



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

By

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

HB 1277 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1277 HD1, 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, HRS, 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. Our current estimate is that approximately 5,000 additional students would benefit from the expansion of this program as described in this bill: approximately 3,560 students attending UH Mānoa, 530 attending UH Hilo, and 1,020 attending UH West O'ahu. We expect this version of the program would encourage more students to attend a 4-year university in Hawai'i rather than going to college on the mainland.

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.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Higher Education

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Date: March 19, 2019

Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: **HB 1277, HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kim, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua 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.

Kamehameha Schools is in **support** of HB 1277, HD1, which provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawai'i campus who meet certain eligibility criteria and makes an appropriation for the Hawai'i Promise Program.

Post-secondary success of Native Hawaiian students is a significant objective of Kamehameha Schools and we believe that the Promise Program is an important step toward making college accessible for all students. We also commend the University of Hawai'i in administering this program in the community colleges, 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.

HB-1277-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 8:42:25 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/19/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support HB8 1277 HD1. Education is a life long tool enabling opportunities for a better life. Anything that the state can do to assist students, especially those economically disadvantaged is money well spent.

**Testimony Presented Before the
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
March 19, 2019 at 3:00 pm
Ken Hayashida, President
KAI Hawaii, Inc.**

**HB 1277 HD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM
HB 813 HD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1277 HD 1 and HB 813 HD 1 which provide “last dollar” scholarships for the unmet need of qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawai‘i system who meet certain criteria.

I strongly support the expansion of the Promise Program and making college education accessible for our residents. *As a UH Alum/business person/member of our community,* I am proud of the education I received at the University of Hawai‘i and recognize the critical role UH plays in educating our citizenry for Hawai‘i’s multi-faceted workforce.

Since the Promise Program’s inception, the UH Community Colleges were able to assist 1,500 students through this program. These students and their families are now facing a more stable and prosperous future thanks to the direct support our state leaders provided to this innovative program.

By expanding the University of Hawai‘i Promise Program we can remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges. This will ensure that promising, ambitious students have the resources they need to focus on their studies, prepare to join our workforce and make positive contributions to our state.

Their future success impacts us all.

By expanding the University of Hawai‘i Promise Program we can help our state’s educational leaders meet the goal of having 55% of working-age adults hold a two- or four-year degree by the year 2025. Achieving this goal is critical to Hawai‘i’s future economic health, and our community’s wellbeing.

More Hawai‘i residents with college degrees are needed to fill workforce demands of the future.

With your support, we can ensure our state has the qualified workforce and expertise we need for balanced economic and social well-being. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

HB-1277-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:06:46 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/19/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Putnam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

March 19, 2019 at 3:00 pm

Shannon Tangonan Putnam

Director, University of Hawai'i Alumni Association

Manager, external corporate communications, Hawaiian Electric Company

HB 1277 HD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

HB 813 HD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1277 HD 1 and HB 813 HD 1, which provide "last dollar" scholarships for the unmet need of qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawai'i system who meet certain criteria.

I strongly support the expansion of the Promise Program and making college education accessible for our residents. As a UH Alum, I am proud of the education I received at the University of Hawai'i and recognize the critical role UH plays in educating our citizenry for Hawai'i's multi-faceted workforce.

Had I not received tuition waivers from the UH Journalism Department, hustled for additional scholarships, and worked several part-time jobs, I am not sure I would have completed my bachelor's degree. That was back in the early 1990s. The cost to attend the university is higher now, and for many students, it is out of their reach. The Promise Program makes higher education accessible to many more deserving students.

Since the Promise Program's inception, the UH Community Colleges were able to assist 1,500 students through this program. These students and their families are now facing a more stable and prosperous future thanks to the direct support our state leaders provided to this innovative program.

By expanding the University of Hawai'i Promise Program we can remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges. This will ensure that promising, ambitious students have the resources they need to focus on their studies, prepare to join our workforce and make positive contributions to our state.

Their future success impacts us all.

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More college-educated Hawai'i residents are needed to fill future workforce demands.

With your support, we can ensure our state has the qualified workforce and expertise we need for balanced economic and social well-being. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Testimony Presented Before the
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

March 19, 2019 at 3:00 pm

Dennis Toba, President

Engineering Alumni Association of the University of Hawaii

LATE

HB 1277 HD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

HB 813 HD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1277 HD 1 and HB 813 HD 1 which provide “last dollar” scholarships for the unmet need of qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawai‘i system who meet certain criteria.

I strongly support the **Engineering Alumni Association of UH** in making college education accessible for our residents. As a *UH Alum and the current president of the Engineering Alumni Association of the University of Hawaii*, I am proud of the education I received at the University of Hawai‘i and recognize the critical role UH plays in educating our citizenry for Hawai‘i’s multi-faceted workforce.

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More Hawai‘i residents with college degrees are needed to fill workforce demands of the future.

With your support, we can ensure our state has the qualified workforce and expertise we need for balanced economic and social well-being. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



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

LATE

Date: 03/19/2019
Time: 03:00 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Higher Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 1277, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawaii campus who meet certain eligibility criteria. Makes an appropriation for the Hawaii Promise Program. (HB1277 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1277, HD 1, provided that its passage does not replace or 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 provide testimony on this measure.

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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LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

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

HB1277, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB1277, HD1, which provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawai'i campus who meet certain eligibility criteria and makes an appropriation for the Hawai'i Promise Program.

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 to support the Hawai'i Promise Program at the community colleges. Due to its great success, the UH is now requesting funding to expand the program to qualified students at four-year institutions, which will significantly enhance the number of economically disadvantaged students who can graduate from the University of Hawai'i. Expanding this program will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide who face 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 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, 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 Hawai'i Alumni Association President, JD '04