



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 2, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

By
Risa E. Dickson
Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 902 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i System supports the intent of HB 902, which would provide resources for the system wide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. The word "Pamantasan" is a Filipino word meaning "higher education". The Pamantasan Council, established in 1987, is open to all students, administrators, faculty and staff from the various UH campuses.

The Pamantasan Council addresses issues of representation, curriculum and research, partnerships with public schools, universities in the Philippines and other states, workforce development and community services. The Council holds annual and periodic workshops to identify priority issues and needs consistent with the University's commitment to access and diversity. On April 1, 2016, UH Maui College hosted the annual conference on its campus. Even with limited resources, the Pamantasan Council has successfully supported University initiatives including the Maui College exchange agreement with Philippine Universities, the Leeward Community College Sulong Aral federal transfer project, and the recent hiring of a UH Hilo Philippine Studies faculty member.

The Pamantasan Council needs resources to implement (a) recommendations of the 2008 SCR 120 report to the Legislature regarding Philippine language courses, teacher training and certification; and (b) Pamantasan conference recommendations such as developing courses for articulation between community colleges and 4-year campuses. With additional funding and positions, UH and the Pamantasan Council can provide necessary expertise and energy to increase the University's national leadership in Philippine Studies (UH Mānoa and Leeward CC are leaders in offering academic programs). In addition the appropriated funds will be used to support on-going recruitment and retention efforts (federal programs such as GEAR UP at Waipahu high school) to increase the number and success of Filipinos at each campus, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs, faculty, staff and administrators. Also, the funds will expand the curricular content on Philippine language, Philippine Studies and Filipino American Hawai'i ethnic studies, which at this time are very limited or not

available at the various campuses. HB 902 includes information on recent census, UH and DOE data on Filipinos (second largest group in the state and the department of education) and their underrepresentation among college graduates, and current UH students, staff and faculty.

The University supports the intent of HB 902 but would like to note that the UH Board of Regents approved biennium budget does include a request for \$584,000 to drive student success for Filipino students, a key population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for the legislature's continuing support of educational access and diversity.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem & House Higher Education Committee Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories. I am happy to submit strong support for this bill.

Institutional support through funding and staffing for the UH Pamantasan Council is essential to promote access, diversity, and leadership development of our Filipino students. The UH Pamantasan Council provides an infrastructure that has a broad and deep statewide reach that will help produce competent leaders and innovative stewards on every island for the benefit of all of Hawai'i. The current model of volunteers serving on the Pamantasan Council cannot effectively address the systemic and persistent disparities where Filipinos comprise 21 percent of public school students, but only 12 percent of students at UH Mānoa; where Filipinos make up a large segment of community college students, but their transfer rates to 4-year degrees and advanced professional degrees at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa are disproportionately low. Subsequently, it is unacceptable that Filipinos, compared to other groups, are overrepresented in entry level service jobs and underrepresented in executive positions. Rising to become the second largest ethnic group (15% by one race only, 25% by more than one race) in Hawai'i since 2010 is not keeping pace with the investment in resources needed for parity to uplift a disproportionate part of our community from service workers to colleagues. If given the support today, more Filipinos will have the potential to make substantive contributions in fields vital to Hawai'i's economic health and quality of life. More importantly, key student service positions for the Pamantasan Council will build the capacity of Filipino youth leaders to break the cycle of income inequality in their own family, in this generation.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to offer strong support for you to advance student excellence and equity in Hawai'i's institutions of higher learning.

Sincerely,

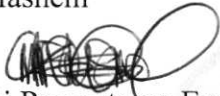
Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pamantasan Executive Council

DATE: January 31, 2017

TO: House Committee on Higher Education
Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem

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

RE: **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 902**
Hearing date: Thursday, February 2, 2017, 2:00pm

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Higher Education hearing in strong support of HB 902 relating to the University of Hawai'i, to provide resources for the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai'i, the largest immigrant group, and the largest Asian ancestry 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 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 their 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 strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support HB 902, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

Pamantasan Council members:

Aurelio Agcaoili, Ilokano Languages and Literatures, UH Mānoa
Patricio Abinales, Director, Center for Philippine Studies, UH Mānoa
Wayne Aguiran, Counselor, UH Maui College
Erica Balbag-Gerard, Academic Counselor, Honolulu Community College
Leon Florendo, Counselor, Leeward Community College, Waianae Campus
Rodney Jubilado, Philippine Studies, UH Hilo
Roderick Labrador, Ethnic Studies, UH Mānoa
Ernest Niki Libarios, Jr., Academic Advisor College of Education, UH Mānoa
Raymund Liongson, Philippine Studies, Leeward Community College
Pua Palmeira, Counselor, Kaua'i Community College
Christine Quemuel, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity, UH Mānoa
Marnelli Ulep, Business Capstone Coordinator, UH West O'ahu



February 2, 2017
2pm Hearing of House Higher Education

TO: Chair Woodson and members of the Committee
on Higher Education

FROM: Amy Agbayani, co-chair

RE: HB 902 Relating to the University of Hawai`i

I am a retired Manoa faculty member and was the assistant vice chancellor for student diversity and director of the office of student equity, excellence and diversity. Today I am representing a community organization, the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights. HF CR supports policies and programs that support diversity, inclusion, access and non-discrimination.

HF CR supports HB902 which provides funds and six positions for the UH Pamantasan Council, a council with representatives from each of the ten campuses. Council activities over the decades helps University programs and initiatives to expand courses on Philippine language and Philippine Studies, classes and research on the Filipino experience in Hawai'i, initiatives to increase transfer from two year campuses to four year programs, to improve the bachelor's and professional degree graduation rates of Filipinos, the largest underrepresented group at UH.

Although program activities will be at all ten campuses the requested six positions will be based at Honolulu CC, Kauai CC, Maui College, Hilo, Manoa and West O'ahu. With full-time staff, the Council will be more effective in meeting the University's strategic direction to increase graduates (the Hawai'i Graduation Initiative), and to support the state's workforce development goals, and our community's aspiration for inclusion. The Filipino students, their families and the community seek access to higher education. We respectfully request your support of hb 902 for the UH Pamantasan Council.



*TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309*

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem & House Higher Education Committee Members

*From: Edward Kevin Faller, Program Manager, KVIBE
Kalihi Valley Instructional Bicycle Exchange Youth Program*

*Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students*

My name is Edward Kevin Barbasa Faller a 2nd generation, working class, brown Filipino boy from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, an alumni and supporter HB 902 for the University of Hawaii. I am the product of two Filipino immigrants who crossed the Pacific in search for this American Dream. In my culture education is the 2nd most prestigious word aside from Amen, which makes certain questionable situations acceptable. So as a five year old Filipino boy, the last thing my parents said before leaving me in the front of a closed Kindergarten door at 6:30am is be a good boy and to study hard. They then sprinted across the campus to the nearest bus stop so they can make their commute to their first of many jobs. And this was my first of many days in mass public education, hegemony.

As I've mentioned, in my culture and in many other cultures that have western influence, we put education on a pedestal. We say our grace, pretend to be

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educated, and only then are we allowed to say I love you. In this process of surviving in America, chasing this American Dream, we tend to forget our identity, our wisdom from our ancestors, and the axiological sense of living. Often, to myself, I ask the universe to why my parents left the motherland. What was so worth leaving and is it worth it for your son to witness these common oppressions? I took this question with me from elementary, to intermediate school, to high school and to the university. It was left unanswered until I brought this question to a safe space. A space that cared about me and my culture, my heritage, and my ancestors' struggles. A place I call Pamatasan Conference. It was here where I seen people that look like me, talk like me, live like me, strive for the same goals like me. And we have simple goals; to exist, to be present, and to love.

I strongly support HB 902 and its continual effort to support lost souls like mine, who lend the many hands that polish them and guide them to be strong advocates for their community. My dad lost his job in 2014, which blessed him with insufficient mortgage payments, which blessed him with bad credit scores, which blessed FAFSA to revoke my loan for school. I was on my way out of the university until I met the pillars of my community. With the support and the blessings that came in a form of a scholarship from Manang Amy, Manang Pua, and Manang Charlene I was able to finish school. I now run a youth program in the heart of Kalihi who homes 3 of the biggest public housing units. I teach them that it is possible and my program homes the many dreams of my community.

*Sincerely,
Kevin*

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*TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309*

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem & House Higher Education Committee Members

*From: Randell De Jesus, Senior Intern, KVIBE
Kalihi Valley Instructional Bicycle Exchange Youth Program*

*Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students*

My name is Randell De Jesus. I am a 15 year old working class Filipino immigrant. From kalihi and also kvibe. I support ub902 with hopes of having safe spaces for me and others who want to attend this school in the future.

*Sincerely,
Randell*

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*TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309*

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem & House Higher Education Committee Members

*From: Aaron Destacamento, Senior Intern, KVIBE
Kalihi Valley Instructional Bicycle Exchange Youth Program*

*Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students*

My name is Aaron Destacamento and I am a 17 year old Filipino boy attending Farrington High School as a senior. I grew up in a undeveloped household losing my mother at 2 months old and a father walking in and out of my childhood having my siblings and my grandma raise me. While growing up I had no one to speak my problems to and I always kept things to myself. Recently I was introduced to Nakem culture circles, which the pamantasan conference also exercises. This was a safe space where others who have the same traumas as me were able to just express ourselves without being judged. This is where I really got to know a lot about myself and my ancestors.

I strongly support HB 902 because they bring safe space which many people need, and it continue will bring success in people lives, in my opinion.

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*Sincerely,
Aaron*

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*TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309*

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem & House Higher Education Committee Members

*From: Prince Jaymar Gamiao, Senior Intern, KVIBE
Kalihi Valley Instructional Bicycle Exchange Youth Program*

*Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students*

My name is Prince Jaymar Gamiao and I am a 20 year old. My ethnic group is the Filipinos, commonly known as the Ilokanos. I am currently in college, attending Kapiolani Community College. I came to the United States when I was 8 years old. My grandfather worked in the sugar cane fields. That's the reason why I'm walking on America's land. I enjoy fixing up bicycles and helping the youth gain more knowledge about bicycles.

I strongly support HB 902 because they bring safe space which many people need because I want to be a part of Pamantasan conference this year. I'd also want to connect with other Filipinos, not just from this island but from the other neighboring islands as well.

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*Sincerely,
Gamiao, Prince Jaymar*

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*TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309*

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem & House Higher Education Committee Members

*From: Jino Chuweiluk, Junior Intern, KVIBE
Kalihi Valley Instructional Bicycle Exchange Youth Program*

*Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students*

My name is Jino Chuweiluk and my grandma once told me I was born on a boat. My mom was on her way to the hospital on Chuuk, the main island of FSM (Federated States of Micronesia) from a small island by the name Paata which I call home. I now live in Kaihi KPT is my new home. I am a junior intern at KVIBE. We also do space that why I am supporting this.

I just wanted to say I support my Filipino brothers because when us micronesians need help I know I have my Filipino brother to help us. I also wanted my kids to have support in collage from other Filipino kids and teacher I want people to know that I was a good man.

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*Sincerely,
Jino*

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Phone: (808) 843-1545*

To: Chair Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Rep. Mark J. Hashem, and
Members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

From: Ashley Ancheta Galacgac

Hearing: Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 309

Re: Testimony in Support of H.B. 902, Relating to the University of Hawai‘i

My name is Ashley Marie Ancheta Galacgac. My home is Kalihi. I have resided in Salt Lake, Waipahu, Ewa Beach, and Aiea. I write to you in support of HB 902. I am the proud daughter of migrants from Ilocos Norte, Philippines. I am also a proud graduate of University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I am the collection of dreams of my mother, ancestors, and community. Called and moved to honor these dreams, I stand with others to ensure justice and equity that allows every person to thrive.

I have had the opportunity to attend private schools until the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I was raised by my single mother, who worked as a housekeeper until she was injured in a car accident. When the tourism industry saw my mother just as a laborer or worker, she became classified as “disabled” bodied. In my eyes, my mother was always fully able to take care of her three children. She would tell her children that even if we do not have financial riches, study hard and discover our gifts and talents.

My mom gathered her strength and with humility, she went to the financial aid office to help find scholarships and work-study to attend Punahou School. I had no Filipino teachers or administrators. Walking from my on-campus job, I would pass by the groundskeepers and janitors waiting to start their day. They were my aunties and uncles who saw me. Their smiles made me feel like that I did belong in this place. That was the best affirmation that I do belong.

Affirmation is the spirit that HB 902 represents. In my higher education experience, Paman-tasan gave me the support to see myself beyond being just a student. It was made meaningful because it is where I took classes to learn my ancestral language and history. It is where mentors held my hand and reminded me to be proud of who I am and represent with dignity. Paman-tasan gathered my teachers, colleagues, peers, and youth of my community for necessary recruitment and retention of our community in higher education. The bill would ensure that Filipinos are represented in classes, curriculum, faculty, and administration. We carry wisdom and gifts—wealth of our people. This wealth includes our languages, our histories of struggle, our resilience, our commitment to our families, and our commitment to bettering the world. This is not just for Filipinos, but for the justice and equity of other communities of Hawai‘i. These are the details of just one person impacted by this bill.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to express my support of HB 902.

In the spirit of justice,
Ashley Marie Ancheta Galacgac

Date: January 31, 2017

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education

From: Sabrina Fallejo Uganiza

Re: Testimony In Support of HB 902
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

I am a proud Filipina, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa current doctoral student, alumni, and am currently work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I write in strong support of HB 902 which would provide funding and resources for the UH system-wide Pamantasan Executive Council.

Since 1987, Pamantasan has strived to enhance the Filipina/o experience in higher education by bringing together Filipina/o faculty, staff, and students. In a state where Filipinas/os comprise a majority of the immigrant population, Filipinas/os are heavily underrepresented in the University of Hawai'i system. Pamantasan not only creates a positive place for Filipina/o students, it also addresses issues of diversity, representation, attrition, and retention of Filipina/o students.

The Filipino community in the University of Hawai'i system has been incredibly supportive of many efforts to empower Filipina/o student leaders. Most of my limited knowledge of my ethnic heritage came from programs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. For this, I am eternally grateful and proud to be Filipina.

I thank the House for introducing HB 902 and hope that through its passage, Filipina/o students, faculty, and staff can continue to thrive in higher education. I strongly support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Executive Council.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at sfallejo@gmail.com.

Again, thank you very much for your time and consideration.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:14 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB902 on Feb 2, 2017 14:00PM*

HB902

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 2, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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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January 31, 2017

Testimony

HB 902: Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

To whom it may concern:

As a Filipino graduate of Leeward Community College, the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa, and as a current administrator at UH Mānoa in the College of Education, I strongly write in support of HB 902 that will provide resources to support the University of Hawai'i system wide Pamantasan Council.

According to the 2010 Census, Filipinos are now the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i at roughly a quarter of the population. However, Filipinos continue to underachieve in higher education and remain among the lower socioeconomic groups in Hawai'i. In the UH system, Filipinos are well represented in the community colleges, yet remain underrepresented at the university levels, particularly at UH Hilo and UH Mānoa (the flagship campus of the system and the only Carnegie Doctoral Extensive institution in our State).

With higher education as key means to social mobility, this condition is of grave concern.

The Pamantasan Council serves to explore these and other issues related to Filipinos in the UH system with the primary goal of supporting the higher education progression of Filipino students.

However, the Council operates with virtually no budget and only volunteer students, faculty, staff, and administrators in the UH system who are committed to issues of higher education access and diversity. Funding for the Pamantasan Council will help to ensure its organizational structure, provide stability, and strengthen the efforts in achieving its goals.

Both as a student and as a faculty member, I have personally benefited from the work, support, and networking I have received from the Pamantasan Council.

Filipinos have a rich and valuable history in Hawai'i and those with the desire and capacity to succeed in higher education need to be supported.

With their ever growing numbers in our community, all of Hawai'i will benefit through the work of the Pamantasan Council to improve the condition of Filipinos in Hawai'i public higher education.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,



Ernest "Niki" D. Libarios Jr., Ph.D.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 12:18 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: jeffrey.acido@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB902 on Feb 2, 2017 14:00PM

HB902

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 2, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Tangonan Acido	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Higher Education Committee, I strongly support the Pamantasan Bill to support Filipino and underserved minorities at the University of Hawaii. I am a first generation college student and I know the tremendous help filipino faculty has had in my higher education at UH despite the very little resources (both financially and the faculty) they had. The resources asked in the bill would significantly give our filipino students the equal chance to become successful in their higher education endeavors. In my time at UH I did not have a single filipino professor outside of the language programs, and while race/ethnicity is not a single indicator of success (as far as representation in faculty), I believe it would have given the filipino student population a model and path that are indeed a community that is capable of becoming a professor (as we are a politician) and gaining employment in the university we have come to love (UH). I urge you to pass this bill, make its promise a reality, and enact boldy the resources that our filipino community are so much in dire need. Mahalo for the time and the love, Jeffrey Tangonan Acido, PhD

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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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan
Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies
related to Philippine courses and Filipino students

My name is Jean Jeremiah. I am speaking as a private citizen. I am proud to submit my full support of this bill. I served as former President of the Oahu Filipino Community Council, where many of our Filipino cultural events aimed to raise scholarship funds for deserving Filipino youth to pursue their education and career aspirations.

I support this bill because strengthening the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council is a strategic way to bolster Filipino student leadership development throughout the UH system. The model of student engagement to address education disparities is a brilliant opportunity not to be passed up. The UH Pamantasan Conference gives rise to student-led education initiatives to understand and address the quandary of higher enrollment of Filipinos in our State's community colleges, but lower transfer rates and lower enrollment rates for Filipinos to seek and complete advanced degrees at our State's flagship UH-Manoa campus. Research shows that the more education our students receive today, the healthier, more prosperous, and the greater civic engagement there is for our communities tomorrow. We can achieve these best with proper staffing and institutional support consistent with the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the chance to offer my strong support. It will have a positive impact on student affairs and services for underserved and underrepresented Filipino students for the benefit all of Hawai'i.

Very Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
House Higher Education Committee
Feb. 2, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

From: Davelyn Quijano, President
Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902
Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students

I strongly support HB 902. I am speaking as a private citizen. My name is Davelyn Quijano, president of the Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii. Our alumni association was established in 1995 and has grown to 60 members in Hawaii. I also serve as the secretary of the Anak ti Sinait of Hawai'i (Children of Sinait). Our alumni association prides itself in volunteerism both in Hawaii and the Philippines, where we perpetuate our culture, join in disaster relief efforts, finance medical missions to the Philippines, foster good health through outreach programs to our Filipino community, empower our youth through scholarship programs, offer aid to deceased members and their beneficiaries, and engage network opportunities to contribute successfully to Hawaii's economy through entrepreneurship.

I support this bill as a mother who was born in Ilocos Sur, Philippines and whose children were born and raised in Hawaii. I see the importance and feel the urgency that many parents like me share. We want our children to succeed in school, be prepared for careers, and become civically and responsibly engaged in community life. Too many of our young people are locked into hard and unstable lives for yet another generation. By supporting the UH Pamantasan Council, there will be increased access for first generation college students in our Filipino community to more adeptly navigate their way onto those critical pathways of higher education. Lessons learned from the Pamantasan Council can be tailored for the success and strengthening of other vulnerable communities, as well. Investment in the UH Pamantasan Council promises to yield high, measurable returns on our taxpayers' investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my full support of this bill.

Warmest regards,

Davelyn Quijano

TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT**
HB 902
House Higher Education Committee
February 2, 2017, 2pm Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
House Higher Education Committee Members

From: John Matthew Pagaragan, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Student

SUBJECT: Supporting HB 902

As a proud supporter and product of the public school system here in Hawai'i, **I strongly write in support of HB 902** which will provide resources to support the University of Hawai'i system wide Pamantasan Council. As a first-generation college goer in my family, and person of Filipino descent, I can attest to the needs to support more Filipino students to progress through the UH system. Although many have encouraged students from Hawai'i to leave and attend college out-of-state, I am glad I made the decision to attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). It is during my time at UHM where I was able to build my community networks early on, volunteer on issues that impacted my local community of Kalihi, while also focusing my personal and professional development. These four years have helped shape my career aspirations and have reaffirmed my desire to give back to my community in any way that I can.

The Pamantasan Council will help many students, such as myself, to successfully complete higher education and gain the skills to be civically engaged and lead our communities toward solutions on issues that impact not only ourselves but those of our family members and fellow peers. As a student studying public health, I understand the needs of education to help the social mobility of the future students. I have benefited greatly from the few mentors and faculty members who really believe in the access and success of our diverse students, though many go above and beyond in their mentorship to support students outside of their day-to-day responsibilities.

Having a structured and dedicated Pamantasan Council will ensure the resources needed for students to gain leadership opportunities as well as the knowledge and experience to be conscious and active members of the community.

I strongly urge your support for HB 902.

Thank you,
John Matthew Pagaragan

Christopher D. Yanuaria
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, February 2, 2017 2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 309

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Appropriates general funds for 6.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

Aloha Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Christopher D. Yanuaria, a proud Filipino and alumni of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I am currently working at the University as a Program Coordinator at Prevention Awareness Understanding (PAU) Program. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 902.**

I was born and raised in Kahului, Maui where many of its residence identify as Filipinos. Higher education is very important in the Filipino culture. Since I was young, my parents who were migrants from the Philippines emphasized the importance of education because they wanted to ensure a better life for my sister and I. In Hawai‘i, the high living and tuition cost made it difficult for my family to get by—not to mention the many unique barriers migrant families face. I have watched both of my parents work long hours and juggle multiple jobs to make sure my sister and I had everything we need. I have realized how blessed I am to have studied in college, and my hope is that other Filipinos can have the same opportunity.

It was concerning for me to learn that in Hawai`i despite the high representation of Filipinos in the general population and schools within the department of education; students of Filipino ancestry were underrepresented in the University of Hawai`i system. The goal of the Pamantasan Council is to help promote access and diversity on the University level by addressing unique challenges faced by Filipino families in Hawai`i. The Pamantasan Council also helps to empower students by teaching and celebrating the rich Filipino culture and heritage, which have been found to improve Filipino enrollment and retention.

SB 2224 is not just good for Filipinos, but it is good for all of us who call Hawai`i home.
I urge you to please support HB 902.

Mahalo,

Christopher D. Yanuaria, MSW
Program Coordinator
PAU Violence Program
University of Hawai`i at Mānoa

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 3:32 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: write.to.kathleenlee@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB902 on Feb 2, 2017 14:00PM

HB902

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 2, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Justin Woodson, Vice-Chair Mark Hashem, and members of the House Higher Education Committee - My name is Kathleen Lee, and I am submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 902 that appropriates general funds for six positions that will allow the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students. UH is one of the only university systems in the nation that provides courses related to the study of Filipino culture - this includes languages/dialects, customs, and other subjects that help people of Filipino descent understand and appreciate their identity, place, and contributions in both Hawaii and the United States. With the unpredictable nature of the current administration, we as a community must band together to continue promoting diversity and make sure that various groups have opportunities of perpetuating their cultures. Mahalo for everything that you do for all the ethnic backgrounds that make up the community we call home.

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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