



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
February 8, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

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

HB 1568 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of HB 1568 to advance education and career opportunities for Pacific Islanders. The UH Community Colleges (UHCC) have identified Pacific Islanders as priority group for enrollment because Pacific Islanders are underrepresented in participation and completion of degrees and certificates at UHCC, compared with their representation in the state.

UH campuses have provided programs to support Pacific Island students including “summer bridge” programs for transition into college, student mentoring and targeting early college programs to high schools with higher proportions of Pacific Islanders. However, more is needed as Pacific Islanders continue to be underrepresented in college enrollment and completion. Discussion, partnerships and resources to support education of our Pacific Island students are welcome. We suggest that the pilot created by HB 1568 address Pacific Islander enrollment at one or two campuses to identify effective practices.

Our partners at DOE’s Community Schools for Adults provides GED (General Education Division) test preparation and administration. Support for more Pacific Islanders passing the GED or HISET high school equivalency tests is appreciated. Students who pass these tests are eligible for federal financial aid, whereas other students who do not a high school diploma are typically not eligible for aid.

We support HB 1568 on the condition that any requested positions or funds do not supplant any portion of the University’s Biennium Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1568. Aloha.

HB-1568

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:27:35 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1568

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 12:28:59 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Me	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1568

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 1:04:08 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vaialofi Marsom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think this is something we need for our community. Hawai'i is a melting pot for Pacific Islanders, we need more programs for everyone. More benefits for all Pacific Islanders so we can help bring up our community. Having more assistance towards furthering education for Pacific Islanders would push more of us to pursue an education.

LATE

HB-1568

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 11:10:51 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anastasia Shirai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to band together and help our people from abroad transition well and be better equipped to handle the cultural shock the US offers. Instead of full on assimilation provide education for our people to build a better life which can in fact benefit the state as a whole. The main thing that our government is doing is pricing out it's citizens and giving foriegn investors a chance to create a better life than those who live here or who are TRYING to make a life here. Taking the first steps to ensuring better education and giving people a platform to perform at their best can only create a better outcome for our beautiful state. Otherwise you will lose Pacific Islanders and our islands will be filled with foriegnors.

LATE

HB-1568

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 11:20:59 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lise	Lady pasifika	Support	No

Comments:

I am for this bill. Pacific Islanders do not have a lot of opportunities in grants/programs for higher education outside of playing sports. This is a great opportunity as most islanders are not able to attend college due to funds. This would allow many educated and driven islanders succeed in accomplishing their educational goals and creating a better Hawaii.