



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
March 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

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

SB 2320 SD2 – RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2320 SD2. 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:

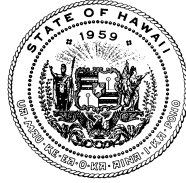
- Traditional Hawaiian culture encouraged the concept of life-long learning. Education encompassed all aspects of their life and was central to Hawaiian philosophy. Education gave people the ability and expertise they needed to support their families, but most importantly, it was a valuable resource 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 SD2 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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2320 SD2
RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY.**

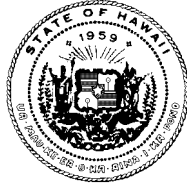
REP. ANGUS MCKELVEY, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date: March 12, 2018

Room Number: 309

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified general fund appropriation.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of SB2320 SD2, 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

LATE

March 12, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2320 SD2 – RELATING TO UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the measure as creating educational opportunities such as the undergraduate health sciences academy aligns with the department's transformation efforts and mission to encourage self-sufficiency and improve the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Hawaii.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish 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 it appropriates funds.

DHS participated in the work of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force created by Senate Resolution 60 Senate Draft 1, Regular Session of 2014, and supports the Task Force's efforts to advance health care equity for Native Hawaiians and all people of Hawaii.

DHS has a large stake in ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being. DHS provides benefits and services to one in four Hawaii residents, or nearly 360,000 individuals. The state's Medicaid program, QUEST Integration, provides medical insurance

coverage for nearly one-half of Hawaii's children. We manage an annual budget of nearly \$3.5 billion to provide benefits and services relating to housing, education, employment, health care, safety, child care, food security, protective services, and vocational rehabilitation services.

As part of the DHS mission to transform the way we deliver benefits and services, and as part of the Governor's package, DHS supports HB1926 HD1 and administration measure SB2793 SD2 which requires DHS to use an integrated and multigenerational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits.

Ultimately, the goals of transformation are to improve well-being of individuals, families, and the community, reduce intergenerational poverty, reduce dependence on public benefits, and reduce the human and fiscal costs of poverty.

Multiple studies identify the consequences of growing up in poverty: "individuals who grow up in poor families are more likely to be poor in early adulthood;" and "the chances of being poor in early adulthood increases sharply the longer the time spent in poverty in early childhood." See, Robert L. Wagmiller, Jr., and Robert M. Adelman, "Childhood and Intergenerational Poverty: The Long-Term Consequences of Growing up Poor."

The groundbreaking 1988 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study showed clear linkage of the number of ACEs a child experienced to negative health outcomes in adulthood.

Further, a 2015 Swedish study, similarly confirmed the findings of the ACE study using Swedish population data, and concluded that "creating equal opportunities for educational attainment may help to reduce the long-term effect of a disadvantaged childhood and postpone functional health problems." See N. Agahi, B. Shaw, S. Fors, "Social and economic conditions in childhood and the progression of functional health problems from midlife into old age," *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2014; 0:1–7. doi:10.1136/jech-2013-20369.

There is considerable evidence that education is strongly linked to better health and well-being, while reducing the need for health care, dependency, lost earnings and human

suffering. More years of education also promotes healthy lifestyles, personal, family and community well-being.

Increasing the number of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders holding bachelor's degrees, supporting further access to careers in health services through the establishment of a health sciences academy will underpin the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians, and the residents and communities in which they serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Higher Education

From: Gerard Akaka, MD, Vice President, Native Hawaiian Affairs and Clinical Support, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 9, 2018

Hrg: House Committee on Committee on Higher Education Hearing; Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 2:00 P.M. in Room 309

Re: **Support for SB 2320, SD2, Relating to an Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy**

My name is Gerard Akaka, and I am a Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my support for SB 2320, SD2, relating to an Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy. This bill would establish 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. The measure would also require a report to be submitted to the legislature on the educational outcomes of the program.

For over 150 years, QHS has been committed to the mission of providing quality health care services in perpetuity to Native Hawaiians as well as all the people of Hawai'i. As an organization founded by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV in 1859, we are committed to supporting and working with community-based stakeholders to address the health disparities of the Native Hawaiian people. For the state of Hawai'i, Native Hawaiians are over 2 times as likely to experience diabetes compared to the white population and have the highest rates of deaths due to cancer compared to any other ethnic group. While QHS continues to invest in education and community projects across the state to promote Native Hawaiian health, there are still unmet needs for health services.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Higher Education

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: March 13, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

RE: SB 2320, SD2, Relating to an Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy

E ka Luna Ho'omalu McKelvey, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalu Hashem, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao Kulanui o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support** SB 2320, SD2, 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. Post-secondary success of Native Hawaiian students is a significant objective of Kamehameha Schools and 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.

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hawaii State Legislature, March 13, 2018

Senate Bill No. 2320 SD2
Relating to and Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy

LATE

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair and members of the Committee,

The Ka Lāhui Hawaii Political Action Committee (KPAC) supports SB 2320 SD2 and the creation of an Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy with a focus on native Hawaiian student retention.

Kanaka Maoli (aka Native Hawaiians) die a decade sooner than other populations in Hawai‘i and are more likely to die from complications tied to controllable diseases like diabetes and hypertension. Furthermore, Kanaka Maoli students are underrepresented at the University of Hawai‘i and only 15% of Kanaka Maoli hold at least a Bachelor’s degree which is half the average of the general population in Hawai‘i.

Studies have found that students who are in school activities and interact with faculty members and peers are more likely to persist in their education. The health care industry is a growing industry which should incorporate the traditional values and practices of Kanaka Maoli (as well as quality nondiscriminatory primary care) in order to increase not only the health of Kanaka Maoli in general and but educational attainment and economic better of Hawai‘i’s native people.

KPAC supports the creation of a Health Sciences Academy with a focus on Kanaka Maoli student retention in order to address socio-economic and health ailments of the Kanaka Maoli people in their own homeland.

KPAC also asserts that all Kanaka Maoli students attending school in the University System should be exempt from paying tuition since many of the colleges and Universities sits on hundreds of acres of stolen Hawaiian lands (what was once the crown and government lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom). No rent is currently being paid for these lands to the Kanaka Maoli people.

Please amend the current version of the bill from small “n” native Hawaiian to big “N” Native Hawaiian in all instances. This would widen the focus of the Health Sciences Academy to Kanaka Maoli of any blood quantum.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Chair, KPAC

Written Testimony Submitted to the
House Committee on Higher Education
March 13, 2018
By

Jerris Hedges, MD

SB 2320, SD2 –RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES
ACADEMY

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2320, SD2 which establishes an undergraduate health sciences academy to be administered by the University of Hawaii-West Oahu. The goal of the health sciences academy is to increase recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and first generation college students by establishing certain health-related education pathways. SB 2320, SD2 is the product of a collaborative undertaking by the Native Hawaiian Task Force, University of Hawaii-West Oahu, University of Hawaii at Hilo and the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Current data suggests that Native Hawaiians are less likely to attend college in comparison to other ethnic groups due to low levels of preparation and inadequate finances. For Native Hawaiian students who attend college, graduation and retention rates are significantly lower than the general student population. Additionally, studies on factors leading to retention have shown 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. With the projected increase in the need for qualified workers in the health care sector field which typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum, the health sciences academy will help to educate and prepare Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and other individuals for employment in high-paying health care positions and alleviate medical demands of our communities as well as ensure that Hawaii has an adequate supply of health care workers and providers to meet our growing needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jerris Hedges, MD
Professor & Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday March 13, 2018 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320 SD2

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 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 SD2.

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 a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, PhD

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320 SD2
RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, 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 SD2. 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,



Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D.

Assistant Professor
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
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COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320 SD2
RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, 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 SD2. 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 in strong support by,

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320 SD2
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Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, 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

Regina Cummings, MBA
Waimānalo, HI

SB-2320-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 12:21:47 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee on Higher Education,

I practiced pediatrics in Waianae, Nanakuli and Waipahu for 15 years. During that time I have realized that the youth of West Oahu need more opportunities to receive an education that will lead to a health career that will give them a living wage.

This opportunity has to be at the baccalaureate level in order to reach the sustainable wage of \$78,500 dollars a year for a family of 4. This is why I fully support SB2320. It will create such an opportunity.

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

Former Pediatrician and Medical Director, Waianat Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Reede Scholar, Harvard University

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320 SD2
RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, and members of the committee, I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2320 SD2. 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.

As a parent and a Pacific Islander myself, I support this bill to develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander 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,

Rebecca Delafield,
Honolulu, HI

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday March 13, 2018 at 2:00 PM

Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2320 SD2

RELATING TO AN UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Hashem, 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 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:

- 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

SB-2320-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 1:55:18 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

LATE

SB2320 Testimony

Aloha everyone, my name is McLane Nguyen, a resident and a student. Hawaii is an Aloha state, there is no other state that takes care of each other regardless of blood related or not. I bring this up is because Senate Bill 2320 once passed can help the all of the Hawaiian Islands. In Hawaii, there is a doctor shortage and it is getting worse every day. There are hundreds of Hawaii residents out there that are in need of care, but we lack on numbers to support them. Health Science shortage is greater than nurses and the doctor's shortage. You guys might wonder what is considered Health Science, well they can include: assistants, technicians, technologists, and therapists.

The problem we have is that there is an increase number of the elderly and will continue. And a decrease in the size of the Healthcare workforce due to retire. With many healthcare professionals retiring we will have a huge negative impact for the care of the elderly and children. SB 2320 will help build and mold students to become healthcare professionals in order to service Hawaii.

University of Hawaii- West Oahu is approximately 40 years old and services all of the west side and including North Shore. This means that University of Hawaii- West Oahu is easily assessable and tuition is also affordable compared to other University's here. In my experience, If I didn't have University of Hawaii- West Oahu on the west side then I don't think I would be able to continue college and obtain my bachelor's Degree. With most of the family working full-time and I can be flexible with work and school. I am pretty sure many of you guys in this room can relate that you guys come from a refugee family. We have values for which comes with sacrifice, survival and ethics. We are taught to take care of our elders when we get older. Well University of Hawaii- West Oahu have been nothing but a blessing for me because I can easily

leave in case of an emergency for the care of my grandparents. Time can never be bought and coming home for lunch from school helps allows stress towards my family members because they know that my grandparents are being cared for.

There is a saying, "Growing our own, From our community, For our community." This is a testify that by passing SB 2320 we can build and mold in order to take care of our elders the way it's supposed to be. We can't leave anyone behind and by-passing SB 2320 we are creating for the need of the community.

"I Support SB2320"

Very Respectfully,

McLane Nguyen

LATE

SB-2320-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:01:41 AM

Testimony for HED on 3/13/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Taca	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

By definition, diversity is a word used to describe something of variety. This can include different elements or qualities. In this case, it is a mixture of people. Hawaii in particular is considered a melting pot of different cultures; where everyone is welcomed as part of their ohana. As great as this may sound, this unfortunately does not reflect in our schools. According to a recent statistics from Fall 2017, UH Manoa just has 16.5% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander among their undergraduate student population, while UH West Oahu just has 33%. I'm part of this statistic. Education is certainly a privilege, not a right that requires some sacrifice because education is expensive. Motivation is also a factor, as many do not see the purpose in seeking an education. This in turn can further affect the current shortage of healthcare professionals we are witnessing all over the Hawaii, particularly in rural areas like Big Island, Maui, and on Oahu's West side. Furthermore, our elderly population is living longer lives. Thus creating a demand for various healthcare jobs. I feel that Senate Bill 2320 is the key to creating a diverse community where it'll allow UH West Oahu to serve various minority groups and encourage them to consider a career in healthcare. I myself did not initially declare healthcare as a major, but along the way I veered into the field by chance to which I slowly developed a passion in healthcare to helping patients; just not face-to-face. Thereafter, I wanted to pursue a Bachelor's degree in HIM. But as I browsed the different schools on Oahu, none complemented my HIT degree. Opportunities were offered elsewhere requiring me to pack up and move away. I actually considered going to California, but I evidently chose to stay and attend UH West Oahu. I was faced with limited degree options where I had to pick and choose the closest match, which was a BA in Healthcare Administration. I support the SB2320 as it would definitely provide other West side residents the opportunity to pursue their dreams in Allied Health. One's who will more likely stay and serve our Oahu communities, and make a difference to help resolve the healthcare professional shortage that we critically faced with.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2320

LATE

February 13th, 2018

Aloha Chair Kahele and Chair Shimabukuro,

I am a first generation college student. I am supposed to be going to school to prepare for the future that I want to live, that is not the case here. My name is Caelon Evans and I am studying Public administration with a concentration in healthcare. This is one of the last courses of study I wanted to go into. There is nothing wrong with going into the administration field, but I want to be a doctor. The purpose of SB2320 is to establish a health science undergraduate program at the University of Hawaii West Oahu. The establishment of this program is to create a larger student body of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and first generation college students. UHWO currently does not have nay type of health science undergraduate programs other than our pre-nursing program. For students wanting to go into the medical science field, their only option is to go downtown to UH Manoa. Offering health science programs at UHWO could increase enrollment at the school and educate future doctors and scientists that will serve their community where there is a large need for doctors and science professionals. 30% of students in the United states are first generation college student, these students are the children of parents who do not possess a 4-year degree. When looking at the Native Hawaiian population UHWO 26.3% of the students make up this population. Pacific Islanders make up 27.59% of the student population at UHWO, making it the third school in the US with the highest enrollment of Pacific Islander students.

I can only attest to being a first generation college student, and having a program like at health science program, I can tell you in something that makes a school competitive. When I was growing up I used to love the Doctor's office, going in and getting shots was one of my favorite

things to do. I would cry if they told me to look away because I wanted to see the needle go into my arm and put the “medicine” in. I had a small doctors kit and a real life first aid kit was always on my Christmas list. When my mom became pregnant with my brother I was three going on four, or as my mom always said 3 going on 13. I somehow knew that mom would be having my brother via C-Section, I knew that’s how she had me so I knew that’s how she would be having my brother. She would lie on the couch or be taking bath and I would walk in with my little playschool doctors kit and pretend to cut open her belly and take my brother, who would be played by a baby doll, out of her belly and “delivery” him to her. When the day finally came for my brother to be born I was in tears because they wouldn’t let me go in the back room with her to see him come into this world. As I grew older I had a gone through a phase of wanting to be lawyer or a forensic psychologist, but being a doctor never left my mind. When it came down to deciding to go to college, the UHWO was where I would be going because I would be able to live at home and use my dad’s GI Bill to pay for school.

Being a first generation college student is not an easy feat. I have the ability to live at home and not have to worry about paying for anything while in school so I do have it easier than most, but one thing I wish for at this school is a more diverse science filed program. I am a healthcare administration major, and this honestly was one of the last thing I wanted to go into. I wanted to go into the medical field, I wanted to become a doctor or a PA, but that is extremely hard to do at UHWO. With no actual science major or pre-med major it is very hard to schedule science classes that fulfill medical school requirements around the classes you have to schedule for your major. Having a set program for medical science students, especially those that want to give back to their community, is what the UHWO needs. We need programs that are going to interest those that want to go to school for health sciences, for those who end up going to Manoa,

or even leaving Hawaii and not looking back. The UHWO is in need of this program to change lives of those who may not go to school because family is valued over education. Malcolm X said “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow it belongs to those who prepare for it today.” Without education we, as people, would not be here today.

For these reasons, I support SB2320.

Thank you

Caelon Evans