

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/20/2019
Time: 10:05 AM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 0316, SD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for additional funding for the Hawaii promise program for four-year institutions. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 316, SD1, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Board of Education approved budget. The Department supports opportunities for all public school graduates to have affordable access to quality higher education opportunities at any University of Hawaii campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 316, SD 1.

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.



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**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 10:05 a.m.**

From Jill Hasegawa, President, University of Hawai'i Alumni Association

SB316, SD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB316, SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for additional funding for the Hawaii promise program for four-year institutions.

My name is Jill Hasegawa, a proud alumna of the University of Hawaii (UH) and Board President of the University of Hawaii Alumni Association (UHAA) that encompasses and represents more than 300,000 alumni who have graduated from the University of Hawaii system.

UHAA acknowledges and recognizes the legislature for providing funding the past two years to support the Hawaii Promise Program at the community colleges. Due to its great success, the UH is now requesting \$19.7 million to expand the program to qualified students at four- year institutions, which will significantly enhance the number of economically disadvantaged students who can attend and graduate from the University of Hawaii. Expanding this program will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges.

We strongly support this request and ask for your support as well. It would be a great source of pride for both UH alumni and the community as a whole, to be able to provide our students with this assistance. We all know that the key to Hawaii's economic well-being relies heavily on an educated workforce, and providing access and affordability to our state's only public higher education institutions are a necessary first step.

On behalf of UHAA, its leadership, and members, we thank you for your past commitment and service to our community, our state, and support of our UH 'Ohana. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

With Warmest Aloha,

Jill Hasegawa
University of Hawaii Alumni Association President, JD '04



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 10:05 a.m.

By
Donald O. Straney, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

SB 316 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

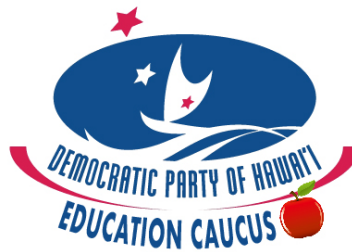
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 316 SD1, which would provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawai'i campus. Importantly, it would amend Section 304A-506 to expand the Hawai'i Promise program to qualified Hawai'i resident attending 4-year programs at the University of Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Promise 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.

Expanding the Hawai'i Promise program to qualified students in 4-year degree programs at the University of Hawai'i is the highest priority in the Board of Regent's budget request for the university this year. Expanding this program to all university undergraduate programs will significantly enhance the number of economically disadvantaged students who can attend—and graduate from—the state's public university. It will be a significant step forward in expanding access to economic opportunity for Hawai'i's students and preparing the educated workforce the state will need to grow in the coming decades.

The program is effective for students in the community colleges, where participation in Hawai'i Promise has led to increase student success in their programs. Many of these successful students will be ready to transfer to a 4-year UH degree program. A 4-year version of Hawai'i Promise will help these students afford the continuation of their education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

FEBRUARY 20, 2019 · SENATE WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports SB 316, SD 1, relating to the University of Hawai'i, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for additional funding for the Hawai'i promise program for four-year institutions.

Hawai'i Promise is a scholarship program that provides free in-state tuition for qualified University of Hawai'i community college students with financial needs. Hawai'i 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.

Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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. Extending Hawai'i Promise to cover such programs will allow impoverished students to reach their goal of earning a bachelor's degree, which may otherwise be cost prohibitive.



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P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawaii

Feb. 16, 2019

TO: Honorable Chair Dela Cruz & WAM Committee Members

RE: SB 316 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Support for Decision Making on Feb. 20

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 316 it would provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawai'i campus. Importantly, it would amend Section 304A-506 to expand the Hawai'i Promise program to qualified Hawai'i resident attending 4-year programs at the University of Hawai'i. All too many young people do not have the opportunity to attend college because they cannot afford it. This program would enable them to attend four-year programs as well as community colleges.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel President





HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE

The Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center (<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/hepc/>) is the only public institution in Hawai‘i completely focusing on the constitution, laws, policies, programs and practices of Pre-K through adult education. Affiliated with the University of Hawai‘i’s College of Education, HEPC currently receives no financial, compensation, operational or facility support from the University.

February 19, 2019

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 2019
TIME: 10:05 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211

RE: SB 316 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

HEPC SUPPORTS THE PROMISE PROGRAM WITH A PROPOSED AMENDMENT

At this point in time, the State is making assumptions about its impact and effectiveness that are not yet supportable by good data. Among the assumptions, which are valid up to a point, are the following:

- a. That the program serves students who would not be attending college without the Promise Program – primarily for financial reasons;
- b. That students who are most likely to qualify are not already advantaged by supportive families, high levels of motivation and academic success;
- c. That, in the end, the Promise Program is serving the most needy.
- d. That the current per pupil cost of the program is appropriate.

HEPC suggests that in addition to the well deserved appropriation for a program that may have a positive impact, the bill be amended to gather data as the program is implemented.

“PROPOSED SECTION 2. The University shall utilize questionnaires, surveys, focus groups, faculty and advisor views, and other feedback mechanisms to examine the following:

- (1) To what extent the numbers and percentages of Promise Program qualifying students would have been likely to attend the University of Hawaii without the benefit of the Promise Program;
- (2) The number and percentage of Promise Program qualifying students who begin the program but are unable to complete the program or comply with its requirements;
- (3) The extent to which Promise Program students will be more likely to receive a degree sooner as a result of the Promise Program due to financial considerations;

HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER

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<http://manoa.Hawaii.edu/hepc/>

- (4) A breakdown of the per pupil costs of the program; and
- (5) Potential adjustments to the Promise Program to ensure it better serves the intended student beneficiaries.

Beginning in September 2021, and each September thereafter, the University shall provide an annual report on the Promise Program and the findings of this section.”

HEPC would also note that some of the same assumptions and data gaps also exist in many of the Dual Enrollment, Early College, Jump Start, and Advanced Placement International Baccalaureate programs. All of these are great additions to our public education system. Yet in their design, funding sources and amounts, we find that we can see correlations between those who participate in college success, but not yet causation. Some national studies do suggest the “most likely to succeed” are the most likely to take advantage of them. Should Hawaii want to tweak their design to ensure the most needy are indeed participating, such surveying and data collection is essential.

Thank You For Your Consideration of This Amendment to SB 316.

LATE



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 10:05 a.m.

Date: February 20, 2019

Where: State Capitol Room 211

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: **SB 316, SD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i**

E ka Luna Ho'omalu Dela Cruz, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalu Keith-Agaran, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo o ka 'Aha Kenekoa! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk, the Senior Policy Analyst for Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing in **support** of SB 316, SD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i, which appropriates funds to the University for additional funding for Hawai'i promise for 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. **Please advance this measure.**

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'oha hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.