



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.

By

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

HB 813 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 813 HD1, which establishes the University of Hawai'i Promise Program Plus.

This program would provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawai'i campus who had previously received a Hawai'i Promise scholarship while enrolled at one of the University of Hawai'i community colleges. 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 will significantly enhance the ability of community college students to transfer to a 4-year program and it will increase the number of economically disadvantaged students who can earn a bachelor's degree from the 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 soon 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.

The university is concerned, however, that students who did not qualify for Hawai'i Promise at the community college might nevertheless have unmet need when they attend a 4-year program. It would be unfortunate to exclude these students with unmet need from the benefits of this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 12:30 p.m.**

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

HB813, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB813, HD1, Establishing the University of Hawai'i Promise Program Plus to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in a bachelor's degree at the University of Hawai'i who are: (A) Graduates of a University of Hawai'i community college who received a Hawai'i community college promise program scholarship; and (B) Enrolled at any University of Hawai'i campus; and (2) Appropriating funds to establish and implement the 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 attend and graduate from the University of Hawai'i. As provided for in this bill, expanding this program will effectively remove cost barriers to higher education for community college students now in the Hawaii Promise Program who will have this assistance when they continue their education at a four-year campus.

We strongly support this request and ask for your support as well. It would be a great source of pride for UH alumni and the community as a whole, 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. 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 supporting this measure.

With Warmest Aloha,

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



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

Date: 02/26/2019
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0813, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS.

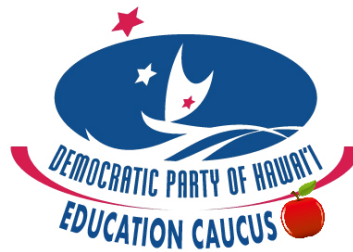
Purpose of Bill: Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program Plus to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in a bachelor's degree at the University of Hawaii who are (1) graduates of a University of Hawaii community college who received a Hawaii Community College Promise Program Scholarship; and (2) enrolled at any University of Hawaii campus. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. (HB813 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 0813, HD1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our 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 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.



HOUSE BILL 813, HD 1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS

FEBRUARY 26, 2019 · HOUSE FINANCE
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. SYLVIA LUKE

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawaii Education Caucus supports HB 813, HD 1, relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program Plus, which establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program Plus to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in a bachelor's degree at the University of Hawaii who are (1) graduates of a University of Hawaii community college who received a Hawaii Community College Promise Program Scholarship; and (2) enrolled at any University of Hawaii campus; and appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

Hawaii Promise is a scholarship program that provides free in-state tuition for qualified University of Hawaii community college students with financial needs. Hawaii Promise is a “last dollar” scholarship that covers direct education costs—tuition, fees, books, supplies, and transportation—for eligible students, meaning that it applies to needs not met by other forms of financial aid, such as federal grants or financial assistance from UH, employers, and other private sources.

Hawaii Promise was established by state leaders through appropriations in the 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions, with the program’s funding totaling \$2.5 million. For the 2017-18 academic

year, approximately 1,500 students received Hawai'i Promise scholarships to support their community college education, with the average student award being \$1,200. Many students who graduate from community college plan to seek admission to UH's four-year degree-granting programs. Extending Hawai'i Promise to cover such programs will allow impoverished students to reach their goal of earning a bachelor's degree, which may otherwise be cost prohibitive.

HB-813-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:20:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 12:30:00 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: