Lorrin Kim  
Noa Emmett Aluli  
Puni Kekauoha  
Kamaki Kanahahele  
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 Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

### **COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

### **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday February 28, 2018 at 11:00 AM  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320**

RELATING TO 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 Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees, on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force, we wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2320. Established in 2014 and having completed our mandated activities in December 2016, we have since reconvened the group, now know as the Native Hawaiian Health Coalition.

SB 2320 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.

We 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, only about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by the **Native Hawaiian Health Coalition**

**SB-2320-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 7:54:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying for Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 28, 2018 at 11:00am  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, I am Claire Townsend Ing, an Assistant Professor, 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 2320. 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.

Developing an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system that targets the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students would create educated, capable health care workers to meet the expected rise in jobs. 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, only about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Additionally, education and income are inextricably linked to health and social outcomes. Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with the length of his or her life. Individuals 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. 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. Creating an academy focused on the needs of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students will enable them to fill community needs while also improving their lives and those of future generations.

Respectfully submitted by,

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2320

Aloha,

I am a student at the University of Hawaii at West Oahu. About six years ago I was a senior at Radford High School. There were programs that helped students prepare for college. I'll admit, I was lost during that time. I didn't know who or what I wanted to be. The only thing that I did know was that I wanted to be in healthcare, so I took healthcare electives. I took an anatomy class and a few other health related courses in hopes to find a place where I belong. We had a center for college preparedness, but no one seemed to push us to go there for help. At the end of my senior year I had only applied to one college. Luckily, I was accepted. My parents pushed me to become a nurse, just as any other Filipino, but I soon found out that it wasn't for me. For two years I struggled with school. I had no motivation and I was failing a lot of my classes.

After I realized becoming a nurse wasn't my calling I took a year off. During that time, I was fortunate to begin working as a patient service representative at a dental company. It has been three years since I began that new journey and I still continue to work in the dental industry. When I was in high school, I had no idea what health administration was. Today, I'm only one semester away from graduating with my bachelor's degree with concentration of healthcare administration. If I had known about the different types of healthcare opportunities in high school, I would have planned for a better future for myself.

SB2320 has the potential to transform the college program and also further help high school students. More students will have more opportunities to pursue healthcare degrees. The need for high school students to plan for their future is very high and important. Some high schools do establish programs to assist with college planning, but do they expose their students with the different opportunities that they may have in healthcare? SB2320 will help high school students become exposed and gain knowledge about more career paths in healthcare, which will help them plan accordingly. If they plan accordingly then they will be able to save themselves both time and money, instead of wasting it like I did as I was on a long journey to discover who I wanted to be.

For these reasons, I support SB2320.

Mahalo,  
Kristine Luna  
Student  
University of Hawaii at West Oahu

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 28, 2018 at 11:00am  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, I am Kamuela Werner, a Native Hawaiian Health Researcher, 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 2320. 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 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:

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kamuela K. Werner

February 28, 2018

Testimony in support of SB2320

To: Ways and Means Committee

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice-Chair Keith Agaran,

Education is key to unlock many doors to opportunities and it's a gift that keeps on giving. I believe that education can make a poor man or woman successful, it can make someone wiser in choices for today and the future, it can also lead you away from a life of trouble and hardship. We ALL should be advocating education more and more to stop the cycles of poverty here in Hawaii. Our natives are being forced out of the state, because of the rise of cost of living or worse yet, becoming homeless.

Personal Statement:

Recently in 2013, my 19 years of marriage ended abruptly. Most of my years of marriage, I was a stay at home mom. I did attend college right after high school; however, I got pregnant after my second year of college and decided to put college off. When my marriage ended, I looked into the work force. However, not having much experience in working, finding a good paying job here in Hawaii was going to be really difficult. I was left with the decision of going back to college or finding a job. Since I was a single parent at the time, I decided that going to back to college will better my chances of supporting myself and my three daughters. I applied to UH Manoa and got accepted, but I was told about the 'Ike Maui Ola nursing pathway at UH West Oahu. 'Ike Maui Ola is a program designed for Native Hawaiians, but not limited to, to have an opportunity to get the support and classes they need in order to apply successfully to a nursing program. Luckily, I was accepted into this program. Even though I live in Hawaii Kai, I made the decision to go into the program at UH West Oahu. There are two major reasons why: First, when I met with the counselors and the people in the program, I felt like they were family already. It felt like a community within a community. I fell in love with the people at UH West Oahu. Secondly, I know how important it is to have a support system and have positive people who actually care to see me succeed. Since I found this at UH West Oahu, my mind was made up. Driving all the way to Kapolei from Hawaii Kai became a daily sacrifice, but so worth it.

'Ike Maui Ola has taught me so much about the Hawaiian culture and the care that the natives need. My husband's family and most of my classmates are from the west side of Oahu. Most of their families have lived in a never-ending cycle of poverty and no education post high school. Since the key to ending poverty is education, it is so important to give natives more opportunities in education allowing them to be competitive or even having the upper hand in the workforce. Healthcare workers will always be a need in Hawaii. Giving the people of Hawaii keys to education at UH West Oahu will help the Natives to stay closer to home, and the opportunity that they need to unlock the doors to a greater future in Hawaii.

Please pass the Senate Bill 2320. Please think of all those children on West Oahu, and even the older people like me who need the chance and the opportunity. Sadly, my cohort is the last cohort for the nursing program at UH West Oahu. But I beg of you to bring restitution to the people of Hawaii, and give them greater opportunities.

If you give life to SB2320, you give life to West Oahu.



**SB-2320-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:48:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Ricardo C. Custodio	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2320**

**February 22nd, 2018**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran,

I have practiced medicine for 35 years in Hawaii's most underserved areas (Kalihi, Puna, Kau, Hilo, Nanakuli and Waianae). Healthcare is more than just giving out pills. It is about giving opportunities for education and employment. SB2320 has the potential to be truly transformation in many ways:

- It will jump start the UH West Oahu Health Science Academy in preparation for degrees in Pre-Health Professional (Pre-Med, Pre-Dental, Pre-Pharm, Pre-OT, Pre-PT), Native Hawaiian & Indigenous Health & Healing and a new Admin/ Health Science Building
- It will give underserved and underrepresented youth in Hawaii, and especially in West Oahu, a chance at a bachelor's degree and a health career that will pay a living and sustainable wage, thus ending generational cycles of poverty
- It will challenge the need to bring in healthcare workers from the mainland because those jobs will be filled by committed local graduates who will stay in Hawaii
- It will impact our health science workforce shortage, which is worse than the doctor and nursing shortage combined, by providing highly qualified local staff who will stay in Hawaii

For these reasons, I support SB2320.

Salamat,

“Dr. Ric”

Ricardo C. Custodio, M.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor and Chair of Health Sciences, UH West Oahu

Pediatrician, Kalihi-Palama Health Center

Reede Scholar, Harvard University

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

11:00 A.M.

Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320**

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Del Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committees, on my own behalf, I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2320.

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 am also a nationally recognized health disparities scientist whose community-based research projects involving Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities are supported by the National Institutes of Health. I wish to submit this personal testimony in strong support of SB 2320. 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 to 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 Hawaiian. 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. Long-standing institutional-based biases also exist that place Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders at a disadvantage in higher education. I recall often feeling alienated and out-of-place in my classes with no services available to address my concerns or culturally safe and relevant programs.

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 and Pacific Islanders 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.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph K. Kaholokula". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'K'.

Joseph Keawe`aimoku Kaholokula, PhD

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 28, 2018 at 11:00am  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, my name is Chessa Harris, MBA, a Native Hawaiian, and faculty 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 2320. 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 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, only about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chessa Harris, MBA

**SB-2320-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 12:52:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you very much for this bill. Not only does the Hawaiians get priced out of paradise from affordable housing, but priced out of education as well. As a Native Hawaiian, I believe education in the Healthcare will help sustain the Hawaiians to stay here in Hawaii and take care of the people for many generations.

**Testimony in support of SB2320**  
**February 22, 2018**

Growing up I always wanted to go into the healthcare field. I did not know exactly what I wanted to go into, but I knew I wanted to go into the medical field because I enjoy helping others. My senior year of high school I decided to pursue a degree in nursing. In Hawaii there are not too many schools that offer nursing as a major. The schools that do offer nursing in Hawaii have a very high expensive tuition and my family could not afford that. SB2330 gives the chance for many students to get a degree in healthcare.

- Having this SB2320 will give students the chance to dream. Many students give up their dream of a healthcare career because of the difficulty it is to achieve in Hawaii. Tuition is high and schools are limited, therefore many students are not able to be accepted to colleges with the degree they would like to pursue.
- The SB2320 would also help students from all different backgrounds have the same chance to get a healthcare related degree. Those degrees include, Pre-Med, Pre-Dental, Pre-Pharm, Pre-OT, and Pre-PT.
- This will also help with the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii. The shortage of healthcare providers is real and is scary. As the years go on, the shortage just gets worst. By having local students become local healthcare providers it will help with the shortage of healthcare providers.

For these reasons, I support SB2320.

Thank you!

Keani Sato



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 28, 2018 at 11:00am  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, I am Dr. Kau'i Baumhofer, a Native Hawaiian social 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 2320. 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 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, only 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, reading "Nicole Kau'i Baumhofer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'N'.

N. Kau'i Baumhofer, ScD, MPH, MA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 28, 2018 at 11:00am  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, I am a parent 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 2320. 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 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.
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- 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.
- 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.
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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob DeFilio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline that extends across the name.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

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415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, I am Dr. Marjorie Mau, a Professor of Medicine, and a faculty 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 2320. 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 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, only about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Marjorie K Leimomi Mau, MD MACP

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 28, 2018 at 11:00am  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, I am Winona K. Lee, an Associate Professor in 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 2320. This bill would establish 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 presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of the key 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 a number of reasons:

- 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 than the general student population. An undergraduate health sciences academy would provide a comprehensive educational model that offers Native Hawaiian students the knowledge and confidence required to meet the rigor of a science-related degree and focus of study.
- As an educator working with disadvantaged students, many of whom are first generation, Native Hawaiian, and/or Pacific Islanders, I have witnessed the success of strong pipeline programs that provide students with opportunities and support, leading to higher student retention and graduation rates.
- 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, only about 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders hold bachelor's degrees. This academy has the potential of boosting the educational attainment for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students and their ability to successfully pursue employment in the health care field. This would benefit the student, their family, and ultimately, their communities.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Winona K. Lee, MD



**SB-2320-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 12:35:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

11:00 A.M.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of **SB 2320 SD1**, RELATING TO AN  
UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES  
ACADEMY

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

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. **2320 SD1**, relating to UH; Health Sciences; Native Hawaiians; Pacific Islanders; Report; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. **2320 SD1** and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. **2320 SD1**, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes an undergraduate health sciences academy to be administered by the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu to increase recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students; requires the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu to submit a report to the legislature regarding educational outcomes; and appropriates funds.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "We support Hawaiian language immersion schools that contribute to the revitalization and continuation of the Hawaiian language and appropriate assessments that accurately reflect Hawaiian language immersion students' progress and support the Hawaiian language immersion program. We support Hawaiian-focused schools and courses that provide culturally-based education in order to maximizes choices in life and work. We support educational programming and efforts that embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and history as a foundation to prepare students for success in college, career and communities. (Platform of the DPH, 4. 6, Lines 216-222 (2016)).

We believe that the future of our state as well as our country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process." (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 296-299(2016)).

We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. We view standardized tests as just one way of evaluating learning and support multiple measures, including performance assessments such as portfolios and observations." (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 310-316(2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. **2320 SD1** establishes an undergraduate health sciences academy to be administered by the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu to increase recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and first generation college students; requires the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu to submit a report to the legislature regarding educational outcomes; and appropriates funds, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,  
/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee  
Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Tel.: (808) 258-8889

## **Testimony in Support of SB2320**

**February 27, 2018**

Aloha Chair Kahele and Chair Shimabukuro,

I never knew what I wanted to do nor knew where I wanted to go. However, once I became a junior, I knew I wanted to work in the healthcare system because of my desire make a change. I wanted to become a nurse because I saw first-hand how they impact people. Earlier this year, my grandmother had fell ill and had to go through surgery and is currently in rehab. All the nurses my grandmother had encounter were a huge blessing for her and my family because they supported her, even when my family couldn't be with her. When I came to the University of Hawaii West Oahu, I came because the of geographical distance, as well as, the financial burden it would place on both me and my parents. I never got the opportunity to make it into the nursing program here at UH West Oahu, due to extreme circumstances, and I was tremendously disappointed. When my parents gave me the decision on whether to stay at UH West or attend UH Manoa, I chose to stay at UH West because it honestly felt like the best school for me. I support Bill SB2320 because this allows opportunities for both me, my fellow peers, and future attendees to be able to follow through with their dreams while still attending the school that best fits both their needs and desire. Bill SB2320 will allow:

- More people with the opportunity to continue their studies here on the West side, while still being able to support their families
- It will give the chance to our children in West Oahu to pursue the Medical field and take back what they have learned to their communities.
- It will provide more healthcare workers to all of the state of Hawaii

For this reason, I support SB2320.

Sincerely,

Ardena Thompson

University of Hawaii West Oahu Freshman

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 28, 2018 at 11:00am  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chairs Kahele and Shimabukuro, Vice-Chairs Kim and Galuteria 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 2320. 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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- 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.
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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  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Office: 808-692-1012  
Fax: [808-587-8576](tel:808-587-8576)  
[robinemi@hawaii.edu](mailto:robinemi@hawaii.edu)

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2320

February 22, 2018

To: Ways and Means Committee  
Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran,

I've been living on the island of Oahu all my life, seeing everything that our beautiful island has to offer. Growing up everyone has dreams to become something in life, but there are a lot of barriers that students face (including myself), that make it difficult to achieve this goal. As a high school student I knew that I wanted to go in the medical/health field, but the worry of competition and the cost of school was a huge barrier, but coming to UHWO is helping my dream turn in to a reality and continue to help students on the West Side of Oahu to achieve this goal. SB2320 would be beneficial in many ways such as:

- Undergraduate health sciences at UHWO will eliminate health disparities in Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and other underserved communities by promoting access to quality health sciences education pathways at the early college and undergraduate levels.
- Targeting the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and first generation college students to stay and serve their communities.
- Students grown up in areas of poverty can get the chance to obtain a bachelor degree in health sciences to help serve their community and end the generational cycles of poverty.
- There will be a great impact in the health workforce shortage in Hawaii, allowing health care facilities to hire locally instead of recruiting from the mainland. More local people with a bachelors degree in health sciences equals to more local people staying home serving the communities with the local culture that everyone knows and loves.

For these reasons, I support SB2320.

Thank you for your time,

Micah Yogi

**February 28, 2018**

**Testimony in Support of SB2320**

To: WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Aloha, Chair Kahele and Chair Shimabukuro,

I am a freshman college student at University of Hawaii West Oahu. I am currently majoring in Public Administration concentrating in Health Care Administration. I graduated from Waipahu High School. I am the first generation in our family to go to college and hopefully be able to graduate in college. It is my pleasure to attend University of Hawaii West Oahu for college and I am thankful to people who support me and help me make possible for me to go college. During my junior year, I joined Early College to earned college credits during my high school year. I was hoping to get medical related classes because I planning on going to Pre-Med to be Pediatrician Doctor, but Pre-med is very highly competitive course to get in. Also, I don't want to leave Hawaii and leave my families. I applied some local and mainland colleges that offer pre-med, but I got rejected so I decided to stay and take health related course here at University of Hawaii West Oahu.

During my junior year, I invited students to take early college so they can start earning college credits during their high school year. I interview some students and asked them what they want to become and their response was I wanted to become a doctor, dentist and pharmacists, but they hesitate and tell me that it might possible for them to get in so they decided to find another major to take. Mainland is the only place they know where they can take Pre-Med classes and not in Hawaii. The other reason for them to hesitate is due to financial need and leaving their home behind.

Therefore, having Health Science Academy will be a big opportunity for all of us who wants to become a doctor, pharmacist, or dentist etc. Native Hawaiian, Filipino and Pacific Islander can become who they want to become without leaving their families behind. It will also impact our health sciences workforce shortage if we have health science academy in Hawaii at University of Hawaii West Oahu. It will motivates youth to go college because they know they can stay here and become who they want to become. Also, the more opportunity we have, the more youth strive to get into college and get a college degree.

For these reasons, I support SB2320

Aloha,

Jennifer Velasco

Student

University of Hawaii West Oahu



**SB-2320-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:25:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jae-Dee Kaeo-Jeremiah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2320-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:30:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sirena Reyes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**27th February 2018**

**Re: Sirena Reyes' Testimony in Support of SB2320**

**I, Sirena Raquel Reyes, am in support of SB2320. I am graduate of Kapolei High School, a current student at the University of Hawaii at West Oahu pursuing a certificate in health care administration, a former student of the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a Bachelor's of Science in Family Resources and a minor in Spanish, and am currently in the process of applying to medical school; and I am a proponent of SB2320 because I believe the creation of a health and sciences academy at the University of Hawaii at West Oahu would add tremendous value to our campus, our students, and the Leeward community. This bill aims to provide undergraduate educational opportunities in health science that are otherwise unavailable on the west side of Oahu, and opportunities that are especially difficult to access for Native Hawaiian, Filipino, first generation college students, and other minority undergraduate students who desire a career in health care, like myself.**

**I am also a proponent of this bill because I understand its importance and its relevance to my life. I am Hispanic woman, a single mother and former teen parent, have received social services due to my socioeconomic status, and someone who comes from an ethnic and economic background that is classically underrepresented in health care, but despite these obstacles, I am fortunate to say that I am college graduate with multiple degrees who knows value that higher education holds. After graduating from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I came back to my community and worked at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center as a case manager. Working at the largest community health center in Hawaii as a case manager allowed me to witness firsthand the needs of our community and acknowledge the benefit an undergraduate health sciences academy would add to the Leeward Coast. My classmates, coworkers, former patients, and my community members are hard-working, resilient people who lack access to educational opportunities for a variety of causes or sometimes simply due to their geographic location. And if we want our practitioners,**

**hospitals, and clinics to provide services that are culturally competent, empathetic, and adequate, we need to invest in educational initiatives that will enrich our community and its members, like Senate Bill 2320.**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 28, 2018 at 11:00am  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran 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 2320.

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 \$50,000 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.

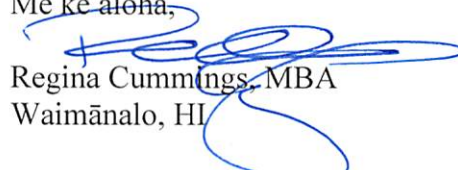
I support SB 2320 for the following reasons:

- 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

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday February 27, 2018  
State Capitol Room 221  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320 SD1**

**RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY**

Honorable Chairs Kahele and Shimabukuro, Vice-Chairs Kim and Galuteria and members of the committee, I am Kimberly Yamauchi and the only Chamorro faculty 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 2320. 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:

- In my current position at the 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program I work closely with disadvantaged students, many of which are Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students and/or first generation college students who are working toward achieving their dream of becoming a physician. I have seen many of these students overcome some of the most challenging obstacles while on their pathway to medicine. Many of these students have excelled in their educational and professional careers, which was made possible by the opportunity they were provided from the 'Imi Ho'ōla program.
- 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 and Pacific Islanders 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 and Pacific Islanders 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 and Pacific Islander 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 and Pacific Islander 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.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kimberly B. Yamauchi, MPA

**SB-2320-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 10:57:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shelley Soong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2320-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 10:59:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nadine Lopeti	Testifying for Student of University of Hawaii West Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320

FEBRUARY 27, 2018

TO: WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran,

Having to make decisions on whether to attend college or find a job to help your family financially, should not be the first thing we think about as parents. For many Native Hawaiian individuals who live in rural areas, family comes first and having multiple incomes is key to surviving in Hawaii. Even with both parents working in a household a lot of us are still living paycheck to paycheck with basically no money to spare.

I was born and raised on Oahu, I am married, have three children and I am currently a full-time student at the University of Hawaii West Oahu. To provide a better life for my family, I decided to return to school and pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing. The University of West Oahu has given me the opportunity to reach my goal and achieve my dream of becoming a nurse.

By supporting SB 2320, you will give many families living in low-income communities the opportunity to advance their education and receive a degree in the health field, therefore increasing their income and providing financial stability. The location of UH West Oahu, is accessible and convenient for individuals like myself who live on the leeward coast because the commuting time from home to school is manageable. Incorporating Hawaiian values and culture sensitivity into the academic programs will help improve the health of Native Hawaiians.

For these reasons, I support SB 2320

Nadine Lopeti

Student of University of West Oahu

Community member of Ewa