

**LATE**



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committees on Higher Education and Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 2:15 p.m.

Date: February 6, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 16

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

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

E nā Luna Ho'omalua Kahele a me Shimabukuro, nā Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kim a me Galuteria, a me nā Lālā Kenekoa o kēia mau Kōmike 'elua, 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, 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'oha hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui