



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 22, 2023

The Honorable Representative Amy A. Perruso, Chair
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Perruso and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB1151 SD2 RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB1151 SD2**, which exempts University of Hawai'i Community College students who are enrolled in certificate programs from the requirement to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid each academic year to be considered eligible for the Hawai'i Community College Promise Program.

We support a Self Advocacy Advisory Council with over 200 individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). By talking with them, we have learned, the ones who attended higher education, did it on a half-time basis. The majority enrolled in certificate programs. When we asked if they applied for the Promise Program, some stated they had not, because they had to first complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which they thought they could not apply for it because they weren't enrolled full-time at the Community College. While the other self-advocates expressed, the process to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid was too hard.

Eliminating the need to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid if the student would only qualify for the Promise Program and by expanding the Promise Program to certificate programs allows I/DD individuals to participate in a program that is more flexible and teaches practical, applicable skills. This encourages our I/DD community to gain employment skills, and promotes independence. This measure would increase the opportunity for our population to better integrate and participate in the community through achieving higher education. As well as, reducing the cost of community college would positively impact our I/DD population.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB1151 SD2.**

Sincerely,
Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Della Teraoka

Interim Associate Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1151 SD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 1151 SD2, which ensures access to Hawai'i Promise program funding by exempting certificate program students from the requirement to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each academic year to be considered eligible for the Hawai'i Promise program.

The Hawai'i Promise program has demonstrated its value and benefit to students pursuing degree programs at the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC). For students who are interested in pursuing a post-graduate certificate program, the requirement of completing the FAFSA to be considered eligible for the Hawai'i Promise scholarship may be a barrier to some students, including students with developmental disabilities. Exempting students pursuing a certificate program, credit or non-credit, from completing the FAFSA each academic year can ensure access to those students pursuing their educational goals with a shorter certificate program. Hawai'i Promise is an important tool directly benefiting Hawai'i's families otherwise least able to afford higher education.

The UHCC is committed to creating an application form for students exempted from completing the FAFSA and using the Hawai'i Promise scholarship to cover full direct costs as there would be no ability to determine "unmet need" without the completed FAFSA.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 1151 SD2, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1151 SD2.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 22, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Senate Bill 1151 SD2 – Relating to the Hawaii Community College Promise Program

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 1151 SD2 – Relating to the Hawaii Community College Promise Program. This bill would ensure access to Hawaii Community College Promise Program funding by exempting certificate program students from the requirement to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid each academic year to be considered eligible for the Hawaii Community College Promise Program. Higher education opportunities for people with disabilities would improve employment outcomes and increase participation and inclusion in communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



The House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
March 22, 2023
2:00 PM
Room 309

RE: **SB1151, SD2, Relating to the Hawaii Community College Promise Program**

Attention: Chair Amy Perruso, Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela and members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 1151, SD 2**, Relating to Hawaii Community College Promise Program.

This bill ensures wider access to the Hawai'i Promise Program for community college students in certificate programs through the waiver of federal requirements, and will enable more families the opportunity to enroll in community college and acquire the skills necessary to enter the workforce.

Certificate programs allow individuals to attain practical experience focused on the skills and knowledge needed for a specific job, opening the door to gainful employment. The absence of general education courses required in degree programs means it takes less time and money to complete certificate programs. As a community, we have witnessed the difficulties Hawai'i residents faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the thousands of jobs that were lost. During the Covid shutdown, over 11,600 Hawai'i residents studied and received certificates from our University of Hawai'i community colleges. This impactful movement enables families to enter the workforce with practicable training that can be built on to advance in the workplace and further educational opportunities.

Respectfully submitted

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

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SB-1151-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 9:01:05 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayle K. Turner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of the proposed law to exempt University of Hawaii community college students enrolled in certificate programs from completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for the Hawaii Community College Promise Program. Doing this would have a significant impact on making higher education more accessible at the state's community colleges. Requiring students to complete the FAFSA can act as a barrier for students pursuing post-graduate certificates, including those with developmental disabilities. By removing this requirement, the proposed law would increase access to higher education for these students and provide greater opportunities for personal and professional growth. The support from the University of Hawaii, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability and Communication Access Board, and University of Hawaii Professional Assembly further highlights the importance of this proposed law in making higher education more inclusive and accessible to all students. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

SB-1151-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 9:10:38 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i am in strong support of this SB1151 SD2 please pass this bill thank you.