



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 28, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., Room 308

by
Donald Straney
Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i

SB 316 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support to SB 316 SD2 HD1 which appropriates additional funding for the Hawai'i Community College Promise Program. This program provides financial assistance to students with financial need (as determined based on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to meet the cost of tuition, fees, books and transportation. It would be awarded only to students to meet need remaining after federal and other need-based aid is awarded.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is encouraged by the continued support by the Legislature for the Hawai'i Promise Program which provides last dollar financial aid to needy resident UH students. Currently, the program is limited to only community college students.

Senate Bill 316 SD2 HD1 requires UH to provide specific statistical annual data regarding the program and we are not opposed to the reporting requirements. The Hawai'i Promise Program has only been in existence for less than 20 months, but UH already is collecting and intently watching the success of students in this program – especially the number of courses they are taking, the grades they earn and their progress towards their degrees or credentials.

UH would encourage the committee to consider our comments regarding the appropriation section of Senate Bill 316 SD2 HD1. The UH Board of Regents has asked as part of its biennium budget request for \$19,700,000 annually to expand the Hawai'i Promise Program, from only the community colleges, to include the 4-year campuses of the University of Hawai'i System. Expanding the program would be beneficial to those students with financial needs at four-year campuses just as there is need for students at the community colleges. Additionally, expanding the program to four-year campuses now will provide a financial aid pathway for community college students (who have had access to Hawai'i Promise) as they transition from their first two years in college towards the remaining years in pursuit of their baccalaureate degree. Without this funding, community college students may not have the financial assistance they need and which they had access to in the community colleges.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/28/2019
Time: 03:00 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

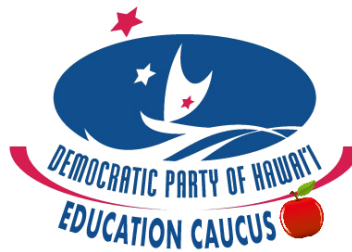
Title of Bill: SB 0316, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for additional funding for the Hawaii Community College Promise Program. Requires a report to the Legislature. (SB316 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 316, SD2, HD1, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities as outlined

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



SENATE BILL 316, SD 2, HD 1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARCH 28, 2019 · HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE ·
CHAIR REP. SYLVIA LUKE

POSITION: Support, with amendments.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawaii Education Caucus supports and suggests amendments for SB 316, SD 2, HD 1, relating to the University of Hawaii, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for additional funding for the Hawaii Community College Promise Program.

Hawaii Promise is a scholarship program that provides free in-state tuition for qualified University of Hawaii community college students with financial needs. Hawaii Promise is a “last dollar” scholarship that covers direct education costs—tuition, fees, books, supplies, and transportation—for eligible students, meaning that it applies to needs not met by other forms of financial aid, such as federal grants or financial assistance from UH, employers, and other private sources.

Hawaii Promise was established by state leaders through appropriations in the 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions, with the program’s funding totaling \$2.5 million. For the 2017-18 academic year, approximately 1,500 students received Hawaii Promise scholarships to support their community college education, with the average student award being \$1,200. Many students who graduate from community college plan to seek admission to UH’s four-year degree-granting programs. Therefore, we encourage you to **amend this measure by appropriating funds to expand the Hawaii Promise program to cover tuition at four-year institutions for these students**, who may otherwise be forced to end their college careers prematurely because of financial hardship.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Date: March 28, 2019

Where: Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

RE: **SB 316, SD2, HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i**

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Cullen, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk, the Senior Policy Analyst for Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools is in **support, with comments** of SB 316, SD2, HD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for additional funding for the Hawai'i Community College Promise Program for four-year institutions and requires a report to the Legislature.

In support of the Hawai'i Promise Program, we urge the legislature to appropriate funds for the expansion of this impactful program to benefit students of need at the University of Hawai'i's four-year institutions. Post-secondary success of Native Hawaiian students is a significant objective of Kamehameha Schools and we believe that the expansion of the Promise Program to the four-year institutions is an important step toward making college accessible for all students. We also commend the University of Hawai'i in administering this program at the community colleges by covering the unmet needs for over 1,400 students and increasing the retention rate.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! **Please advance this measure.**