



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee Lower & Higher Education
and
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Friday, March 15, 2019 at 2:10 p.m.

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

SB 1418 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Woodson and Johanson, Vice Chairs Hashem, Perruso, and Eli, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of SB 1418 SD1, 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.

SB 1418 SD1 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 SB 1418 SD1 provided that its passage is an addition to the priorities as indicated in our University of Hawai'i Board of Regents Approved Budget.

March 14, 2019

Testimony to the Committee on Lower and Higher Education
Re: SB 1418, UH Pamantasan Council Appropriation

Chair Justin Woodson, Vice Chair Mark Hashem, Vice Chair Amy Perruso and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

On behalf of the Pamantasan 2019 Conference Committee in Hawai‘i Island, we submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1418, a measure that would appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i for 4 full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

In 1987, the University of Hawai‘i Task Force on Filipinos was organized to “review the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai‘i and to make recommendations to increase their numbers and improve the academic success and careers of Filipinos and the quality of education for all students at the University.” The Task Force became known as the Pamantasan Council comprised of faculty, staff, students, and administrators from all 10 UH campuses. Together, Pamantasan advocates for the representation of Filipino American and Philippine curricula and support for higher education achievement among Filipino students. Pamantasan holds an annual conference hosted at one of the UH campuses every year.

While it has been more than 30 years since Pamantasan first convened, there still remains significant Filipino education gaps in the UH system. In Hawai‘i Island, for example, where Filipinos make up 22% (40,878) of the population, only 10% (246) Filipinos students were enrolled at Hawai‘i Community College and only 7.5% (211) were enrolled at UH Hilo in the Fall 2017 semesters. Filipino transfer rates remain low in Hawai‘i Island, as well. In fact, last Fall 2017, only 7 Filipino students transferred from HawCC to UHH.

On Friday, October 18, 2019, Hawai‘i Community College will be hosting the Pamantasan 2019 conference in Hilo. The theme for the conference is *Sulong Sulong!: Activism and Advocacy!* In Filipino, *isulong* means to push forward or advance. And in that spirit, we fully support SB 1418 which addresses the disproportionate impacts of Filipino educational gaps in the UH system. As faculty, staff, and students representing the UH system in Hawai‘i Island, we believe that SB 1418 is a meaningful step in the right direction. We respectfully ask for your support for this important piece of legislation which would *isulong* or advance and the educational needs of our Filipino community in Hawai‘i.

Mabuhay!

Respectfully submitted by the Pamantasan 2019 Conference Committee in Hawai‘i Island:

Milli Macugay Asuncion, MAEd, Board Secretary, Sariling Gawa Youth Council

Lito M. Asuncion, M.A., Advisor, Sariling Gawa Youth Council
Jeanne Batallones, M.S., Transfer Counselor, Hawai'i Community College
Sandra K. Makuakane Claveria, MEd, Assistant Professor/Coordinator, Human Services Program, Hawaii Community College
Kurt D. Dela Cruz, Senior Adviser, UH Hilo Advising and Career Services
Ginger Hamilton, LSW, former Director, Minority Access & Achievement Program, UH Hilo
Kesha Kubo, Information Center Coordinator, Hawai'i Community College
Luzviminda Banez Miguel, DNP, MSN Ed., RN, Associate Professor Nursing Programs Coordinator, Hawai'i Community College
Craig Mitchell, MEd, Academic Advisor, Hawai'i Community College
Ronnell John Ray Pascua, President, Samahang Club of Hawai'i Community College
Christine Quintana, M.A., Coordinator of International Programs, Hawai'i Community College
Charlotte Faye E. Rosario, President, Bayanihan Club of UH Hilo
Rachel Solemsaas, Ed.D, Chancellor, Hawai'i Community College
Callie Villanueva, CTE Dean's Secretary, Hawai'i Community College
Melanie Dorado Wilson, Ed.D., Dean for Liberal Arts and Public Services, Hawai'i Community College

DATE: March 13, 2019

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
Representative Johanson, Chair
Representative Eli, Vice Chair

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

RE: Supporting SB 1418 SD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Friday, March 15, 2019, 2:10 pm, room 309

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education and House Committee on Labor & Public Employment hearing on Friday, March 15, 2019 in strong support of SB 1418 SD1 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 SB 1418 SD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

March 15, 2019 @ 2:10pm
SB1418 sd1: Relating to the University of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1418 sd1 Relating to the
University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

SUBMITTED BY . Amy Agbayani, co-chair

FILIPINA ADVOCACY NETWORK (FAN)

3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hi 96819

Chair Woodson, Chair Ling, Vice Chairs and members:

I worked at UH for over four decades and am now an emeritus assistant vice chancellor for student diversity. My professional career and my community advocacy work relates to access to higher education for underrepresented groups and support for diversity and civil rights in our state. Today I am representing the FILIPINA ADVOCACY NETWORK (FAN) a group that advocates for programs and policies to improve the status of Filipinos in Hawai'i and advocate for an inclusive community.

FAN supports SB1418 sd1 which provides funds and four positions for the UH Pamantasan Council, a council with representatives from each of the ten campuses. The Council continues to support and advocate for courses on Philippine languages, Philippine Studies, and the Filipino experience in Hawaii; initiatives to increase transfers from two year campuses to four year programs, to increase the number of bachelor's and professional degrees and support more faculty, staff and administrators at UH. Pamantasan Council supports a diverse and educated workforce for the state.

Although there has been progress in many areas, Filipinos (includes part Filipinos) are now the second largest ethnic group in the state (26%), significant percentage are low income, and only 17% have a BA or higher (compared to Native Hawaiians 14%, Caucasians 42% and Japanese Americans 35%). Filipinos are the second largest group in the department of education (22%) and continue to be underrepresented in many UH programs. Data shows Filipinos are better represented at Maui 22%, West'Oahu 21%, Honolulu 19%, Leeward 19%, Kauai 17%, and Kapiolani 15%. Filipino students at Hawai'i CC are 9%, Hilo 8% and Windward 5%. Filipinos are severely underrepresented at Manoa : undergraduates 10%, graduate students 4% (few are in medicine and Law), and faculty 3%.

Data shows Filipino undergraduates and graduate students outperform their non-Filipino peers in terms of degree attainment at the 4 year campuses and the community colleges. The priority issues identified by the Pamantasan Council include: low transfer rates from the CCs to 4 year campuses; low enrollment at the graduate level; few faculty particularly at West O'ahu and Manoa; lack of Philippine language and related courses at most campuses.

Proposed program activities will be at ten campuses (e.g. student programming, student employment, systemwide conference). The requested four positions will be hired at the campus level and work cooperatively systemwide on 1) graduate student recruitment; 2) CC transfers to four year campuses and c) curriculum (e.g. distance education language classes, Academic Subject certificate in Philippine/Filipino studies) and co-curriculum projects (e.g. systemwide Pamantasan conference, exchange programs). With adequate staffing, 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 aspiration for

inclusion in our multiethnic state. The Filipino students, their families and the community seek access to higher education. The very large population of Filipinos in the state and the public schools means that DOE and UH can meet their mission by providing programming to increase the Filipino UH graduates who can be part of our state's educated workforce and active citizens in our community. We respectfully request your support of sb1418 sd1 for the UH Pamantasan Council.

SB-1418-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 1:59:11 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/15/2019 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Agnes Malate	Filipinos for Affirmative Action	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in full support of Senate Bill 1418 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 is 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 SB 1418.

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.

SB-1418-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 5:16:21 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/15/2019 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danicole Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1418 because it will empower the next generation of Filipinos like me in Hawaii to contribute to our society. I was born and raised in Waialua and both my parents are from the Philippines. I understand the sacrifices they made to help me get my Bachelor's and Master's degree. Since Filipinos are a large and growing population of the state, we need to make sure that every Filipino has equal opportunity to succeed in this country. This bill would provide UH the resources needed to create higher education equity for Filipinos.

SB-1418-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 1:31:04 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/15/2019 2:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

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: March 13, 2019

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

FROM: Roderick Labrador
(808) 349-6473

RE: Supporting SB 1418, SD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Friday, March 15, 2019 2:10 pm
Conference Room 309

I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education and House Committee on Labor & Public Employment hearing on Friday, March 15, 2019 in strong support of SB 1418, SD1 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 that 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 SB 1418, SD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

Date: March 14, 2019

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

From: Sabrina Fallejo Uganiza



Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1418
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 currently work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I write in strong support of SB 1418 which would appropriate 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.

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, faculty, and staff. The Filipina/o community in the University of Hawai'i system has been incredibly supportive of many efforts to empower our Filipina/o student leaders and increase our pipeline into higher education.

I hope through the passage of SB 1418 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 University of Hawai'i Pamantasan 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.

**TESTIMONY OF WILFREDO TUNGOL
UH-Manoa BBA 1976, JD 1979**

House Committees on Higher Education and Labor

SB1418 SD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Hearing Date: 3/15/19; 2:10 p.m.

Aloha Chairs Woodson and Ling and members of the joint committees:

I am testifying in **strong support** of SB1418 which will provide staffing to the Pamantasan Council. As an alumnus of UH Manoa in the early 1970's, I am cognizant of the underrepresentation of Filipino students in the campus. In 1972 only 2% of the undergraduate population are of Filipino ancestry and even less at the graduate level.

There was only one Filipino dialect course offered (Ilokano) and very few courses on Philippine history, culture or politics. While the Filipino representation has somewhat increased in the last 40 years to 10% of undergraduate population, it is still far below the general population of Filipinos found in our public education system where Filipinos comprise almost 23% of the student body.

I believe that a coordinated and comprehensive approach is needed if the University of Hawaii system, especially in UH Manoa is serious about increasing the underrepresented numbers of Filipino students in the main campuses.

In order to accomplish this, you need dedicated staff and expertise to do the work. The Pamantasan Council can be that instrument. Please pass this bill and let UH Manoa be the path to better education for underrepresented Filipinos in our state.

Please pass this bill.

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

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Friday, March 15, 2019 2:10 PM

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 309

SB 1418, SD1: 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. (SD1)

Aloha Committee on Lower & Higher Education, and Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

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 SB 1418, SD1.

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 I was an anomaly in my Filipino community because I had a college degree.

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 as I did. For this reason, I urge you to please support SB 1418, SD1.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Yanuaria', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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