

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 17, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 50 SD1 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: February 20, 2019, 10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill appropriating funds to the University of Hawaii's Hawaii Nutrition Employment and Training (HINET) program available to recipients or those eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

DHS is working to reduce the incidences and impact of intergenerational poverty. The one proven pathway out of poverty is through education. The HINET program provides additional financial and one-to-one support to help college students attend to their basic needs, like finding child care, and assists with job matching.

State and private funds that are invested into the HINET program may be eligible for reimbursement from the federal government up to 50 percent. The funds requested will be used to expand the program to additional community college campuses. As of January 2019, there were approximately 11,078 adults born in the years 1987 – 1996 who receive SNAP benefits in Hawaii, and who are potentially eligible to participate in HINET. Investing in the education and work skills of SNAP eligible or SNAP recipients will have positive benefits for the residents and economy of Hawaii.

PURPOSE: Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for the Hawaii nutrition employment and training program. (SB 50 SD1)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

SB-50-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 10:25:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

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:

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Kevin Costello

I represent Hawaii Nutrition Employment and Training Program (HINET)

45-679 Waiawi St.

Kaneohe HI 96744

808-392-3226

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2019, I support SB50 SD1 Relating to Human Services; University of Hawaii, Hawaii Nutrition Employment and Training Program (HINET)

Good Morning Senator,

My Name is Kevin Costello, BSW student at UH Manoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I represent the Hawaii Nutrition Employment and Training Program (HINET).

The measure Relating to Human services; I am in support of SB50 SD1.

The reasons why I am in support to this bill is because the HINET program made it possible for me to achieve success academically while I was attending Windward Community College. The HINET program provided me with reimbursement of my books and a bus pass, which was a major relief of some financial stresses I had in the beginning of my academic journey. The HINET program also loaned me a laptop for a couple of semesters when I could not afford one. This program made it possible for me to achieve a sense self-worth, belonging, and values with their vocational training. With the help I received from HINE I have been able to far exceed my expectations as a student.

I am in full support SB50 SD1 and of the HINET program and I hope this program will continue to help others, like it helped me, in the future with the passing of this bill.

WAMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Ways and Means Committee

Attn: Chair, Dela Cruz

RE: SB50 SD1 Related to Human Services

I come to you hopes that you will take a look at this great program that is here at Windward Community College called HI Net. I first found this program as I returned to college after being out for 4-5 years. The HI-Net program has helped me keep my food stamps so that I can keep food on my table for my daughters and as I continue my education. This program has allowed me to get help to purchase my books for class that is already very pricey. The staff that works for HI-Net are great support for students furthering their education. They help make sure we are on task with homework and attending class. They try to find many ways to help assist the students while in the program. That includes career planning and helping us choose what classes we should be taking for that degree. I am in support of this program and would like to see it get full permanent funding so it may continue to help others in need in furthering their education in college.

Mahalo for you time and look forward to seeing this bill move forward.

-A grateful student



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

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

By
John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 50 SD1 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 50, SD1 to provide positions and funds for the Hawai'i Nutrition Employment and Training Program (HINET). HINET is an innovative interagency partnership that leverages UH Community College (UHCC) and Department of Human Services (DHS) resources to assist SNAP eligible recipients through a college career pathway leading to self-sufficiency by lowering costs.

Although Hawai'i SNAP recipients receive basic living benefits from DHS, their access to Higher Education is limited, due in part to the USDA's 20-hour work requirement. Concurrently, many Community College students struggle with paying rent and other basic living needs forcing them to either drop from college or attend only part-time. Through HINET, SNAP recipients in Hawai'i now have greater access to college and are able to receive an exemption to the USDA 20 hr. work requirement. In addition, our current students are qualifying for SNAP and receive assistance with their food, transportation, childcare, basic living needs and some educational expenses as well. UHCC HINET staff work closely with DHS to recruit SNAP recipients and help current eligible college students navigate the DHS SNAP application process. HINET staff also provide comprehensive wrap-around student support services and develop workforce employment plans to help students achieve self-sufficiency. Key to student success is the frequent monitoring and documentation of student progress allowing HINET and DHS to prescribe support resources when needed.

HINET will be able to scale its enrollment count and intervention services by bringing additional federal funds to the State through the USDA reimbursement program. USDA will provide a 50% reimbursement of any State or private funding expended by the HINET program or its students. USDA reimbursements could establish student scholarships, support the program, or provide other financial assistance to HINET students.

Though HINET is only a few years in development, the program is demonstrating an overall fall-to-fall persistence rate that is 20% higher than the Community College system average. In addition, UH has a unique responsibility to the indigenous people of Hawai'i, and early analysis is showing that 58% of HINET students are Native Hawaiian.

We support SB 50 SD1 on the condition that any requested positions or funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Biennium Budget request.

Thank you for considering this testimony in your deliberations. Aloha.