



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 968 HD1
RELATING TO
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PAMANTASAN COUNCIL
SUBMITTED BY: Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights
Co-chairs, Amy Agbayani and Patricia McManaman

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith Agaran

I am testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR) in strong support of HB 968, a bill that addresses access, equity and inclusiveness for Filipinos at UH. I would like to note that I am an Emeritus Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Equity and Diversity and a member of the Pamantasan Council. Pamantasan is a Filipino word for higher education. HB 968 appropriates funds and 3 FTE to the Pamantasan Council. HB968 builds on Act 266 (2019) and SCR 132 (2022)

The SCR 132, report to the 2023 legislature includes “information regarding the 2019 appropriation; resource and budgetary needs; recommendations on curriculum development; and representation and success of students, faculty, and staff.” The report clearly establishes the urgent need for the state legislature to support the long-term efforts of the UH Pamantasan Council and the University of Hawai'i to increase the number and success of Filipino Americans in the UH system. Filipino Americans continue to be underrepresented as students, staff, faculty administration and curriculum

My testimony in support of HB 968 references the Report to the 2023 Legislature on the Pamantasan Council Systemwide Efforts to Improve the Status of Filipino Americans at the University of Hawaii https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/bills/DC246_.pdf

1. Act 266 approved two positions and \$155,000 for the Pamantasan Council in 2019. Due to position freeze during the pandemic, the two positions were not established but the appropriated funds were productively used to increase enrollment and enhance the academic success of Filipino Americans in the UH system. Efforts are underway to develop and offer multi-campus Filipino courses and certificates.

2. Filipino Americans continue to be underrepresented as undergraduate students in the UH system (14.1 percent) in comparison to their proportion of public school students 2 | Executive Summary (23.7 percent) in Hawai'i, among which they are the largest ethnic group. Filipino American undergraduates have their highest percentage representation at Maui College (25.3 percent) and UH West O'ahu (22.3 percent). However, they persist in being considerably represented below parity at UH Manoa (10.8 percent) and UH Hilo (6.2 percent). Among graduate students, Filipino Americans are especially underrepresented at only 5.4 percent of such students at UH Manoa. At the UH community colleges, Filipino Americans (17.8 percent) are significantly underrepresented compared to their percentage of Hawai'i public school students. They have their greatest representation at Leeward (21.7 percent) and Honolulu (17.5 percent) Community Colleges. Filipino Americans who seek higher education in Hawai'i primarily enroll in the UH community colleges; however, sufficient transfer to the UH four-year universities continues to be an issue of concern.

Filipino faculty, particularly tenure track positions are severely underrepresented at all campuses (e.g. at Manoa there are only 22 tenure track Filipino faculty and represent 2.5% of Manoa and only 3 interim top administrators (interim dean for Nursing, interim dean for Medicine and interim Asst Provost for Student Diversity).

Many campuses do not offer Filipino/Philippine content courses. The Pamantasan Council is working to offer multi-campus Filipino courses and certificates.

3. Three positions requested in HB 968 are recommended in UH SCR 132 report to the 2023 legislature: Manoa Student Equity Excellence and Diversity office, Maui College Leeward Community College to develop and offer curriculum at all campuses. This bill request \$310,000 for 3 FTE and operating funds.

Since it was established in 1988, the UH Pamantasan Council as a systemwide organization has led and supported efforts to meet the University's goals of equity and inclusion, as well address workforce needs, curriculum, research and community service. I respectfully request you approve this bill to provide 3 FTE and funds for Pamantasan Council multicampus programs.

Amy Agbayani and Patricia McManaman

Co-chairs Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights.

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 968, HD1
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 6, 2023, 10:00 am
Hawai`i State Legislature
Hawai`i State Capitol, Conference Room 211

LATE

To: Chair Donavan M. Dela Cruz
Vice-Chair Gilbert S. C. Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means Members

From: Agnes Malate, PhD
armalate@yahoo.com

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in full support of House Bill 968, HD1 to fund three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions for the system-wide Pamantasan Council. I am a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action and have worked 30 years to increase student diversity in education from high school to college. As a Faculty Specialist who was able to earn a PhD in Educational Foundations at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa (UHM) with the incredible support of professors, mentors, colleagues, and students, I am a beneficiary of the transformative power that a college degree has for an individual, family, and community. I can also attest to the direct impact that affirmative action and diversity programs have had on improving the lives of the students who participated in these programs.

The Pamantasan Council was established in 1987 to address the academic success and careers of Filipinos and the quality of education for all students at the University. As a young professional who had just joined the staff at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo, I was excited to be part of the planning committee for the first system-wide Pamantasan conference that included students, staff and faculty the following year. For the first time there was a unified effort to understand and address the needs of Filipinos in education and the workforce.

The Council convenes every year, rotating among the UH campuses, to share our efforts on increasing the student, staff, and faculty representation throughout the system. We also are concerned with the underrepresentation of Filipino teachers and administrators in the department of education, especially in comparison to the disproportionately higher enrollment of the Filipinos in the public school system. Incremental steps have been made in offering Philippine and Filipino-American courses in the curriculum. However, after over 35 years it is critical that funding is provided to implement the recommendations and strategies set forth in previous Pamantasan reports. Activities proposed by the different campuses, require funds and positions to ensure adequate staffing.

According to the UH Institutional and Research Office Fall 2022 enrollment data (<https://www.hawaii.edu/institutionalresearch/home.action>), Filipino students enrolled in the UH Community Colleges is 17.8% but are only 9.3% at UHM (10.6% of all undergraduates and 5.4% of all graduates). These figures continue to be lower than Filipino students' public school enrollment (22.6%) (<http://arch.k12.hi.us/reports/hidoe-data-book>). Examining selected majors, 9.4% of Filipinos are in education, 4.4% in law, and 6.5% in medicine. The only major that Filipinos have consistently been well represented is nursing (24.3%). It is the most popular major that Filipinos are encouraged to pursue. In large part due to the high percentage of Filipino nurses in the workforce and access to them via a network of family and friends, a career in nursing has been a proven career path for Filipinos. For many Filipinos who are first-generation college students they lack role models, support systems, and university services to help them successfully navigate the higher education setting. However, they possess the ingredients to excel in education, contribute as professionals in Hawai'i's workforce, and be outstanding leaders.

As the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i, it is critical that attention be given to the challenges faced by this population and funding be provided to support the efforts of the University of Hawai'i. I am grateful to the Committee for strengthening the University of Hawai'i's and the Pamantasan Council's ability to respond to the growing needs of the second largest ethnic group in the State and urge you to pass HB 968, HD1.

Although I am an employee of UHM, this testimony reflects my personal position and is not the official position of the University of Hawai'i.

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:29:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO they wast to much Money as it is!!!!

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:37:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marnelli Joy Ulep	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 968 HD1. As a member of the Hawai'i community and the daughter of Filipino immigrants, I submit this testimony in support of HB 968 HD1 appropriating funds to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council. The positions supported by these funds would help the work the UH Pamantasan Council does to improve the status of Filipinos throughout the UH system and the state of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022 to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation.

Through my experience working in community organizations and in education, I see the value of perspectives and representation throughout all aspects of learning, mentoring, and empowerment that occur in higher education. Filipinos have and continue to make an impact on the state of Hawai'i which makes the need for further representation of Filipinos as student, faculty, and staff, and in the curriculum, important. An appropriation of funding for these positions would enhance the Pamantasan Council's efforts to address and advocate for representation of Filipinos and to improve Filipino American success throughout the UH system.

For these reasons, I support HB 968 HD1 and urge you to do the same. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:47:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

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 HB968, **a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions.** The Bill will provide the necessary funds to 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.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pamantasan Executive Committee

DATE: April 4, 2023

TO: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: Christine Quemuel
UH Pamantasan Executive Committee



RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 968, HD1 (SSCR 1341)

HEARING: Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 10:00 am
Conference Room 211

HB 968 HD1 (SSCR 1341) – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

My name is Christine Quemuel, and I am a member of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Executive Committee. I submit this testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 968 HD1 (SSCR 1341), which would appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i systemwide Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

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

Funding for Pamantasan positions and projects will ensure that the state champions educational equity and diversity in higher education. We thank the Legislature for introducing this important bill and for your continued commitment to access and 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, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly SUPPORT the passage of HB 968, HD1 (SSCR 1341), relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:40:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee,

Please support HB968 HD1. This bill will help recruit and retain Filipino students into Hawaii's 4-year universities, which they are underrepresented in. The positions can help to encourage and support Filipino students to gain professional and graduate degrees so that they can contribute as leaders in our industries and civil society.

Thank you,

Ellen-Rae Cachola

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:50:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winona K Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 4, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means, Re: HB 968 HD1

Dear Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Winona Lee and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB968 HD1 a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three FTE academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

Your support for HB 968 HD1 will directly support staffing to advocate and address issues related to the underrepresentation of Filipino students within the overall UH system and challenges with having Filipino students successfully transfer from community colleges to 4-year University campuses. These positions will ensure a collective effort will be sustained to address these critical educational and equity gaps.

Respectfully submitted,

Winona Lee

April 4, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: HB 968, HD1

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Jeanne Batallones and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968, HD1**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure.**

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 eight years, and in the community college system for the last 19 years. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as an Filipina educator and community advocate.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai'i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for **HB 968, HD1** will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai'i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

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.

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.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students 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. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

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, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. **Passage of HB 968, HD1 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.**

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, **I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Batallones, Ed.D

April 4, 2023

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In strong support of HB 968 HD1

April 6, 2023, House Conference Room 211, Hawai'i State Capitol

To: Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Kumustakayo amin (greetings)! My name is Rouel Velasco and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968 HD1**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure.**

I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as a Hawai'i-Born Filipino private citizen from Kapolei, O'ahu. I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, twice (with a bachelor and master's degrees). I am honored to share my thoughts and story with you.

Since 1987, UH Pamantasan Council strives to enhance the Filipino experience in higher education by bringing together faculty, staff and students to advance issues on access to higher education, representation among university faculty and staff, as well as Filipino-related curriculum. Through its grassroots and voluntary efforts, the Pamantasan Council made advances to increase Filipino student enrollment, retention and degree completions. Yet, much more can be accomplished. While we celebrate that Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i and largest ethnic group in the Hawai'i Department of Education system, Filipinos are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system. In the midst of underrepresentation, there is hope and promise.

My story of college success moves from shame to pride and empowerment. While having been born and raised along the Wai'anae Coast, I was not always proud to call myself Filipino, specifically Ilokano. I grew up during a time when racist local jokes attacked Filipinos and Filipino culture. It was not until enrolling in college and attending a Pamantasan Conference that I met positive role models that look like me. I have personally benefited from the connections and opportunities Pamantasan has provided to me as a student (undergrad and grad) and as a professional staff member. The Filipino community within the University of Hawai'i voluntarily with little to no resources provides programs and experiences to empower and affirm the identities of Filipino college students. These connections and experiences allowed me to further my participation in the Filipino community beyond the university. I carry this pride with me in my involvement with community-based organizations focusing on Filipino empowerment. This affirmation in my identity and being valued at the university allowed me to find home, meaningful connection and belonging to the university. For this, I am eternally grateful.

As a student affairs professional at one of the University of Hawai'i campuses, I see the potential and opportunities to better support Filipino student success. While existing resources exist at UH Mānoa and Leeward, I see the growing need for programs and resources to be available across the 10 campus UH system. This measure, HB 968 HD1, will provide opportunities across the UH system to further explore and affirm Filipino students' identities, culture, language and ancestral knowledge, meanwhile, making connections with other students and professional staff culminating in achieving student success and advancing community empowerment.

I thank you for reviewing HB 968 HD1 and hope that through its passage, current and future Filipino students continue to thrive and reach new levels of success. I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Agyamanak! (I am grateful!)

Respectfully submitted,
Rouel Velasco

April 4, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: HB 968, HD1

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Allan Nebrija and I am a counselor at Leeward Community College and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968, HD1**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure.**

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 eight years, and in the community college system for the last 19 years. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as a Filipino educator and community advocate.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai‘i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for **HB 968, HD1** will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai‘i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai‘i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

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.

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.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students 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. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

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, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. **Passage of HB 968, HD1 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.**

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, **I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Allan Nebrija

April 4, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: HB 968, HD1

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Dr. Ricardo D. Trimillos (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa) at and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968, HD1**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure.**

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 eight years, and in the community college system for the last 19 years. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as an Filipina educator and community advocate.

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certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

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For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, **I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Ricardo D. Trimillos

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 2:02:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wilfredo tungol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair delaCruz and members of the WAM Committee:

My name is Wilfredo Tungol and I am submitting this testimony **in strong support** of the Pamantasan bill. I am an alumnus of UH-Manoa campus.

This bill will help increase the representation of Filipino students to attend the UH Manoa campus in order to obtain undergraduate degrees. While some improvement has occurred in the past, Filipinos continued to be underrepresented in the UH Manoa campus.

Funding the positions required for the Pamantasan Council will help increase the representation of the underrepresented student population in UH Manoa, to include not only Filipinos but other underrepresented community.

Mahalo for your support.

Wilfredo Tungol

(BBA, 1976, JD, 1979)

February 9, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Higher Education and Technology

Re: HB 968, HD 1

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Norman Arancon and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure.**

I am a Professor of Horticulture at the University of Hawaii at Hilo since 2008 and member of the Pamantasan Council. and I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as an educator and community advocate.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai'i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

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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.

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.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal 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. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

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, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman Arancon, Ph.D.

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 4:19:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Payba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 4, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: HB 968, HD1

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Aloha! My name is Shane B. Payba and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968, HD1, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

I am a Counselor at a UH Maui College and a member of the UH Pamantasan Council. I have worked within the UH system for twenty four years, and have been an academic counselor at UH Maui College for the last 20. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as a Filipino educator and community advocate.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai‘i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968, HD1 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai‘i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai‘i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

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.

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.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students 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. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

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, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968, HD1 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Shane B. Payba

Professor, University of of Hawaii Maui College

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 6:44:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

Testimony to Senate Committee on Higher Education
in Support of HB 968

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michele N. Kidani, Vice Chair

March 20, 2023

My name is Jonathan Y. Okamura, and I am professor emeritus in ethnic studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I have done research and published on Filipino Americans in Hawai'i for thirty-five years and have taught the Ethnic Studies department course on Filipinos in Hawai'i. I also contributed to organizing the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council when it began in 1988.

Fully aware of some of the difficulties that Filipinos have experienced in attaining a college education in Hawai'i, I express my full support of HB 968. The bill provides for three full-time equivalent positions for the UH Pamantasan Council because it has never had any designated full-time staff since it was established. Despite the lack of such staff, through the voluntary efforts of Filipino staff, faculty and students, the council has accomplished much in advancing their academic success and status in the UH system, including increasing graduation rates at the four-year campuses.

However, underrepresentation of undergraduate students at UH Mānoa, UH Hilo, and most of the community colleges remains a continuing problem. As Filipinos have recently emerged as the largest group of students in the public schools at almost one-fourth, the critical need for administrative staff to direct and coordinate the Pamantasan Council's activities, including recruitment to and retention in the UH campuses, has gained in importance.

I kindly request that you support HB 968 because it will provide for equal educational opportunity for Filipinos in Hawai'i. Thank you for your attention to this request.

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 12:29:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayland Quintero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 5, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: HB 968, HD1

To: Committee Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Wayland Quintero and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968, HD1, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions.

Fully funding HB 968 HD1 would substantively instill and strengthen faculty and staff equity in the UH system particularly at the campuses for which the three positions will reside. Funding the teaching position at Leeward Community College would restore the former FT position that was held by a longtime faculty member before he had to retire due to medical reasons in February 2020. When the pandemic hit, this vacant position was somehow taken away and should be restored to run the Filipino Studies program at LCC, a campus with nearly 25% ethnic Filipino student population.

The two Pamantasan positions were approved by the Legislature in 2019, but again the pandemic affected follow-through on the approval. We in the Filipino American community look forward to the full funding of all three positions.

Respectfully,

Wayland Quintero

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 12:59:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree Quintero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

HB 968 D1 is an important bill to pass as it would address Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, particularly at the campuses for which the three positions are proposed. The teaching position at Leeward Community College would restore the former full-time position that was taken away at the beginning of the pandemic. This position should be restored to sustain and support the growth of the Filipino Studies program at LeeCC.

I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council. Two Pamantasan positions were approved in 2019, but the pandemic affected the positions from being fully realized. The Filipino American community strongly supports the restoration of all three positions.

Salamat and Mahalo,

Desiree A. Quintero

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 8:18:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simone Kamaunu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support this.

HB-968-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 8:40:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celia Bardwell-Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Dr. Celia Bardwell-Jones and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968, HD1, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

I am a professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Humanities Division at UH Hilo. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as an Filipina educator and community advocate.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai‘i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968, HD1 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai‘i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai‘i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

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.

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.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students 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. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

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, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968, HD1 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Celia Bardwell-Jones

April 5, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: HB 968, HD1

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Jayson Parba, Instructor at UH Manoa, and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968, HD1**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure.**

I am the Filipino Program Coordinator at UH Manoa and work closely with Filipino and Filipino American students through academic advising and professional and scholarly mentorship. I have worked as a language and culture instructor at UHM for about a decade now. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as a Filipino educator and community advocate.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai‘i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for **HB 968, HD1** will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai‘i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai‘i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

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.

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.

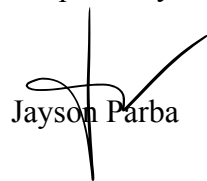
The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

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, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. **Passage of HB 968, HD1 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.**

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, **I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Jayson Parba

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, April 6, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

April 5, 2023

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

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 HB 968, HD1 appropriating funds to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions.

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 14.1 percent of all student enrolled in the UH System, with 17.8 percent of students enrolled in the UH community colleges, 12.0 percent of undergraduates enrolled in UH four-year institutions, and 5.8 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 9.1 percent of all faculty and staff, 6.6 percent of all faculty, and 4.4 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, as of last year, only five out of a total of 188 faculty identified as Filipino. Of my colleagues, some are in temporary positions that have become increasingly precarious during the pandemic. These conditions make it difficult and exhausting 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. Three dedicated full-time equivalent positions could provide an important start toward the work of the Pamantasan Council. It is time for the State and for the University of Hawai'i to revisit their commitments in this important work.

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. HB 968, HD1 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