



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 9, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

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

SB 676 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i System supports the intent of SB 676, which would provide resources for the system wide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. The word "Pamantasan" is a Filipino word meaning "higher education". The Pamantasan Council, established in 1987, is open to all students, administrators, faculty and staff from the various UH campuses.

The Pamantasan Council addresses issues of representation, curriculum and research, partnerships with public schools, universities in the Philippines and other states, workforce development and community services. The Council holds annual and periodic workshops to identify priority issues and needs consistent with the University's commitment to access and diversity. On April 1, 2016, UH Maui College hosted the annual conference on its campus. Even with limited resources, the Pamantasan Council has successfully supported University initiatives including the Maui College exchange agreement with Philippine Universities, the Leeward Community College Sulong Aral federal transfer project, and the recent hiring of a UH Hilo Philippine Studies faculty member.

The Pamantasan Council needs resources to implement (a) recommendations of the 2008 SCR 120 report to the Legislature regarding Philippine language courses, teacher training and certification; and (b) Pamantasan conference recommendations such as developing courses for articulation between community colleges and 4-year campuses. With additional funding and positions, UH and the Pamantasan Council can provide necessary expertise and energy to increase the University's national leadership in Philippine Studies (UH Mānoa and Leeward CC are leaders in offering academic programs). In addition the appropriated funds will be used to support on-going recruitment and retention efforts (federal programs such as GEAR UP at Waipahu high school) to increase the number and success of Filipinos at each campus, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs, faculty, staff and administrators. Also, the funds will expand the curricular content on Philippine language, Philippine Studies and Filipino American Hawai'i ethnic studies, which at this time are very limited or not available at the various campuses. SB 676 includes information on recent census, UH

and DOE data on Filipinos (second largest group in the state and the department of education) and their underrepresentation among college graduates, and current UH students, staff and faculty.

The University supports the intent of SB 676, and would like to note that the UH Board of Regents approved biennium budget does include a request for \$584,000 to drive student success for Filipino students, a key population.

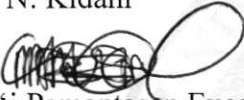
Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for the legislature's continuing support of educational access and diversity.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pamantasan Executive Council

DATE: February 4, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Higher Education
Chair Kaiali'i Kahele
Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani

FROM: Christine Quemuel 
University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Executive Council

RE: **Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 676**
Hearing date: Thursday, February 9, 2017, 2:00pm

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Higher Education hearing in strong support of SB 676 relating to the University of Hawai'i, to provide resources for the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai'i, the largest immigrant group, and the largest Asian ancestry group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education.

The Pamantasan Executive Council is the UH systemwide organization concerned with the status of Filipinos on all UH campuses throughout the state. The Council was established in 1987 to address the representation and success of Filipinos on campus and to ensure that Filipino American and Philippine courses are represented in the curriculum. The Executive Council is also charged with issues concerning Filipinos in the Department of Education, Filipinos in the work force, and international relations between colleges in Hawai'i and the Philippines. The Pamantasan Council currently has no budget and is a volunteer organization comprised of University of Hawai'i students, staff, faculty, and administrators who are committed to access and diversity issues.

Funding for Pamantasan positions and projects will ensure that the state champions educational equity and diversity in higher education. We thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for their continued commitment to diversity to ensure that underrepresented communities in Hawai'i are supported. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support SB 676, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

Pamantasan Council members:

Aurelio Agcaoili, Ilokano Languages and Literatures, UH Mānoa
Patricio Abinales, Director, Center for Philippine Studies, UH Mānoa
Wayne Aguiran, Counselor, UH Maui College
Erica Balbag-Gerard, Academic Counselor, Honolulu Community College
Leon Florendo, Counselor, Leeward Community College, Waianae Campus
Rodney Jubilado, Philippine Studies, UH Hilo
Roderick Labrador, Ethnic Studies, UH Mānoa
Ernest Niki Libarios, Jr., Academic Advisor College of Education, UH Mānoa
Raymund Liongson, Philippine Studies, Leeward Community College
Pua Palmeira, Counselor, Kaua'i Community College
Christine Quemuel, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity, UH Mānoa
Marnelli Ulep, Business Capstone Coordinator, UH West O'ahu



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676
Senate Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani & Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676

Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories. I am happy to submit strong support for this bill.

Institutional support through funding and staffing for the UH Pamantasan Council is essential to promote access to higher education, diversity, and leadership development of our Filipino students. The UH Pamantasan Council provides an infrastructure that has a broad and deep statewide reach that will produce competent leaders and innovative stewards on every island for the benefit of all of Hawai'i. The current model of volunteers serving on the Pamantasan Council cannot effectively address the systemic and persistent disparities where Filipinos comprise over 20 percent of public school students, but only 12 percent of students at UH Mānoa; where Filipinos make up a large segment of community college students, but their transfer rates to 4-year degrees and advanced professional degrees at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa are disproportionately low. Subsequently, it is unacceptable that Filipinos, compared to other groups, are over-represented in entry level service jobs and underrepresented in executive positions. Rising to become the second largest ethnic group (15% by one race only, 25% by more than one race) in Hawai'i since 2010 is not keeping pace with the investment in resources needed for parity to uplift a disproportionate part of our community from service workers to colleagues, who can make substantive contributions in fields vital to Hawai'i's economic health and quality of life.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to offer strong support for you to advance student excellence and equity in Hawai'i's institutions of higher learning.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 ★ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

Senate Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele & Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Subject: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676**

Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of this bill. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

The achievements and contributions of Filipinos in Hawai'i since 1906 have been well documented. But as we enter upon the 111th year of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Filipinos still have a long way to go to attain parity in society.

Our Coalition is concerned about the disproportionate number of Filipino students who are under-achieving and struggling in our public schools and underrepresented in our state colleges and university. What are the root causes of this? Filipinos are under-represented in executive positions, and over-represented in low-paying entry level positions with little or no job security in the visitor, service, food, retail, construction, and agricultural industries. This segment of Filipinos in Hawai'i's workforce can never afford the cost of middle class comforts and stability for themselves and their families because of income inequality, no matter how many part-time jobs they squeeze into 24 hours, often, at the expense of not seeing their children.

That is why we taxpayers should be investing in, not divesting from education for our Filipino students in the University of Hawai'i statewide system to ensure that Hawai'i produces leadership, scholarship and stewardship that will transform our struggling students in low achieving schools to civic-minded, productive leaders in our communities and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill and speak up on behalf of our next generation of Filipino youth. Because of our sheer numbers, the second largest group in Hawai'i, Filipinos can contribute positively and significantly to benefit our island state.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League



February 9, 2017
2pm Hearing of Senate Higher Education

TO: Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee on Higher Education

FROM: Amy Agbayani, co-chair

RE: SB 676 Relating to the University of Hawai`i

Today, I am testifying as chair of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission in support of SB676. HFQR endorses programs and policies that support diversity, inclusion, access and non discrimination. I am a retired Manoa faculty member and was the assistant vice chancellor for student diversity and director of the office of student equity, excellence and diversity. Last year, I worked with VPCC Morton, Interim West O`ahu Chancellor Doris Ching, Hilo Chancellor Don Straney ad Interim VC Students Lori Ideta on the Pamantasan budget request for \$615,000 and six positions. The Pamantasan budget was included in the BOR budget but was not included in the Governor's budget.

HFQR supports sb 676 which provides funds and six positions for the UH Pamantasan Council, a council with representatives from each of the ten campuses. Council activities over the decades helps University programs and initiatives to expand courses on Philippine language and Philippine Studies, classes and research

on the Filipino experience in Hawai'i, initiatives to increase transfer from two year campuses to four year programs, to improve the bachelor's and professional degree graduation rates of Filipinos, the largest underrepresented group at UH.

Although program activities will be at all ten campuses the requested six positions will be based at Honolulu CC, Kauai CC, Maui College, Hilo, Manoa and West O'ahu. With full-time staff, the Council will be more effective in meeting the University's strategic direction to increase graduates (the Hawai'i Graduation Initiative), and to support the state's workforce development goals, and our community's aspiration for inclusion. The Filipino students, their families and the community seek access to higher education.

I respectfully request your support of sb 676 for the UH Pamantasan Council.



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

E-mail: namihonolulu@yahoo.com

*Bea Ramos-Razon, RN,
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Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676
Senate Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele & Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to submit our strong support for this bill. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service.

As a registered voter and constituent in District 32, Salt Lake, and as community research partners and mentors with University of Hawai'i Filipino students who are first to go to college in their family, low income, and under-represented in higher education, NAMI and I have seen firsthand, the successful track record of student achievement. Funding for the UH Pamantasan Council will ensure there is a statewide infrastructure to foster Filipino youth leadership that will more than return our investment today for a thriving professional work force tomorrow to benefit all of Hawai'i. Our students have gone on to medical school, and are nursing and public health professionals who are addressing health disparities and helping to keep the cost of health care down with education and prevention.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to encourage this bill's passage.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA, President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676
Senate Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele & Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Davelyn Quijano, President

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students

I strongly support SB 676. I am speaking as a private citizen. My name is Davelyn Quijano, president of the Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii. Our alumni association was established in 1995 and has grown to 60 members in Hawaii. I also serve as the secretary of the Anak ti Sinait of Hawai'i (Children of Sinait). Our alumni association prides itself in volunteerism both in Hawai'i and the Philippines, where we perpetuate our culture, join in disaster relief efforts, finance medical missions to the Philippines, foster good health through outreach programs to our Filipino community, empower our youth through scholarship programs, offer aid to deceased members and their beneficiaries, and engage network opportunities to contribute successfully to Hawaii's economy through entrepreneurship.

I support this bill as a mother who was born in Ilocos Sur, Philippines and whose children were born and raised in Hawaii. I see the importance and feel the urgency that many parents like me share. We want our children to succeed in school, be prepared for careers, and become civically and responsibly engaged in community life. Too many of our young people are locked into hard and unstable lives for yet another generation. By supporting the UH Pamantasan Council, there will be increased access for first generation college students in our Filipino community to more adeptly navigate their way onto those critical pathways of higher education. Lessons learned can be tailored to ensure the success and strengthening of other vulnerable communities, as well. Investment in the UH Pamantasan Council promises to yield high, measurable returns on our taxpayers' investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my full support of this bill.

Warmest regards,

Davelyn Quijano

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 6:57 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB676 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM*

SB676

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 2:34 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: mauikini@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB676 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

SB676

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeny Bissell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and Mabuhay, My name is Jeny Bissell from South Maui District. I strongly support this bill. Thank you for your consideration and thanks again for all that you do for the State of Hawaii.

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676

Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 9, 2017, 2:00pm

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michele N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senator Will Espero, Member
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Member
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Member

From: Rouel Velasco, individual citizen

RE: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Aloha! Kumustakayo amin! (how are you all?)

My name is Rouel Garingo Velasco. I write to you in support of SB 676. As the son of migrants from Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur, Philippines, I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa UHM) for both of my bachelor's and master's degrees. My family first lived in Kalihi and later settled in Ma'ili of Wai'anae, where I grew up. Wai'anae is a predominantly Native Hawaiian community, followed by a strong Filipino population. After graduation from high school, not many graduates pursued a higher education; many went to work or joined the military. It seemed that access to higher education for young people from my community was not as promoted as in other communities. Out of a graduating class of 400, 11 of us attended UHM. It is truly a privilege for me to attend UHM and I would like to share that opportunity with others. My college journey at UHM was one that was filled with personal empowerment through appreciation for my Filipino heritage. Courses in Ilokano Language, Filipino Language as well as History courses allowed me to learn more about my Filipino heritage, the Philippine languages, as well as struggles and successes. This learning experience gave me a full sense and deeper appreciation for who I am as a Local Filipino. The in-and-out of the classroom experiences with other students of Filipino ancestry as well as staff and faculty, allowed me to connect to the culture in meaningful and purposeful ways. The Filipino community on the UHM campus allowed me to feel belonged, not marginalized; given me the connections and confidence to get involved in campus-wide student involvement and leadership opportunities. All these experiences combined allowed me to shape my academic, personal and career goals. In addition, as a student, I benefitted from the support and services provided from the UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services, where they assisted students from disadvantaged communities and underrepresented groups. This office fostered a safe and welcoming space for Filipinos students as a gateway to other services on the UHM campus.

As a student, I participated in the Pamantasan Conferences to connect with other students, staff and faculty across the UH System. This gathering formed a pipeline of support for students matriculating from the community colleges to the university. I also had the opportunity as an undergraduate student to coordinate the Pamantasan conference. This was truly a transformative learning experience. Since moving to University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu, very little is available to support and understand the concerns facing students of Filipino ancestry. I am in a position to encourage our students to get involved in the Pamantasan Conferences.

It is my hope that UHWO students of Filipino ancestry have access to Philippine-related language and history courses as well as the opportunity to attend Pamantasan conferences to further expand their appreciation for their Filipino heritage and be a part of the growing Filipino community within the UH system.

As a student affairs professional at the UH West O'ahu, I see the growing need for such courses and programs to be available as students of Filipino ancestry comprise the second largest student population behind Native Hawaiian. This bill, SB 676, will give an opportunity to the students at UH West O'ahu and other campuses throughout the UH System the opportunity to further explore and affirm their Filipino identity, establish meaning and purpose directly contributing to achieving their academic, personal and career goals. I thank the Senate for introducing SB 676 and hope that through its passage, students of Filipino ancestry as well as professional staff and faculty members may continue to improve access, retention and persistence for students in higher education. I support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Council. Thank you for hearing this bill and for accepting this written testimony.

If you would like to further discuss my support for this bill, I may be contacted at 808-218-0833, or by email, rouel.velasco@gmail.com.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676
Senate Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele & Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan
Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies
related to Philippine courses and Filipino students

My name is Jean Jeremiah. I am speaking as a private citizen. I am proud to submit my full support of this bill. I served as former President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council, where many of our Filipino cultural events aimed to raise scholarship funds for deserving Filipino youth to pursue their education and career aspirations.

I support this bill because strengthening the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council is a strategic way to bolster Filipino student leadership development throughout the UH system. The model of student engagement to address education disparities is a brilliant opportunity not to be passed up. The UH Pamantasan Conference gives rise to student-led education initiatives to understand and address the quandary of higher enrollment of Filipinos in our State's community colleges, but lower transfer rates and lower enrollment rates for Filipinos to seek and complete advanced degrees at our State's flagship UH-Manoa campus. Research shows that the more education our students receive today, the healthier, more prosperous, and the greater civic engagement there is for our communities tomorrow. We can achieve these best with proper staffing and institutional support consistent with the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the chance to offer my strong support. It will have a positive impact on student affairs and services for underserved and underrepresented Filipino students for the benefit all of Hawai'i.

Very Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676
Senate Higher Education Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Ernest "Niki" D. Libarios Jr., Ph.D., Private Citizen

SUBJECT: Strong support of SB 676

As a Filipino graduate of Leeward Community College, the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa, and as a current administrator at UH Mānoa, I strongly write in support of HB 902 that will provide resources to support the University of Hawai'i system wide Pamantasan Council.

According to the 2010 Census, Filipinos are now the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i at roughly a quarter of the population. However, Filipinos continue to underachieve in higher education and remain among the lower socioeconomic groups in Hawai'i. In the UH system, Filipinos are well represented in the community colleges, yet remain underrepresented at the university levels, particularly at UH Hilo and UH Mānoa (the flagship campus of the system and the only Carnegie Doctoral Extensive institution in our State).

With higher education as key means to social mobility, this condition is of grave concern.

The Pamantasan Council serves to explore these and other issues related to Filipinos in the UH system with the primary goal of supporting the higher education progression of Filipino students.

However, the Council operates with virtually no budget and only volunteer students, faculty, staff, and administrators in the UH system who are committed to issues of higher education access and diversity. Funding for the Pamantasan Council will help to ensure its organizational structure, provide stability, and strengthen the efforts in achieving its goals.

Both as a student and as a faculty member, I have personally benefited from the work, support, and networking I have received from the Pamantasan Council.

Filipinos have a rich and valuable history in Hawai'i and those with the desire and capacity to succeed in higher education need to be supported.

With their ever growing numbers in our community, all of Hawai'i will benefit through the work of the Pamantasan Council to improve the condition of Filipinos in Hawai'i public higher education.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,

Ernest "Niki" D. Libarios Jr., Ph.D.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 4:08 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: revrona@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB676 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

SB676

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rona Mangayayam	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support Bill 676 . Diversity is always a positive approach in building community and in education.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:28 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: fu_dog_5@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB676 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM*

SB676

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Date: February 06, 2017

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

From: Sabrina Fallejo Uganiza

Re: Testimony In Support of SB 676
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

I am a proud Filipina, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa current doctoral student, alumni, and am currently work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I write in strong support of SB 676 which would provide funding and resources for the UH system-wide Pamantasan Executive Council.

Since 1987, Pamantasan has strived to enhance the Filipina/o experience in higher education by bringing together Filipina/o faculty, staff, and students. In a state where Filipinas/os comprise a majority of the immigrant population, Filipinas/os are heavily underrepresented in the University of Hawai'i system. Pamantasan not only creates a positive place for Filipina/o students, it also addresses issues of diversity, representation, attrition, and retention of Filipina/o students.

The Filipino community in the University of Hawai'i system has been incredibly supportive of many efforts to empower Filipina/o student leaders. Most of my limited knowledge of my ethnic heritage came from programs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. For this, I am eternally grateful and proud to be Filipina.

I thank the Senate for introducing SB 676 and hope that through its passage, Filipina/o students, faculty, and staff can continue to thrive in higher education. I strongly support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Executive Council.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at sfallejo@gmail.com.

Again, thank you very much for your time and consideration.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 5:55 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB676 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM*

SB676

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:29 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: jkkeliip@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB676 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM*

SB676

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Keliipaakaua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 2, 2017

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676 Senate Higher Education Committee & Senate Ways and Means Committee

Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele & Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani Senate Higher Education Committee Members Chair Jill N. Tokuda & Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Pua Palmeira, Kauai Community College, Student Services, Academic Advising

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676

Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students

My name is Pua Palmeira; I am an academic advisor at Kauai Community College and the advisor for the Filipino Club on campus.

I support this bill because I know the value of inclusion in today's world and have personally experienced what the Pamantasan Council has done for students and faculty. I believe it's paramount to the success of the Filipino community to have access in higher education. The Pamantasan Council is that support and have provided for my students on Kauai.

As a faculty of the UH system and a person with Filipino and Hawaiian ancestry I feel it's crucial for my community to know we support them in higher education and value their success. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide my support.

Sincerely,

Pua Palmeira

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:13 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: rickalbster@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB676 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

SB676

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Alboroto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Richard Alboroto. I am a Filipino Ph.D. student at UH Manoa. I support this bill because I believe that having a higher education will set an example among young Filipinos to follow. I want to be an ambassador for the Filipino youth to reach their full potential. The chance to get a higher education will also open many opportunities to benefit the lives of many Filipinos. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide my support. Sincerely, Richard Alboroto

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 676
Senate Higher Education Committee & Senate Ways and Means Committee
February 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele & Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members
Chair Jill N. Tokuda & Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Leon Fuimaono Florendo
938 18th Ave
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Subject: Senate Bill 676

As a private citizen, I strongly support SB 676 which intends to appropriate general funds to support the UH Pamantasan Council.

I am a proud graduate of Wai'anae High School, Leeward Community College, the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa, and I am currently a Counselor at Leeward Community College – Wai'anae Education Center.

I highly support this bill because I have seen firsthand the power of knowing who you are, where you came from and support from someone who knows and understands you. I myself was a first generation Samoan-Filipino college student who felt lost, confused and scared not knowing who I was and what I needed to do to be a successful college student. It was pilot programs and resources that I was fortunate to be a part of that supported me and provided me with the resources I needed to be successful then, and today as a Leeward CC faculty member.

For years now, the Pamantasan Council operated through the heartfelt work of volunteer student, staff, faculty, and administrators in the UH system to address issues confronting Filipinos in higher education. Funding Senate Bill 676 promises to help address issues of access and support of Filipinos in pursuit of higher education in Hawaii

Mahalo for hearing this bill and for allowing me this opportunity to express my strong endorsement of SB 676.

Sincerely,



Chair Kaiali'i Kahele & Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Higher Education Committee Members
Chair Jill N. Tokuda & Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

February 8, 2017

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 676

Dear Chairs Kahele and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Kidani and Dela Cruz, and members of the committees,

Hello, my name is Nicolita Garces. I am an archivist and librarian. As a University of Hawai'i alumna and an active member in the local Filipino community, I strongly write in support of SB 676.

While a UH student, I participated in several Pamantasan conferences as an attendee and panelist. I also participated in a Pamantasan Council led teach-in when the funding for the Philippine languages programs was being threatened. For some students, Pamantasan Council gave them their first exposure to learning more about their roots. I experienced first-hand and witnessed the importance of young adults being empowered and decolonialized through knowing their heritage and culture. In doing so, they gain the confidence needed to enroll and graduate from college, thereby becoming productive members of society.

Filipinos have been in Hawai'i for 111 years since the first *sakadas* arrived to work in the plantations. The 2010 U.S. census reported that Filipinos are the largest "ethnic group" in Hawai'i. Despite a long history and a large presence in Hawai'i, Filipinos are still on the bottom rung of the socio-economic ladder. In the UH system, Filipinos comprise of 12% of the student population. Pamantasan Council continues to address the disparities between representation of Filipinos in Hawai'i and in the UH System by providing resources to assist Filipino students enroll and matriculate through college.

It is sensible to fund the six full-time positions for the system-wide Pamantasan Council to increase the number of Filipino students in the UH system. This solution will also meet the UH system's strategic goal of access and diversity. Aside from empowering Filipino students, a college education will provide them with upward mobility, which is long overdue.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,



Nicolita Garces

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676
Senate Higher Education Committee & Senate Ways and Means Committee
Feb. 9, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 224

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani, and Senate Higher Education Committee Members, Chair Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, and Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Winona K. Lee, MD, Assistant Professor, University of Hawai'i Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 676

APPROPRIATES GENERAL FUNDS FOR 6.0 FTE POSITIONS FOR THE UH PAMANTASAN COUNCIL TO PROMOTE ACCESS AND DIVERSITY, INCLUDING PROGRAM AND POLICIES RELATED TO PHILIPPINE COURSES AND FILIPINO STUDENTS

I am Winona Lee, a Native Hawaiian/Filipino pediatrician and Assistant Professor in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine. This testimony is in strong support of SB 676. This bill appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- Despite the high numbers of Filipinos in the general population and within the public DOE system, students and faculty members of Filipino ancestry are underrepresented within the University of Hawai'i system. Filipino students comprise only 12% percent of the University of Hawai'i system student population and only 0.5% of University of Hawai'i Mānoa (UHM) faculty.
- Since 1987, the UHM Pamantasan Council has demonstrated a strong history of promoting access and diversity for Filipino students and serves as a vocal advocate, effective collaborator, and solid community resource. Providing this critical support to college students enhances and contributes to the development of stronger academic, professional, and personal support networks that will potentially contribute to Filipino student success in higher education.
- As a Native Hawaiian/Filipino, first generation college student, I found the path to medicine challenging, particularly in my early undergraduate years. My dreams to pursue higher education became possible with the help of family, mentors, and support networks. I would not have become a pediatrician, educator, and mentor for other students were it not for the help that was provided to me.

Sincerely,



Winona K. Lee, MD



DATE: February 9, 2017
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 224

TO: Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: Support for SB676 Relating to the University of Hawai'i appropriation of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. The Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (GSO) stands in support of SB676. The GSO represents approximately 4,700 graduate students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, about 200 of whom are of Filipino ancestry.

If passed, SB676 will create 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, and create programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students. Although people of Filipino ancestry are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i and nearly 21% of students in the Department of Education, Filipino students only represent 12% of the entire University of Hawaii system student population, and only 4.5% of the graduate student population.

We, the GSO, find these statistics very troubling and believe we need to do more to provide higher education access to the people of Hawai'i—especially people of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino ancestry. The University of Hawaii System is committed to diversity and ranks as the most diverse university in the nation. However, there is always room for improvement. The university needs to build better infrastructure to support Filipino students, and we believe SB676 will help to achieve this goal. By providing funding for 6.0 FTE system-wide positions dedicated to advancing support for Filipino students, the legislature can help to institutionalize current efforts that provide access and programing to an underrepresented community. Increasing access and programing for Filipino students can also help Hawai'i reach its goal of having 55% of its residents obtain a college degree by 2025, which will lead to a more educated society and innovative economy. **For these reasons, we urge you to support SB676.**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 12:01 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: jeffrey.acido@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB676 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

SB676

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HRE on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Acido	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Higher Education Committee: I am writing in strong support for SB676. As a 1.5 Generation Filipino/American resident of Hawaii I have strongly benefited from the University of Hawaii system in my pursuit of higher education. I have, however, in my process of education been very disappointed in the under representation and programs for the Filipino population considering we make up a large percentage in Hawaii. I can attest to the importance of filipino programs and faculty as I have gone from my AA to PhD in the UH system. The only filipino faculty that I encountered was during my language studies, outside of that I did not have anybody as a role model of filipino descent. This bill and the resources that come with it would greatly improve the status of filipinos in the UH system. It will strongly impact the way we recruit and retain filipinos at UH instead of losing the talent to Universities on the US Continent. Lastly, it will make implicit the intention of the UH system and the State of Hawaii that they do indeed care and support the filipino community in the state of Hawaii. Mahalo for the love and support, Jeffrey Tangonan Acido

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TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT**
SB676
House Higher Education Committee
February 2, 2017, 2pm Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

From: John Matthew Pagaragan, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Student

SUBJECT: Supporting SB676

As a proud supporter and product of the public school system here in Hawai'i, **I strongly write in support of SB676** which will provide resources to support the University of Hawai'i system wide Pamantasan Council. As a first-generation college goer in my family, and person of Filipino decent, I can attest to the needs to support more Filipino students to progress through the UH system. Although many have encouraged students from Hawai'i to leave and attend college out-of-state, I am glad I made the decision to attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). It is during my time at UHM where I was able to build my community networks early on, volunteer on issues that impacted my local community of Kalihi, while also focusing my personal and professional development.

The Pamantasan Council will help many students, such as myself, to successfully complete higher education and gain the skills to be civically engaged and lead our communities toward solutions on issues that impact not only ourselves but those of our family members and fellow peers. As a student studying public health, I understand the needs of education to help the social mobility of the future students. I have benefited greatly from the few mentors and faculty members who really believe in the access and success of our diverse students, though many go above and beyond in their mentorship to support students outside of their day-to-day responsibilities.

Having a structured and dedicated Pamantasan Council will ensure the resources needed for students to gain leadership opportunities as well as the knowledge and experience to be conscious and active members of the community.

I strongly urge your support for SB676.

Thank you,
John Matthew Pagaragan

Christopher D. Yanuaria
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, February 9, 2017 2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 224

SB 676: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

Aloha Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Christopher D. Yanuaria, a proud Filipino and alumni of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am currently working at the University as a Program Coordinator at Prevention Awareness Understanding (PAU) Program. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 676.**

I was born and raised in Kahului, Maui where many of its residence identify as Filipinos. Higher education is very important in the Filipino culture. Since I was young, my parents who were migrants from the Philippines emphasized the importance of education because they wanted to ensure a better life for my sister and I. In Hawai'i, the high living and tuition cost made it difficult for my family to get by—not to mention the many unique barriers migrant families face. I have watched both of my parents work long hours and juggle multiple jobs to make sure my sister and I had everything we need. I have realized how blessed I am to have studied in college, and my hope is that other Filipinos can have the same opportunity.

It was concerning for me to learn that in Hawai'i despite the high representation of Filipinos in the general population and schools within the department of education; students of Filipino ancestry were underrepresented in the University of Hawai'i system. The goal of the Pamantasan Council is to help promote access and diversity on the University level by addressing unique challenges faced by Filipino families in Hawai'i. The Pamantasan Council also helps to empower students by teaching and celebrating the rich Filipino culture and heritage, which have been found to improve Filipino enrollment and retention.

SB 676 is not just good for Filipinos, but it is good for all of us who call Hawai'i home.

I urge you to please support SB 676.

Mahalo,

Christopher D. Yanuaria, MSW
Program Coordinator
PAU Violence Program
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa