



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 2:50 p.m.

By

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

SB 316 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 316, 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.



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

Date: 02/05/2019
Time: 02:50 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Higher Education

Department: Education

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

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

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

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 316, 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.

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.

SB-316

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 3:16:28 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/5/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Higher Education

Time: 2:50 p.m.

Date: February 5, 2019

Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

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

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Kim, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū Kidani, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao Kulanui o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk, the Senior Policy Analyst for Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing in **support** of SB 316, 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'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.