



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education  
March 15, 2019 at 2:40 p.m., Room 309

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

### SB 316 SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support to SB 316 SD2 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 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. 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.



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

**Date:** 03/15/2019

**Time:** 02:40 PM

**Location:** 309

**Committee:** House Lower & Higher  
Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 0316, SD2 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 for four-year institutions. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 316, SD2, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Department's 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 2.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



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**Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education  
Friday, March 15, 2019, 2:40 p.m.**

**By Jill Hasegawa, President, University of Hawai'i Alumni Association**

**SB316 SD2, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'I**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony that supports the intent of SB316, SD2, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for additional funding for the Hawai'i Community College Promise Program and requires a report to the Legislature.

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

UHAA acknowledges and recognizes the legislature for providing funding the past two years for the Hawai'i Promise Program at the community colleges. Due to its great success, this session the UH requested \$19.7 million to expand the Hawai'i Promise Program to qualified students at four-year UH campuses to significantly increase the number of economically disadvantaged students who graduate from the University of Hawai'i. Expanding this program, as originally proposed, will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide, on all campuses, facing prohibitive financial challenges.

In addition to continuing Hawai'i Promise in the community colleges, we strongly support the UH request to expand that program to other campuses 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 Hawai'i'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 and support of our UH 'Ohana. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this Hawaii Promise Program.

With Warmest Aloha,

Jill Hasegawa  
University of Hawai'i Alumni Association President, JD '04



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

Time: 2:40 p.m.

Date: March 15, 2019

Where: Conference Room 309

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk  
Kamehameha Schools

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

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū Hashem, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū Perruso, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao Ha'aha'a, Ki'eki'e, a me ke Kulanui 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, 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'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.