



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
Friday, February 8, 2019 at 2:30 pm

By
Dr. Lori Ideta
Vice Chancellor for Students
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 377 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent HB 377, 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.

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.

HB 377 includes information on recent census, UH and DOE data on Filipinos (second largest group in the state and the department of education) and their under-representation among college graduates, and current UH students, staff and faculty.

The University thanks the Legislature for introducing this bill and for its continuing support for access and diversity.

The University supports the intent of HB 377 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.



Eric W. Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

February 6, 2019

Committee on Lower and Higher Education, Hawaii State House of Representatives

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 377 relating to the University of Hawaii

Aloha Chair Woodson and members of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents over 11,000 hospitality, healthcare, and food service workers in Hawaii—the majority of our members are of Filipino descent. As one of the largest Filipino organizations in Hawaii, we strongly support HB 377 (AKA the Pamantasan Bill).

Funding four (4) full-time equivalent positions at the University of Hawaii will help make the university system more accessible to Filipino students and retain existing Filipino students. At UH Manoa, only 10% of full-time students are Filipino, but are over 25% of the state's population.

Funding these positions will also promote programs and policies related to Philippine courses, which would benefit not just Filipino students but the entire student population and the broader community. Filipinos play an essential role in Hawaii's history, including our labor history. It is important that all students learn this history and apply these lessons to make Hawaii a better place for working families.

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 377 House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

February 8, 2019, 2:30 pm

Hawai`i State Legislature

Hawai`i State Capitol, Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice-Chair Mark J. Hashem
Vice-Chair Amy A. Perruso
Committee on Lower and Higher Education Members: Rep. Lynn Decoit, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Rep. Dale T. Kobayashi, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Sean Quinlan, Rep. David Tarnas, Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Rep. Val Okimoto

From: Agnes Malate, PhD
armalate@yahoo.com

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in full support of House Bill 377 to fund four full-time equivalent positions for the system-wide Pamantasan Council, including instructional faculty, student personnel, and graduate assistantships. I am a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action and have worked 30 years to increase diversity in education from high school to college. As a Faculty Specialist and having recently earned a PhD in Educational Foundations at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa (UHM), I am a beneficiary of the transformative power that a college degree has for an individual, family, and community. I can also attest to the direct impact that affirmative action and diversity programs have had on improving the lives of the students who participated in these programs.

The Pamantasan Council was established in 1987 to address the academic success and careers of Filipinos and the quality of education for all students at the University. As a young professional who had just joined the staff at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo, I was excited to be part of the planning committee for the first system-wide Pamantasan conference that included students, staff and faculty the following year. For the first time there was a unified effort to understand and address the needs of Filipinos in education and the workforce.

The Council convenes every year, rotating among the UH campuses, to share our efforts on increasing the student, staff, and faculty representation throughout the system. We also are concerned with the underrepresentation of Filipino teachers and administrators in the department of education, especially in comparison to the disproportionately higher enrollment of the Filipinos in the public school system. Incremental steps have been made in offering Philippine and Filipino-American courses in the curriculum. However, after over 30 years it is critical that funding is provided to implement the recommendations and strategies set forth in previous Pamantasan reports. Activities proposed by the different campuses, require funds and positions to ensure adequate faculty, student service personnel, lecturers, graduate assistants, and student staff.

According to the UH Institutional and Research Office Fall 2018 enrollment data (<https://www.hawaii.edu/institutionalresearch/home.action>), Filipino students enrolled in the UH Community Colleges is 17.8% but are only 9.8% at UHM (11.7% of all undergraduates and 5% of all graduates). These figures continue to be lower than Filipino students' public school enrollment (23%). Examining selected majors, 10.0 % of Filipinos are in education, 2% in law, and 6% in medicine. The only major that Filipinos have consistently been well represented is nursing (22.4%). It is the most popular major that Filipinos are encouraged to pursue. In large part due to the high percentage of Filipino nurses in the workforce and access to them via a network of family and friends, a career in nursing has been a proven career path for Filipinos. For many Filipinos who are first-generation college students they lack role models, support systems, and university services to help them successfully navigate the higher education setting. However, they possess the ingredients to excel in education, contribute as professionals in Hawai'i's workforce, and be outstanding leaders. The activities recommended by the Pamantasan Council will strengthen pathways to college and other careers for Filipinos, and foster knowledge and understanding in all students on Filipino culture, history, and contributions.

As the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i, it is critical that attention be given to the challenges faced by this population and funding be provided to support the efforts of the University of Hawai'i. I am grateful to the Committee for strengthening the University of Hawai'i's and the Pamantasan Council's ability to respond to the growing needs of the second largest ethnic group in the State and urge you to pass HB 377.

Although I am an employee of UHM, this testimony reflects my personal position and is not the official position of the University of Hawai'i.

DATE: February 7, 2019

TO: COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION
Representative Woodson, Chair

FROM: Christine Quemuel, University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council
(808) 221-7287

RE: Supporting HB 377, Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Friday, February 8, 2019 2:30 pm

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education hearing on Friday, February 8, 2019 in strong support of HB 377 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 and the largest immigrant 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 and universities in Hawai'i and the Philippines. The Pamantasan Council has no budget, and is a volunteer organization comprised of UH students, staff, faculty, and administrators who are committed to access and diversity issues.

Funding for Pamantasan positions and projects will insure 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 HB 377, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

HB-377

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:28:11 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-377

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:56:30 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Halagao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Dr. Patricia Halagao and I am a UHM Faculty member in the College of Education. I represent myself. I strongly support appropriating funds to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council for 4 full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

I have been involved with Pamantasan since 2001, but more recently served as Co-Chair of the Pamantasan Conference 2018. I have seen first hand the benefits of bringing together Filipino students, staff, and faculty across the UH system. We have the opportunity to exchange ideas and research, support programs that build a pipeline of Filipino students into higher education, and conduct educational workshops that advance our Filiipino community.

Although the Pamantasan council and its annual conferences have made headway in supporting UH Filipino faculty, staff and students with very little resources, it is time to take the organization to the next level. The council needs dedicated personnel to maintain and expand its orgnizatioal outreach in order to have more sustained impact on Filipinos in our educational institution.

Thank you for your consideration.

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hearing Date: February 8, 2019, Conference Room 309

Supporting Testimony for HB377
Committee on Lower & Higher Education

To Honorable Chair Representative Woodson, Vice Chairs Rep. Hashem and Rep Perruso and Members of the Committee,

I am a faculty specialist in student affairs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am a proud Filipina and an alumni of the institution. I am grateful to be involved with Pamantasan and am writing in strong support of SB1418, which would provide resources for the system-wide Pamantasan Council.

Pamantasan has played an integral part in connecting Filipino faculty, staff and students to address issues of representation for Filipinos across the spectrum of higher education. Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in the state of Hawai'i, yet the number of Filipino students enrolled, as well as faculty and staff employed within the UH System are gravely underrepresented. Retention of our Filipino students has also been an ongoing concern. This bill would support the Pamantasan Council in helping to address these issues and ultimately working towards to success of our Filipino students.

As an alumni, I greatly benefited from Filipino language programs and Filipino student groups, all of whom Pamantasan supports. In fact, as a transfer student from the continent, my participation in these programs helped me to gain a sense of belonging on campus and increased my self-esteem to become a more engaged student. When I became a new staff at the University seven years ago, the Pamantasan conference was one of the first projects I was encouraged to be a part of. I was grateful for the opportunity to connect and build relationships with other Filipino professionals. This has also encouraged me to be passionate about mentoring Filipino students. It is encouraging to know that Filipino faculty, staff and students have a platform to express their unique needs and to network with others they can identify and relate to.

Funding for Pamantasan would help ensure the continued success of our students in higher education and to support our diversity resources in higher education. I am in support of this bill to assist the Pamantasan Council.



Jennifer Pagala Barnett

Christopher D. Yanuaria
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, February 8, 2019 2:30 PM

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 309

HB 377: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council for 4 full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

Aloha Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Christopher D. Yanuaria, a proud Filipino alumni of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and currently the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Prevention Awareness Understanding (PAU) Violence Program Coordinator. I am testifying in support of HB 377.

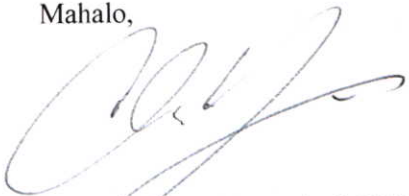
I was born and raised in Kahului, Maui. Since I was young, my parents who were migrants from the Philippines emphasized the importance of education because they wanted to ensure a better life for me and my sister. I have watched both of my parents work long hours and juggle multiple jobs to allow me to have studied in college. I was unaware that having a college degree made me an anomaly in my Filipino community.

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.

On a personal level, I have come to better understand my own ethnic heritage and come to appreciate the diversity Filipinos bring to Hawai'i thanks to the encouragement and support from my colleagues in

Pamantasan. If it was not for my parents, family, and others like my colleagues who supported my academic and professional endeavors, I do not think I would have gotten to where I am today. My hope is that other Filipinos can have the same opportunity support as I did. For this reason, I urge you to please support HB 377.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Yanuaria', written in a cursive style.

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

HB-377

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 12:36:10 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Racquel Raneses	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Racquel Raneses and I am currently a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa pursuing my Masters Degree in Social Work. My focus for my degree is Health and my goal is to work in the Healthcare setting to reduce health disparities.

I am a proud Filipina; born and raised in the Philippines. Growing up in Hawaii, I've always struggled with my cultural identity and having national pride. At time, Filipinos in my community were the center of bad jokes and stereotypes which led to my own rejection of my heritage.

Fortunately, upon entering UH Manoa for my undergrad I was required to take 2 years of language which led me to take Tagalog. The impact of taking Tagalog and being a part of the Katipunan Club was so great. I was able to find a deep appreciation of my rich Filipino heritage and my sense of pride. Pamantasan council made that possible by advocating for an increase of Filipino language and courses at UH Manoa. I continue to take what I've learned and attained through my experience with my Filipino courses to help me better serve my community and people here in Hawaii.

It's with great honor and pleasure that I can proudly testify and commend the works the Pamantasan Council has accomplished over these past 31 years. I support the Pamantasan Council.

DATE: February 6, 2019

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

FROM: Roderick Labrador
(808) 349-6473

RE: Supporting HB 377, Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Friday, February 8, 2019 2:30 pm

I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education hearing on Friday, February 8, 2019 in strong support of HB 377 relating to the University of Hawai'i, to provide resources for the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. According to the latest census, Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai'i and the biggest immigrant group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education.

I am a professor in the Ethnic Studies Department at UH-Mānoa, specializing in Filipino diaspora studies. I teach several courses related to Filipino history, culture, and politics and over the past decade I have witnessed the tremendous impact the Pamantasan Council has had on student recruitment, engagement, retention, and success despite limited resources. Although the Pamantasan Council is a UH systemwide organization and was established in 1987, it has no budget and is a volunteer organization composed of UH students, staff, faculty, and administrators who are committed to access and diversity issues. The task of the council is extensive: addressing issues related to the representation and success of Filipinos on the UH campuses; making sure that courses the cover the Philippines, Filipinos in Hawai'i, Filipino Americans, and Filipinos in diaspora are available for students to take; facilitating international relations, partnerships, and collaborations between colleges and universities in Hawai'i and the Philippines; addressing K-12 issues related to Filipino students; and connecting educational concerns to issues related to careers and the work force. The wide-ranging Pamantasan Council merits our support. Funding for the Pamantasan Council, its various programs, events, and projects will insure that Hawai'i is at the forefront of educational equity and diversity in public higher education.

I thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for your continued commitment to Filipinos and other underrepresented communities in Hawai'i. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system or the UH-Mānoa Department of Ethnic Studies, but reflects my own individual support and I strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support HB 377, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

LATE

HB-377

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 4:11:35 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arcelita Imasa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi, I'm a Filipino student at John A. Burns School of Medicine. I am hoping to become a physician in Hawaii. As a student, I benefitted from the work of the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council in promoting access, diversity, and workforce development. It will mean so much for me and to many of my fellow Filipino classmates if this program will be able to continue its fantastic work!

Please continue the funding for the staffing of the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council.

Thank you so much,

Sincerely,

Arcelita Imasa

LATE

HB-377

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 11:59:36 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aprilei Ramirez	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

To the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education,

My testimony is in strong support of House Bill 377 that proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan council for 4 full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs, and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

My name is Aprilei Tonga Tagata Ramirez. I have resided in Kalihi, Waipahu, Makakilo, Liliha and now in Kaneohe. However, Kalihi will always be home to me. I am a product of an immigrant Ilokana mother from Ilocos Sur in the Philippines. Like many before her, she sought after the dream of a better life in Hawaii. I represent the dreams of my mother, my community, and ancestors before me. It has become my duty as to always strive for justice and equity across all sectors for Filipinos, my affiliated communities, and the state of Hawaii.

My mother spent 34 years of her life working alongside men recovering from alcoholic and/or substance abuse. She helped train them to become functional and contributive members of society as a Bric-A-Brac sorting supervisor. Growing up, I remembered meeting and seeing many filipino workers sorting through donations made to the Salvation Army location off of Nimitz highway. I can still recall my mom and filipino aunties saying “Balasang, make sure you graduate and go to college. College will help you get better job and life.”

I graduated from Farrington High school in 2008. I can recall only seeing a handful of teachers being Filipino at the time, but many that worked in janitorial positions. Though few, they impacted my life by re-connecting me with my Ilokano culture and language and even introduced me to the Sariling Gawa Youth Council Leadership conference, who also sponsors the Pamantasan Conference. This enabled me to connect with other Filipino youth who exhibited leadership qualities that were fueled by culture and dreams to pursue higher education. I am forever grateful for the recommendation and mentorship by my former high

school Ilokano teacher and former Ilokano professor Dr. Julius Soria for supporting Filipino students and their goals.

After graduating high school, I went onto Kapiolani Community college with hopes to eventually transfer to the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). I was one of the unlucky few that stayed an exploratory student for so long. The only time I felt like I belonged at UH-Manoa occurred during my time taking Ilokano courses, Indo-pacific languages courses, and my involvement with the Student Excellence, Equity, and Diversity (SEED) office. This is also where I was affirmed that higher education is attainable for a Filipina. I found my way to my BA in Public Health through an elective course I was taking taught by Dr. Jeffrey Acido, who referred me to another advisor and then again to my final advisor, Michelle Tagorda (Filipina). I was fortunate to continue to meet other Filipinos in higher education that believed and supported me, even when I doubted myself. I began to feel that my dreams and goals were still attainable because I had role models and mentors that were ethnically and culturally relevant to me in higher education.

As a current Masters of Public Health (MPH) student, I am very grateful that I benefited from the work of the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council in promoting access, diversity, and workforce development. It will mean so much for me and to many of my fellow Filipino classmates if this program will be able to continue its amazing work! Please continue the funding for the staffing of the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council.

**Respectfully,
Aprilei T.T. Ramirez**

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Kaneohe, HI 96744

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