



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 2:50 p.m.

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

SB 1418 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of SB 1418, 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 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 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:16:58 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franz D. Juan	Testifying for The Filipino Community Center, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

February 7, 2019
2:50pm HRE Hearing on SB1418:
Relating to the University of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1418 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 Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the
Committee. on Higher Education:

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 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.

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 all ten campuses and funds requested will be for each of the 10 campuses (e.g. student programming, student employment and lecturers). 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 join be part of our state's educated workforce and active citizens in our community. We respectfully request your support of sb1418 for the UH Pamantasan Council.

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:14:48 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deanna Espinas	Testifying for Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH)	Support	No

Comments:

DATE: February 5, 2019

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

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

RE: Supporting SB 1418, Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Thursday February 7, 2019 2:50 pm

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the Senate Committee on Higher Education hearing on Thursday, February 7, 2019 in strong support of SB 1418 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, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

February 5, 2019

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

Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on 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 (HawCC) and only 7.5% (211) were enrolled at UH Hilo (UHH) 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 education 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 the educational needs of the Filipino community in Hawai'i. We thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony. *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

Ronnel 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

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:50:24 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Agnes Malate	Testifying for Filipinos for Affirmative Action	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,


Please accept my testimony in strong support of SB 1418.

Sincerely,

Agnes Malate

Date: February 04, 2019

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

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 thank the Senate for introducing SB 1418 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 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.

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:02:05 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monica Esquivel MS RD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee,

Please accept this as my testimony in support of this bill. With the Filipino population reaching nearly one-third of the total state population and with Filipinos underrepresented in higher education, programs that promote diversity and development of Phillipine courses and support Filipino students are greatly needed. Without such positions, Filipinos will continue to suffer from health disparities related to poor access to culturally appropriate health care, education and other inequalities. Programs and services at all levels of education, especially higher education, are needed that reflect the cultural diversity of our islands with representation mirroring that of our population if change is to occur.

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:19:36 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Krystina Begonia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB1418 in order to maintain funds that help to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students. This is important because Filipinos make up the 2nd largest ethnic group in Hawai'i yet continue to be underrepresented in higher education and overrepresented in service jobs. As a Filipina fourth year medical student in Hawaii and future family physician, I feel increasing diversity in healthcare is important for the health of our patients. We need more representation of minorities in medicine and SB1418 would help to support that.

Thank you,

Krystina Begonia

M.D. Candidate || Class of 2019

John A. Burns School of Medicine

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1418

Senate Committee on Higher Education
4 February 2019, 2:01 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 229

To: Chair Donna Mercado Kim & Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Members of Senate Committee on Higher Education

From: Clement Bautista, Director
UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services

Subject: Relating to the University of Hawaii: Pamantasan Council

My name is Clement Bautista, and I am the director of the UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services. I strongly support this bill because I have seen, first-hand, the need for additional funds to support students in higher education for the following reasons:

- 1) The challenges facing all students to negotiate the journey to higher education is daunting. For schools with large populations of Filipino students, their UH college going rates support the contention that students from these schools face additional barriers and challenges not faced by students from other comparable schools. Part of this problem is due to a lack of quality information provided to the students and their families, and part is due to a lack of consistent support to all students. Increasing coordination between schools and university outreach units is the most cost-effective method to resolve some of these issues.
- 2) Filipino students face social environments that either demean or implicitly ignore Filipino culture and identity. We should not forget that a negative social environment has happened before for Kanaka Maoli, especially before the Hawaiian Renaissance movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The significant accomplishments of Kanaka Maoli students and intellectuals since that time is something that had to be fought over. A shift in the recognition and acceptance of Native Hawaiian culture and history was eventually possible because of institutional support – financial and political – to recognize and promote Native Hawaiian culture and history.

Hawaii's social climate that still relegates Filipino culture and identity as second class needs to change. Supporting the university's Philippine culture, history and language programs at all campuses is essential to make this change.

- 3) The University of Hawaii is a very large institution that is tasked with planning, coordinating and fulfilling a multitude of tasks and activities that address many diverse and, often, financially competing interests. Services and support for a small, minority segment of Hawaii's population often takes a back seat in prioritizing. A formerly small, minority segment – Filipinos in Hawaii – is no longer small and no longer a minority. Discrepancies in their opportunities and success in higher education must become a priority so all people, not just Filipinos will reap the benefits of a large and majority segment of Hawaii's population adding and contributing to the cultural, economic and social capital of our State.

Thank you for hearing this bill and the opportunity to offer my support.

Sincerely,

Clement Bautista
744 Elepaio Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
clement.bautista@gmail.com

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:35:11 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Loreto Coloma, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chairs and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

I am writing in **support** of SB1418 as it relates to the funding of the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council.

As an individual of Filipino ancestry and an alumnus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in Philippine language courses, Filipino cultural student groups, and other programs geared toward networking and career support as I have continued to pursue my career goals. The connections I have been able to make through these various programs have been invaluable and I hope others will be allowed to have such positive experiences in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB1418.

Although I am an employee of UH Manoa, this testimony reflects my personal position and is not the official position of the University of Hawaii.

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:03:51 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua Auyong-White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB.1418

Senate Higher Education Committee

Feb. 7, 2019, 2 50p.m., Conference Room 229

To: Senate Chair Donna Mercado Kim and Vice Chair, Michelle N. Kidani & Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Pua Auyong-White, Academic Support, Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity, UH Manoa

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1418

Appropriates general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

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. Hawaii has a large percent of high school graduates in the state (92%) and by improving the access to higher education for Filipinos we can provide a solid and professional workforce for the entire state.

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.

I strongly encourage the committee to support this bill which intends to advance student excellence and equity in Hawai'i's institutions of higher learning and building a workforce by funding 4 FTE coordinator positions for the Pamantasan Council.

Pua Auyong-White

3432 B2 Kalihi Street

Honolulu, HI 96819

pua888@yahoo.com

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:24:14 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 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

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:33:39 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
wilfredo tungol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY OF WILFREDO TUNGOL

UH-Manoa BBA 1976, JD 1979

SB1418 Relating to the University of Hawaii

Hearing Date: 2/7/19; 2:50 p.m.

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

I am testifying in **strong support** of SB1418 which will provide staffing to the Pamantasan Council. As an alumni of UH Manoa in the early 1970's, I am cognizant of the underrepresentation of Filipino students in the campus. In 1972 there were only 2% Filipinos among the undergraduate population and even less for graduate level. There was only one Filipino dialect course offered (Ilokano) and very little courses on Philippine 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 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. Mahalo for your support.

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:43:20 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Racquel Raneses	Individual	Support	Yes

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.

Christopher D. Yanuaria
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, February 7, 2019 2:50 PM

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 229

SB 1418: 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 SB 1418.

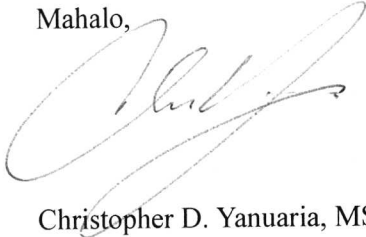
I was born and raised in Kahului, Maui. Since I was young, my parents who were migrants from the Philippines emphasized the importance of education because they wanted to ensure a better life for me and my sister. I have watched both of my parents work long hours and juggle multiple jobs to allow me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

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris', written over a large, light-colored circular scribble.

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

LATE

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:54:26 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 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.

LATE

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:51:48 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

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

Comments: