



Testimony in support of SCR 132/ SR 116

submitted by Amy Agbayani, co-chair Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights

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

Mahalo for hearing this resolution and I respectfully request you approve it.

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights supports programs and policies that ensure equal access, diversity and inclusion. HF CR strongly supports SCR 132/ SR 116 requesting UH to report on the Pamantasan Council's systemwide efforts to improve the status of Filipinos at the UH.

Filipinos have been in Hawai'i for 116 years; Filipino students are the largest ethnic group in the public schools and every fourth individual in our state is of Filipino ancestry. Unfortunately there are few courses about Filipinos in Hawai'i, Philippine languages, culture and history at most campuses; faculty and graduate students continue to be underrepresented. It should be noted that the transfer rate to four year campuses continues to be low.

HF CR supports this resolution requesting UH to report on the systemwide Pamantasan's efforts to improve the status and representation of Filipinos in the curriculum, faculty, staff and students. These objectives are consistent with the university's mission of teaching, research and service to the state. We thank the legislature for passing Act 266 in 2019 for providing 2 positions and funds for the Pamantasan Council. We support the request to UH to provide a report on the Pamantasan Council's activities, funding and plans.

I want to express my appreciation to the Filipino Senate and House caucus for introducing this resolution

Amy Agbayani, Co-chair

Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 9:06:37 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/29/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leon Florendo	Testifying for Sariling Gawa Youth Council	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, Vice Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Fevella, and Senator Kanuha

My name is Leon F. Florendo and I am the President of the *Sariling Gawa Youth Council*. I am submitting a written testimony on behalf of Sariling Gawa Youth Council.

We strongly support **SCR 132 / SR 116** REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO REPORT ON THE PAMANTASAN COUNCIL'S SYSTEMWIDE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF FILIPINOS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Sariling Gawa Youth Council has been dedicated to youth leadership development efforts since 1980 ensuring that Filipino youth are empowered to be community leaders with a deep understanding of their history, languages, culture and values. Over 3,000 high school students across the state have participated in our annual Sariling Gawa's Youth conferences and workshops. Throughout our organization's 40 plus year history, these students expressed a common desire which is to increase their pride, respect and appreciation of their Filipino history and cultural heritage.

We support **SCR 132 / SR 116** because we believe in the work the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council has been doing to ensure Filipino language, culture, history, and identity is offered through the various University of Hawaii system programs and courses. As well as supporting Filipino students' enrollment and transfer and hiring of Filipino faculty.

Salamat po

Leon F. Florendo

President Sariling Gawa Youth Council

DATE: March 25, 2022

TO: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Kim, Chair
Senator Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Christine Quemuel, University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

RE: Supporting SCR 132/SR 116, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council Systemwide Efforts
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 3:05 pm

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs hearing on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 in support of SCR 132/SR116 relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council Systemwide Efforts, to request a report from the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. Filipinos are the second largest population group in Hawai'i and the largest immigrant group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education.

The Pamantasan Executive Council is the UH systemwide organization concerned with the status of Filipinos on all UH campuses throughout the state. The Council was established in 1987 to address the representation and success of Filipinos on campus and to ensure that Filipino American and Philippine courses are represented in the curriculum. The Executive Council is also charged with issues concerning Filipinos in the Department of Education, Filipinos in the work force, and international relations between colleges and universities in Hawai'i and the Philippines. The Pamantasan Council has no budget, and is a volunteer organization comprised of UH students, staff, faculty, and administrators who are committed to access and diversity issues.

Funding for Pamantasan positions and projects was provided to the University of Hawai'i system in 2019 to institutionalize the state's commitment to educational equity and diversity in higher education. We thank the legislature for supporting these initial efforts. We support this important bill to report on the efforts of Pamantasan during COVID and how the Council has adjusted efforts to provide continued support for Filipino students in the UH System following the impacts of COVID. We are grateful to your continued commitment to diversity to ensure that underrepresented communities in Hawai'i are supported. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We encourage the passage of this bill. Please support SCR 132/SR 116, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 6:11:44 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/29/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phillippe Rivera Fernandez-Brennan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, March 29, 2022, 3:30 PM

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

March 26, 2022

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Senate Members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Phillippe Fernandez-Brennan and I am a PhD student in Education: Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) and member of the UHM College of Education Tinalak Council. I have also taught in the Hawai'i public schools for the past 8 years. I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawai'i nor the Hawai'i Department of Education

I strongly support SR116, REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I TO REPORT ON THE PAMANTASAN COUNCIL'S SYSTEMWIDE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF FILIPINOS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

I strongly support SCR132 because Filipinos are the largest non-White and Asian ethnic group in Hawai'i, with 25% of the population identifying as Filipino. The majority of Filipinos in Hawai'i are Ilokano, coming from the Northern region of the Philippines. Despite a strong presence in Hawai'i since 1906 and significant contributions to the fabric of Hawai'i, Filipinos as a community, continue to struggle socially, politically and economically.

Filipinos in Hawai'i have undergone what is interpreted by scholars as a "process of cultural and ethnic disidentification," a denial of their heritage and embrace of the dominant ideologies of a local identity while being aware of their marginalization and the lack of social benefits for being Filipino.

At the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM), 2021 data showed that Filipinos accounted for only 5.9% of faculty at the UHM. Data from 2016 indicates the same trend of Filipinos accounting for only 2.6% of the entire UHM faculty. At the College of Education (COE), Filipinos are disproportionately underrepresented among the COE faculty with only 5 of 174 faculty members of 2.8% having Filipino heritage.

Fall 2021 data indicates that Filipinos are underrepresented at the College of Education as teacher candidates and graduate students. Filipinos represented only 11% of teacher candidates and 7.6% of graduate students at the COE. As the highest producing licensure Education Preparation Program (EPP) in Hawai‘i, this low number of Filipino teacher candidates consequently leads to under-representation of Filipino teachers and administrators employed in the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE). The most recent data in 2021 shows that Filipinos have one of the lowest representations of teachers (7.4%) and administrators (5.1%) employed by the HIDOE. This is problematic because Filipino youth represent the majority of the students in Hawai‘i public schools. I argue that there is a link between the underrepresentation of Filipino teachers and administrators and lack of Filipino curriculum to persistent low performance, low achievement and lack of success among Filipino students at Hawai‘i K-12 public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Phillippe Rivera Fernandez-Brennan, M.Ed. (He | Him)

UH Mānoa, Curriculum Studies | PhD Student

pfgalici@hawaii.edu

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 3:05 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

March 29, 2022

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Fevella, and Senator Kanuha,

My name is Nicole Alia Salis Reyes and I am an Associate Professor in the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. While I draw on my professional knowledge and expertise, I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawai'i.

I strongly support SCR132 / SR116 Requesting the University of Hawai'i to report on the Pamantasan Council's systemwide efforts to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai'i.

As a Kanaka Maoli and Filipina woman, a scholar of higher education, and the first in my father's family to earn a college degree, I am deeply interested in issues of Indigeneity, diversity, equity, and inclusion. There is a noticeable educational outcome gap when it comes to Filipinos in Hawai'i. Whereas Filipinos comprise 25 percent of the total population of Hawai'i and 23.4 percent of all students enrolled in HIDOE schools, they are underrepresented at all levels in the UH System. Currently, Filipinos comprise only 17.4 percent of students enrolled in the UH community colleges, 12.3 percent of undergraduates enrolled in UH four-year institutions, and 5.5 percent of graduate students enrolled in UH four-year institutions. Those numbers continue to shrink when we look at the representation of Filipinos among faculty and staff in the UH. Across the UH System, only 8.9 percent of all faculty and staff, 5.9 percent of all faculty, and 2.9 percent of all tenure and tenure-track instructional faculty identify as Filipino. I very much feel this underrepresentation even in my own college, the College of Education at UH Mānoa, where only five out of a total of 188 faculty identify as Filipino. Of my colleagues, some are in temporary positions that have become increasingly precarious during this time of the pandemic. These conditions make it difficult for us to be able to do the work that many of us strive so desperately to do, to prepare educators and to do research that will contribute to more socially just, culturally sustaining, and academically excellent educational institutions in Hawai'i.

Whereas the Pamantasan Council was formed in 1987 to review the status of and to advocate for Filipinos in the University of Hawai'i System, it is clear from the statistics above that their/our work is not done. Two dedicated full-time equivalent positions could provide an important start toward the work of the Pamantasan Council. Yet while funds were appropriated for these positions in 2019, they have not been filled due to pandemic budget restrictions. It is time for the State and for the University of Hawai'i to revisit their commitments in this regard.

If we want Hawai'i to thrive now and into the future, then we need Hawai'i to be a place where Filipinos, one of Hawai'i's largest ethnic groups, can thrive. Higher education plays a vital role in this. SCR132/SR116 can provide a first step in thinking about the University of Hawai'i's commitment to serving Hawai'i's Filipino community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nicole Alia Salis Reyes

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Monday, March 29, 2022, 3:15 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

March 27, 2022

Dear Chair Donna Mercado Kim Kidani and Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani:

My name is Leticia C. Pagkalinawan and I am an Assistant Professor at UH Manoa. I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawaii.

I strongly support SCR132 / SR116 Requesting the University of Hawaii to report on the Pamantasan council's systemwide efforts to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawaii.

I support SCR132 / SR116 because Pamantasan has done a lot to improve Filipinos' academic success and careers and students' quality of education at the University of Hawaii. Through the Pamantasan initiatives, Filipinos at UH System get to know each other, strengthen their bonds, enrich their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of their Filipino heritage language and culture, share and support each other's needs and problems, work together to uplift their personal and professional/academic life, and become valuable members of their community and citizens of this country.

I hope that you allow Pamantasan to continue its existence in the University so that Filipinos, consisting of a large population in UH, will have better opportunities and positions at the University of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Leticia C. Pagkalinawan

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 9:59:57 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/29/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Halagao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Professor at the University of Hawaii, Manoa College of Education. I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawaii.

I strongly support SCR132/SR116. The Pamantasan resolution will create systemic conditions that will lead to the equitable representation and success of Filipino faculty and staff at the University of Hawaii, ultimately benefitting Filipino students in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your support.

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:00:31 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/29/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen-Rae Cachola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Senator Michelle N, Kidani, and the Committee on Higher Education,

I am writing to submit testimony in support of SCR 132 and SR 116.

The University of Hawai‘i has large representation of Filipino/a/x students in the community colleges and four-year campus. The University of Hawai‘i System administrators and our State Legislature should recognize this large population and address their needs, because of our past contributions, and also because of their current and future potentials to impact our state.

These resolutions call upon the University of Hawai‘i and our State Legislature to call upon the Pamantasan council to report on how we have addressed the needs of our Filipino student body and educational empowerment statewide. We need to address the set backs to funding and positions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We still need positions for more Filipino culture, language, and history curriculum, full-time career opportunities for Filipino educators, to serve the educational needs of our Philippine ethnic communities residing here in Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,
Ellen-Rae Cachola

Paula T. Morelli, PhD, LLC
1511 Ehupua Place, Honolulu, HI 96821
morelli@hawaii.edu

March 28, 2022

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair & Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SCR132/SR116

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair & Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair,

My name is Paula T. Morelli, a retired, independent consultant. I am testifying in support of **SCR132/SR116 the Pamantasan Council's systemwide efforts to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawaii.**

I support and strongly endorse Pamantasan's critical work in developing and educating Hawaii's Filipinos in their educational quest. The Pamantasan network prepares Filipino students across the state with a strong foundation to be contributing citizens. Investing in Pamantasan's personnel infrastructure is vital to maintaining and strengthening their long-term positive outcomes.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Paula T. Morelli, PhD, LLC

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:20:24 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/29/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 3:05 pm

By Doris Ching, Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Hawai'i System

SCR 132/SR 116 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO REPORT ON THE PAMANTASAN COUNCIL'S SYSTEMWIDE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF FILIPINOS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, Senator Keith-Agaran, Senator Wakai, Senator Fevella: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SCR 132 and SR 116. I am testifying as a concerned individual and member of the Hawai'i community. Having had the privilege over five decades of teaching in K-12 education with the Hawai'i Department of Education at Kalakaua Middle School, August Ahrens School, and Kawanakoa Middle School as well as serving higher education at the University of Hawai'i as Vice President for Student Affairs at UH-Mānoa and the UH System, and other positions including Interim Chancellor at UH-West O'ahu, I personally observed the educational and representation shortcomings relative to students and professionals of Filipino ethnicity within Hawai'i's K-12 and higher education systems. In my roles as UH faculty and administrator, I supported the objectives and work of the Pamantasan Council which collaboratively addresses underrepresentation, equity, and campus diversity. I concur with the assertions in SCR 132 and SR 116. I believe a report will prompt the University of Hawai'i to give greater recognition of the Pamantasan Council's efforts and facilitate improvement to overcome the current shortcomings. I, therefore, strongly support SCR 132 and SR 116 Requesting the University of Hawai'i to Report on the Pamantasan Council's Systemwide Efforts to Improve the Status of Filipinos at the UH.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

March 28, 2022

To: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Fevella, and Senator Kanuha,

From: Hannah M. Tavares

Subject: Support for SCR132/SR116

I am writing to **strongly support SCR132/SR116** requesting the University of Hawaii to Report on the Pamantasan Council's Systemwide Efforts to Improve the Status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai'i (UH).

As an individual of Filipino-American ancestry, I represent a very small portion of tenured faculty at the UH. I have served UH for nearly 20 years.

UH Mānoa College of Education (COE), Filipinos are underrepresented among the COE faculty. I am one of 5 faculty members of Filipino descent. Two of five faculty in COE are untenured despite having over ten years of service and doctoral degrees, and only one has been promoted to Full professor.

I believe the passing of **SCR132/SR116** is a first step in increasing the representation of Filipino students and faculty at the UH.

This resolution will contribute resources to help the Pamantasan Council's efforts with understanding the barriers and identifying the changes needed to have equal representation of Filipino students and faculty.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support** of **SCR132/SR116**.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 3:05 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference



March 27, 2022

To: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Fevella, and Senator Kanuha,

From: Tinalak Filipino Education Council, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Education

Subject: Support for SCR132/SR116

The Tinalak Filipino Education Council **strongly supports SCR132/SR116** Requesting The University of Hawaii to Report on the Pamantasan Council's Systemwide Efforts to Improve the Status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai'i (UH).

Tinalak Council was established in 2012 to serve as an advisory council to the Dean of UH Mānoa College of Education (COE). We are composed of the COE's tenure and non-tenure track Filipino faculty and doctoral students. Our mission is to inspire and weave together Hawaii's new generation of educators through the recruitment and support of Filipinos in the education field.

Despite Filipinos being the largest ethnic student population in the HIDEOE at 23.4%, Filipino students represent only 10.6% of undergraduate students and 5.4% of graduate students at the UHM. We believe the passing of **SCR132/SR116** is a first step in increasing the representation of Filipino students and faculty at the UH. This resolution will contribute resources to help the Pamantasan Council's efforts with understanding why Filipinos are not enrolling at UH, and continue organizing conferences and activities

that help retain Filipino students enrolled at the UH. In addition, we believe annual reporting as a result of **SCR132/SR116** will show the need for more Filipino faculty. At the UH Mānoa College of Education (COE), Filipinos are underrepresented among the COE faculty. Only 5 of 174 faculty members are of Filipino descent. Two of five faculty are untenured despite having over ten years of service and doctoral degrees. Retaining Filipino faculty is critical for building the next generation of teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

March 28, 2022

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Higher Education
SCR 132 (Companion HCR 121)

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO REPORT ON THE PAMANTASAN COUNCIL'S SYSTEMWIDE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF FILIPINOS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

To the members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Dr. Wayland Quintero and I submit this testimony in strong support of SCR 132 (Companion HCR 121). I offer this testimony on behalf of myself as a Filipino American educator, scholar, member of the Filipino community, and community advocate.

The resources that were historically allocated for many years to support students of Filipino ancestry, via the only longtime full-time faculty position in the Philippine/Filipino Studies program in the UHCC system and at Leeward Community College, was frozen during the COVID-19 pandemic. The previous full-time position holder had suddenly retired in February 2020 which left the position vulnerable once the pandemic shutdown began in March 2020. In the other significant scenario, funds that were already allocated for two Pamantasan positions in the 2019 Pamantasan Bill were swept.

Along with other testimony submitters, I strongly encourage demonstrating your unfettered support to restore these full-time positions. Doing so would show that the State of Hawai'i is committed to advancing faculty equity in the University of Hawai'i system. These restored full-time positions will make it possible to more robustly support and teach students through shared experiences and historical, cultural and heritage knowledge dissemination between instructors and students as ethnic Filipinos in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wayland Quintero".

Wayland Quintero, PhD, MFA

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:12:35 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/29/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanna Agas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 28, 2022

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee.

My name is Breanna Komata Agas and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa. I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawai‘i.

I strongly support SCR132 / SR116 Requesting the University of Hawai‘i to report on the council’s systemwide efforts to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai‘i.

I strongly support this resolution as a second generation Ilocano and yonsei/gosei Japanese scholar because the Pamantasan Council has continued to serve the Filipinx community and always advocated for the success for Filipina/o/x students pursuing higher education. A report would not only demonstrate the effectiveness and efficacy of the Council, but would also shed light on the need for the hiring of Filipino faculty members across all campuses.

For instance, at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s College of Education (COE), Filipinos are underrepresented among the COE faculty. Only 5 of 174 faculty members are of Filipino descent. Two of five faculty are untenured despite having over ten years of service and doctoral degrees.

More positions filled by Filipino faculty would advance the greater needs of Filipino students. When students of color see people who share their ethnic identity take on positions as faculty members, they believe that they too can achieve similar goals. I know this to be true for myself. It was through the Filipina/o/x professors and faculty members whom I have encountered during my time at the university, that I began to believe in my ability to pursue graduate studies and to succeed. They instilled in me that Filipinos not only have a place in higher education, but to also be passionately pinay about myself and the work I wish to accomplish.

In order for students to thrive, they must first know that they belong in these settings. Only then can we begin to dismantle previous hierarchies and create opportunities for mentorship and greater learning experiences for our youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Breanna Komata Agas

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:55:44 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/29/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosela Balinbin Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 28, 2022

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Fevella, and Senator Kanuha,

My name is Rosela Balinbin Santos, and I am an Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM). While I draw from my professional knowledge and experience, I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the UHM.

I strongly support SCR132/SR116 Requesting The University of Hawaii to Report on the Pamantasan Council's Systemwide Efforts to Improve the Status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai‘i (UH).

This resolution will contribute resources to support the Pamantasan Council's efforts to proceed with annual reporting as a result of **SCR132/SR116**. This will show the need for more Filipino faculty systemwide. As a faculty member at the COE/UHM, Filipinos are underrepresented among the faculty. By passing this resolution, it will be a step toward increasing the representation of faculty across the UH.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SCR-132

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 3:16:09 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/29/2022 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Bumanglag	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR132. My name is Charlene Bumanglag, and I am testifying as an individual; I do not represent the University of Hawai'i.

I strongly support SCR132 on REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I TO REPORT ON THE PAMANTASAN COUNCIL'S SYSTEMWIDE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF FILIPINOS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I.

Filipinos (part- and full-) are the largest non-white majority in the state of Hawai'i composing more than 25% of the population. While reports on the status of Filipino students exist, less is known about executives, faculty, and staff. To begin, **Filipinos are the most underrepresented faculty at the flagship University of Hawai'i at Mānoa R1 institution;** Filipinos only composed of about 3.3% of all full-time faculty, and only about 2.6% of all tenured faculty (Fall 2020). This Filipino underrepresentation has major implications for the entire system with examples of how the University shape and determine accreditation reports, strategic plans, course offerings, recruitment/ pipeline efforts, programs of research, and the overall allocation of resources. This in turn has an impact on the ability or inability address social inequities in a timely manner through research, teaching, and service with COVID-19 as the unfortunate example: **Filipinos have the highest number of cases and highest numbers of deaths to COVID-19.** We need a comprehensive report on the status of Filipinos in the University of Hawai'i System to further address social inequities, advance social equity, and to heal from atrocities like COVID-19 that have impacted us all.

I strongly support SRC132 for the University of Hawai'i to report on the Pamantasan Council systemwide to improve the status of Filipinos throughout the University of Hawai'i System with student, staff, faculty, and executive levels. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlene Bumanglag, PhD

LATE

March 28, 2022

Testimony to the Committee on Higher Education
Re: SCR 132/SR 116

Dear Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and members of the Committee on Higher Education:

I am Dr. Jeanne Batallones and **I submit this testimony in strong support of SCR 132/SR 116**, requesting the University of Hawai'i to Report on the Pamantasan Council's System Wide Efforts to Improve the Status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai'i. **I am urging you to support these measures.**

I am a Counselor at a UH Community College and a member of the UH Pamantasan Council. I have worked as a counselor within the UH system for the last seven years, and as a community college counselor for the last 14 years. I provide my testimony on behalf of myself as a Filipina educator, practitioner-scholar, and community advocate.

Although Filipinos are 25% of the state's population and the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i, as a community, we are not adequately represented in the UHCC curriculum and are not transferring to the 4-year institutions at proportionate rates. Recent studies have shown that COVID-19 has had significant impacts on Filipino's economically. The impacts of COVID-19 have also directly impacted resources previously allocated to support Filipino students as the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC was swept during the COVID-19 pandemic and funds allocated from the 2019 Pamantasan Bill were discontinued, as a result of COVID-19 budget restrictions.

Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i yet continue to be socio economically and educationally disadvantaged. A 2020 UH report, "COVID-19 and Job Loss: Who are the Workers Most Affected in Hawai'i?" shows Filipinos are among the top workers impacted by COVID-19 job loss, as Filipinos are disproportionately overrepresented in Hawai'i's lowest paid and most vulnerable employment sectors. According to 2018 Census data, among Filipinos aged 25 or older, only 32.3% have some college or associate's degree, 15.4% earned a Bachelor's degree, and 3.7% earned a Graduate or professional degree; well below the state average of 20.4% for a bachelor's and 10.5% graduate degree earners.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses (Libarios, 2013).

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master's degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master's degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

UHCC Filipino Curriculum Gap

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, the target population of UHCC students, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, do not have access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. Other UHCCs that offer Filipino or Ilokano language courses are Maui College and Kapi'olani Community College. Among the seven UHCCs, Hawai'i Community College, Kaua'i Community College, and Windward Community College did not list any courses focused solely on the Philippines or Filipinos.

While COVID-19 has had significant negative impacts to the Filipino community, new opportunities have arisen, such as the shift to virtual modalities and the proposal of hub and spoke programs within the UHCC system, to avoid curriculum duplication and planned methods of shared online delivery options.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system and funding to prioritize the replacement of the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC, will be restored.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in Hawai'i, I strongly urge you to support this measure to request a report on the progress of the UH system to address the needs of Filipino students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Batallones, Ed.D

