



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
April 4, 2017 at 9:35 p.m.

by
David Lassner, President
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1594 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of HB 1594 HD1 SD1**. This measure would establish a new scholarship program called Hawai'i's Promise that provides support for students with financial need, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, to attend any campus of the University of Hawai'i system.

Hawai'i's Promise would be a "last dollar" scholarship. Other sources of financial aid such as federal Pell grants, UH opportunity scholarships, and other public and privately sponsored scholarships would be applied first, and then Hawai'i's Promise would support unmet needs for tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation. This measure would allow any Hawai'i resident who meets the eligibility criteria to attend a UH campus, at no direct cost beyond the Estimated Family Contribution. We are confident that this measure will encourage more students to attend a UH campus and will advance the State's 55 by 25 goal -- that 55% of the Hawai'i's working age population should hold a post-secondary degree by 2025.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates all the support that the Hawai'i Promise Program is receiving and looks forward to working with the Legislature in fine-tuning the language of this bill as it continues thru the process. The University wanted to point out that as currently drafted, the language for the repayment provision on pages 6-7 would be considered a loan rather than a scholarship and would require all students to sign a written agreement understanding the payback provisions of such a loan before receiving any funding. In addition, the University would like to request that the GPA requirements be consistent with federal guidelines for students to receive a Pell Grant.

The University of Hawai'i is very grateful for the warm reception received by this bill and **fully supports** its passage.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 5:01 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kaulanad@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Apr 4, 2017 09:35AM*

HB1594

Submitted on: 3/31/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2017 11:44 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mark6@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1594 on Apr 4, 2017 09:35AM*

HB1594

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark T. Villanueva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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April 3, 2017

To: Honorable Chair Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
and Members of Senate Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HD1 SD1

My name is Jamie Rodrigues. I am a student at UH Manoa and I strongly support student scholarships. I am a major in Social Work and I am a student who will be acquiring a Master's degree on scholarship money.

Therefore, I am writing to ask you to **please pass HB 1594 HD1 SD1** designed to address the unmet needs of community college and incoming freshmen and undergraduates enrolled at UH Maui, UH Hilo, UH West O'ahu and UH Mānoa.

I am especially concerned about the cost of tuition at campuses such as UH Manoa, which keeps on rising, while we students have to absorb all these cost increases, with limited scholarship and financial aid support, resulting in unmet financial aid needs. Getting through school is important, and if I have to take on a job or increase the hours that I work, it could seriously delay my graduation date, resulting in additional costs and ultimately hardships.

As a non-traditional student and a mother of five children, I understand the required sacrifices that needs to be made to succeed in college. Financial stress and hardships should not be a sacrifice for families who are willing to be productive members of society.

Thank you for hearing these bills and for the opportunity to offer my strong **support for HB 1594 HD1 SD1.**

Mahalo,

Jamie Rodrigues, 1642 Pohaku Street, Honolulu 96817