

SB2596

RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS.

Establishes a senior citizen higher education access pilot program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Requires a report to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2024.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
And
Senate Committee on Human Services
February 13, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Marcia Sakai
Interim Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 2596 – RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS

Chairs Kahele and Green, Vice Chairs Kim and Chang, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Marcia Sakai, Interim Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2596.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo does not support SB 2596 as currently proposed. This testimony provides our concerns about portions of the legislation and provides specific requests for amendment should this bill move forward.

HCR 144 and SCR 186 of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature in 2007 requested that the University of Hawai'i implement a system wide Senior Citizen Visitor Program.

The UH System Office of the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs (AVPSA) is currently working to assess the effectiveness of Senior Citizen Visitor Programs on the seven campuses with such programs. Of significant concern is that senior visitors are not formally recognized as students in the UH management information system and therefore are not held to the same policies and procedures as students, including Student Conduct Code and Title IX. Other concerns include the accessibility of services made available primarily through tuition and fees (i.e. student life center, health services, counseling services, student activities, library collections which are licensed based on full time enrollment).

The UH System Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy also has purview over tuition setting for the system. Any adjustments to published tuition rates would need to originate from the VPAPP's office and would apply to all campuses across the system, not just UH Hilo.

We recommend this measure be deferred until the UH System Office of the AVPSA completes the assessment of the Senior Citizen Visitor Programs on the seven

campuses that are currently operating such programs and until the Office of the VPAPP is consulted on the issue of tuition adjustments indicated in this bill.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo would support a pilot to re-establish a Senior Visitor Program on our campus. Such a program should be based on best practices and lessons learned from prior implementation on the campus and on-going implementation on other campuses.

Other considerations for successful implementation are allowances of adequate time for appropriate consultation with faculty and support staff on campus and need for adequate financial resources to meet the expectations of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2596. Aloha.



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Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Re: S.B. No. 2596, Relating to Senior Citizens

Dear Chairs Kahele and Green, Vice-Chairs Kim and Chang, and Members of both Committees,

My name is Kerry M. Komatsubara and I am the Advocacy Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over with about 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP Hawaii supports S.B. No. 2596 which establishes a five-year pilot program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo that allows senior citizens to attend college classes free of charge for no credit and allows senior citizens to receive a tuition reduction for college classes they enroll in for credit.

Currently, UH-Manoa has its Manoa's Senior Citizen Visitor Program/Na Kupuna Program which benefits about 300 Hawaii senior citizens to attend college courses free of charge without receiving college credits. Providing this opportunity to the seniors on the Island of Hawaii is needed and we support the establishment of this pilot program at UH-Hilo.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. No. 2596.



SB-2596

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:14:03 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/13/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2596

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 12:53:12 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/13/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying on behalf of OCC Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2596

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:10:13 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/13/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randolph Hack		Support	No

Comments:

Senate Committee on Higher Education

Senate Committee on Human Services

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Re: SB No. 2596, Relating to Senior Citizens

Dear Chairs Kahele and Green, Vice-Chairs Kim and Chang, and Members of both Committees:

My name is Randolph Hack and I am an Advocacy Volunteer for AARP Hawaii. Our membership organization of people over 50 has about 150,000 members in Hawaii. I support this measure which establishes a five-year pilot program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo that allows senior citizens to audit college classes free of charge and allows them to receive reduced tuition to attend college classes for credit.

I participated in the Senior Citizen Visitor Program at UH Manoa where I was able to audit college classes free of charge. This was very beneficial to me and I suspect to the students as well. Providing this opportunity to the seniors on the island of Hawaii is needed and would be beneficial. I support the establishment of this pilot program at UH-Hilo.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2596.

SB-2596

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 11:45:08 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/13/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lela Kalama		Support	No

Comments:

I FULLY SUPPORT THIS BILL!!

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Human Services

Date: February 11, 2018

Re: SB 2596, Relating to Senior Citizens

Dear Chairs Kahele and Green, Vice-Chairs Kim and Chang, and Members of Both Committees

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2596, Relating to Senior Citizens.

My name is Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D. and I am a retiree. I live in Paauilo-Mauka on the Big Island. The passage of this Bill is vital as it establishes a five-year pilot program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo that allows senior citizens to attend college courses free of charge for no credit, and allows senior citizens to receive a tuition reduction for college courses they enroll in for credit.

Currently, UH-Manoa has its Manoa's Senior Visitor Program/Na Kupuna Program which benefits about 300 Hawaii senior citizens to attend college courses free of charge without receiving college credits. Providing this opportunity to the seniors on the Island of Hawaii is needed, and I support the establishment of the pilot program at UH-Hilo.

I urge you to support senior citizens by voting **YES** on SB 2596. Mahalo!

Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D.

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Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Human Services

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

1:15 pm

Conference Room 224

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Re: SB No. 2596, Relating to Senior Citizens

Dear Chairs Kahele and Green, Vice-Chairs Kim and Chang, and members of both committees:

I support S.B. No. 2596 which establishes a five-year pilot program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo that allows senior citizens to attend college classes free of charge for no credit and allows senior citizens to receive a tuition reduction for college classes they enroll in for credit.

This would benefit senior citizen's cognitive abilities and prevent cognitive decline. The students would also benefit from senior citizen input as they have a lot of experiences in life and in the workplace.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB No. 2596.