



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
March 21, 2017 at 2:01 p.m.

By
David Lassner, President
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1162 SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of SB 1162 SD2**. 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.



SB1162 SD2
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PROMISE PROGRAM
House Committee on Higher Education

March 21, 2017

2:01 PM

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **SUPPORT** on SB1162 SD2. SB1162 SD2 would establish the University of Hawai'i (UH) Promise Program, to provide much-needed scholarships for qualified students enrolled at any UH campus, including any community college campus. **This measure invests in the educational capital of the State, by providing greater access to higher education for students who are Native Hawaiian, have low incomes, or who represent underserved regions or populations.**

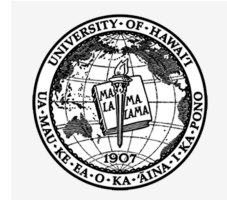
Native Hawaiians currently earn college degrees at a lower rate than other ethnic groups: recent U.S. Census Bureau data show that only 12.1 percent of Native Hawaiians earn bachelor degrees, compared to 26.4 percent of Japanese, 22 percent of Caucasians, 21.5 percent of Chinese, and 14.7 percent of Filipinos. Financial barriers may be a significant cause of this discrepancy, with a 2005 study by Dr. Judy Oliveira demonstrating that financial aid is one of the most predictive factors in Native Hawaiian degree attainment.

Under OHA's 2010-2018 Strategic Plan, OHA's Education Strategic Priority Results include the goal of increasing the number of post-secondary degrees or certificates earned by Native Hawaiians in the UH system by 12 percent. Therefore, OHA has made substantial investments to address the financial barriers that may inhibit Native Hawaiians from attaining such degrees or certificates. Since FY 2010, OHA has awarded at least \$500,000 annually in college scholarships to Native Hawaiian students, most of whom enroll in the UH system. In the upcoming school year 2017-2018, OHA scholarship funds will be administered directly by UH, with \$500,000 in OHA scholarship moneys directed entirely to Native Hawaiian students in the UH system. Also, since FY 2014, OHA has awarded an additional \$600,000 to Native Hawaiian students through its Employment Program, which helps its recipients meet their short term educational and vocational goals at UH Community Colleges. Finally, OHA contributed an additional \$500,000 between FY 2008 – 2012 to the UH's Achieving the Dream Initiative, to help more Native Hawaiian students succeed in UH Community Colleges.

By providing scholarships to Native Hawaiian and other needy students throughout the UH system, this measure would help to further lower the significant financial barriers

that may prevent these students from pursuing and attaining higher education goals. Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB1162 SD2.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



To: Senate Committee on Higher Education
Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Honorable Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Time: 2:01 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

Re: IN SUPPORT OF SB 1162 SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PLAN

Aloha Honorable Chair McKelvey, Honorable Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i Student Caucus (UHSC) represents approximately 42,700 students across the 10 campuses of the University of Hawai'i System. We submit testimony in full support of SB 1162 SD2, pressing importance on this program being implemented system-wide.

We feel that equal and affordable accessibility to higher and continuing education is crucial to the future of our economy and workforce. Tuition is inevitably rising, and although there are numerous financial aid programs and scholarships available, there are still many students who are unable to find enough financial support to cover the full cost of college tuition. A program such as the Hawai'i Promise Plan will enable students to continue their education and pursue careers that will enrich our economy and stabilize our workforce.

By providing this program system-wide, you will enable students on all islands equal access to the opportunity to further their education and have the means in which to compete in an increasingly competitive job market.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of our testimony. Once again, the University of Hawai'i Student Caucus fully supports SB 1162 SD2, pressing importance on this program being implemented system-wide.

Sincerely,
Kelli Acopan
Vice-Chair, UHSC



To: House Committee on Higher Education
Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Honorable Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Time: 2:01 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

Re: IN SUPPORT OF SB 1162 SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII‘I PROMISE PLAN

Aloha Honorable Chair McKelvey, Honorable Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

As the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Windward Community College (ASUH-WCC), representing the 2,300 students enrolled on our campus, we submit testimony in full support of SB 1162 SD2, pressing importance on this program being implemented system-wide.

We feel that equal and affordable accessibility to higher and continuing education is crucial to the future of our economy and workforce. Tuition is inevitably rising, and although there are numerous financial aid programs and scholarships available, there are still many students who are unable to find enough financial support to cover the full cost of college tuition.

At a community college such as Windward CC, the majority of students who qualify for financial aid receive a Federal Pell Grant, which when fully awarded typically covers their educational cost, including tuition and books. However, when our students transfer to a 4-year school, many of them receive sticker shock and scramble to cover the full cost of tuition. The same Federal Pell Grant no longer covers their educational costs. Students typically need to find additional funding sources for half of their tuition and books each semester. A program such as the Hawai‘i Promise Plan will enable students to continue their education and pursue careers that will enrich our economy and stabilize our workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of our testimony. Once again, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Windward Community College fully supports SB 1162 SD2, pressing importance on this program being implemented system-wide.

Sincerely,
Kelli Acopan
President, ASUH-WCC



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1162, SD 2
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

March 15, 2017

The House Higher Education Committee

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, *Chair*

Representative Mark J. Hashem, *Vice Chair*

Members:

Representative Richard P. Creagan

Representative Sharon E. Har

Representative Kaniela Ing

Representative Takashi Ohno

Representative Richard H.K. Onishi

Representative Justin H. Woodson

Representative Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

THANK YOU for hearing SB 1162, HD2, the companion bill of HB 1594 which you so thoughtfully recommended to be passed.

The Faculty Senate at Leeward Community College, voting unanimously, strongly supports SB 1162 to establish the University of Hawaii Promise Program, providing scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any of the campuses of the University of Hawai'i.

The Leeward CC Faculty Senate represents over 300 faculty members of the College in the various disciplines such as the Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Math and Science, Language Arts, Business, and Professional Arts & Technology. In terms of residence, faculty members are widely dispersed across Oahu.

The Leeward CC Faculty Senate particularly supports a "tuition-free" community college education, but recognizes the broader impact of a scholarship program for qualified students across the university system. Most of our students work part-time as they navigate the rigors of higher

education. Many of them have taken out loans with high interest rates just to pay for college. Some promising students have discontinued their studies because of financial limitations. SB 1162 is a very sound and common-sense initiative. The University of Hawai`i Promise Program would be an investment that will reap far-reaching rewards. We ask that you pass the bill.

On behalf of the Leeward CC Faculty Senate,

Steve Jacques
Co-chair, Legislative Relations Committee
jacques@hawaii.edu

Raymund Liongson
Co-chair, Legislative Relations Committee
liongson@hawaii.edu

William McDaniel Albritton
Chair, Faculty Senate
walbritt@hawaii.edu



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
LEEWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Arts & Humanities Division
Philippine Studies Program

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162, SD 2
Relating to the University of Hawai`i Promise Program

March 19, 2017

The House Higher Education Committee

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Members:

Rep. Richard P. Creagan

Rep. Sharon E. Har

Rep. Kaniela Ing

Rep. Takashi Ohno

Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi

Rep. Justin H. Woodson

Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

My name is Raymund Liongson, associate professor and coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program (Arts & Humanities) at the University of Hawaii-Leeward, and a resident of Ewa Beach, HI. I would like to register my strong support for SB 1162, SD 2 relating to the University of Hawai`i Promise Program. This bill is the companion bill of HB 1594 which your committee so thoughtfully recommended for approval.

As a college faculty member and student club adviser, I have been privileged to work with hundreds of young promising students. I have witnessed their personal struggles and successes. I have seen them dream and strive, celebrate and resign. Many of them are able and gifted; but as many are not as blessed in their resources. Many of them struggle to make a living while studying, sometimes not knowing which one to yield to first – to the economic requirements of life or to the financial demands of education. I know of students buried in educational loans and struggling hard to start a productive and rewarding life even after graduation. I am also aware of numerous students who have given up their dream of obtaining higher education because they can no longer afford it. Our students need a “life line” and we are confident the State can help provide that.

Our youth and the future should be our primary concern. This is why we educate. This is why we legislate. This is why we govern. It is because we care not only of the present, but because we recognize the future as sacred and inescapable. Let us, therefore, invest in them.

Society is increasingly becoming more sophisticated and competitive. To prevail, one needs to be equipped with higher-level knowledge and optimized capacities. Higher education is the path to realize that and SB 1162, SFD 2 is a courageous and prudent initiative to fulfill it. This is why I give my full and strong support for this bill. We ask the Ways and Means Committee to please pass it.

Thank you for hearing SB 1162 and for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

Raymund Liongson, Ph.D.

liongson@hawaii.edu

(808) 381-4315 (Mobile)

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education
March 21, 2017, at 2:01 P.M.

By
Isaiah C Baclaan

SB 1162 SD2– RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

My name is Isaiah Baclaan, President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu and I am presenting testimony on behalf of ASUHWO in support of SB 1162 SD2. This bill will provide funding for the unmet needs of qualifying students for the UH system. Hawaii has promoted the 55 by 25 campaign to increase the working adults holding two/four year degrees to 55% by 2025. One of the primary obstacles to achieving a degree in higher education would be the costs that accumulate from going to a college or a university. Factors such as tuition, textbooks, and transportation are perfect examples of real life funding concerns that students need to take into consideration before pursuing a degree in higher education.

This bill would help to support students who have unmet financial needs and encourage students to go to college, some of which would not normally consider a college education due to financial reasons. This bill would allow the disenfranchised citizens to get an education that would increase their ability to attain a better life for themselves and their families. In conclusion ASUWHO supports this bill because it aims to support the increased education of working adults in Hawai'i as well as supporting the unmet financial needs of students of the UH system. Attached to this testimony is a copy of our senate resolution in support of the HB 1594, which is the companion bill of SB 1162 SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1162 SD2.



Senate Resolution

Resolution No: SR17-02

Resolution Title: In support of HB 1594 Hawaii Promise Program

In the Senate February 9th, 2017

For Special Reading

Authored & Introduced by: Vice-President Haylie Culp

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SENATE:

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (ASUHW O) Senate is the elected body representing approximately 2,900 classified undergraduate students; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's promoted the 55 by '25 initiative which pushes to increase the percentage of working-age adults with two or four-year degrees to fifty-five per cent by 2025; and

WHEREAS, The University of Hawai'i – West Oahu strives to serve the under privileged students of O'ahu, especially those from low income backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Financial need is a viable concern for both the current and future students of the University of Hawai'i – West Oahu; and

WHEREAS, The UH Board of Regents has, through the Hawai'i Graduation Initiative, supported the increase of the higher education percentage within the state; and

WHEREAS, HB 1594 relating to the Hawai'i Promise Program aims to provide funding in the form of scholarships for the unmet needs of students within the UH system; and

WHEREAS, HB 1594 would also encourage students to pursue a degree in higher education, many of which would not consider going to college due to financial reasons; and

WHEREAS, by supporting HB 1594 ASUHW O will be advocating on behalf of the students that have financial need, in which this bill could supplement aid; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu supports the HB 1594 and will submit written testimony supporting this bill as an entire senate; and

SENATE RESOLUTION SR17-02 IN SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE 5TH SENATE OF KAPOLEI ON FEBRUARY 9, 2017.

Associated Students of UHWO

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: Board of Regents of the University of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i State Legislature, University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham; University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu Vice Chancellor of Administration Kevin Ishida; University of Hawai‘i -West O‘ahu Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Judy Oliveira, University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Jeffrey Moniz, The Hoot, the student body.

SENATE RESOLUTION SR17-02 IN SUPPORT OF HB 1594 HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE 5TH SENATE OF KAPOLEI ON FEBRUARY 9, 2017.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD 2
House Committee on Higher Education
March 21, 2017, 2:01 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey and Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Members of House Committee on Higher Education

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

Subject: UH Promise Bill

I strongly support this bill. 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 that would award scholarships for qualified students in the UH system. It is important to me because I am 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. Investment in scholarships for qualified students throughout the state promises to yield high, measurable returns on our taxpayers' investment. We cannot afford not to help financially needy students beyond the community college. The financial help must follow community college students to complete their bachelors degree and pursue graduate school, if they so choose. Otherwise, students will be frozen in entry level, low paying jobs with little job security. Our economy will not grow healthily if this income inequality persists. Education scholarships are a reasonable and prudent capacity-building approach to resolve this.

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

Warmest regards,

Davelyn Quijano

Democratic Party of Hawaii
Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

Committee on Higher Education
Hearing: Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT OF**
SB1162, SD2, Relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program

Rep Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep Mark H. Hashem, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Higher Education

Aloha,

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus, DPH, supports SB1162, SD2 that establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system or any community college campus and that appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

This program is another step toward increasing post-secondary educational opportunities for all Hawai'i students, especially Native Hawaiians and other under-represented groups.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully

LEIMOMI KHAN
Chair



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD 2
House Committee on Higher Education
March 21, 2017, 2:01 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey and Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Members of House Committee on Higher Education

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

Subject: UH Promise

I am happy to submit strong support for this bill. 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.

Institutional support through scholarships for qualified students consistent with the provisions of this bill is essential to promote access, diversity, and leadership development for Hawai'i's future leaders. Inadequate financial resources is an obstacle for students who cannot rise above the systemic and persistent disparities in society without these proposed scholarships. While NaFFAA advocates for all students with unmet financial needs, one example of the insurmountable uneven barrier is seen with Filipinos, where they 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 students with unmet needs will have the potential to make substantive contributions in fields vital to Hawai'i's economic health and quality of life. More importantly, this bill will build the capacity of qualified scholarship recipients to break the cycle of income inequality in their own family, in this generation, in our Aloha State. The investment is worth it, for they will soon be better able to contribute to Hawai'i's economy.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to offer strong support for you to advance student excellence, equity and diversity for qualified students in the UH system on every island.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD 2
House Committee on Higher Education
March 21, 2017, 2:01 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey and Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Members of House Committee on Higher Education

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of this bill. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over twenty years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

The achievements and contributions of Filipinos in Hawai'i since 1906 have been well documented. But as we enter upon the 111th year of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Filipinos and other disadvantaged groups including Native Hawaiians, Samoan, Pacific Islanders, low income, LGBTQ, Hispanics, African Americans and more still have a long way to go to attain parity in society.

Our Coalition is concerned about all disadvantaged students. In particular, we are aware of the disproportionate number of Filipino students who are under-achieving and struggling in our public schools and underrepresented in our state colleges and university. What are the root causes of this? Filipinos are under-represented in executive positions, and over-represented in low-paying entry level positions with little or no job security in the visitor, service, food, retail, construction, and agricultural industries. This segment of Filipinos in Hawai'i's workforce can never afford the cost of middle class comforts and stability for themselves and their families because of income inequality, no matter how many part-time jobs they squeeze into 24 hours, often, at the expense of not seeing their children.

That is why we taxpayers should be investing in, not divesting from education. Students in Hawai'i who would qualify for these scholarships will be the economic engine for Hawai'i's future.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill and advocate for scholarships for qualified students in our UH system throughout the State.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

E-mail: namihonolulu@yahoo.com

*Bea Ramos-Razon, RN,
FACDONA
President*

*Tessie Oculito, RN
Vice President*

*D Jun Obaldo, RN, BSN
Corresponding Secretary*

*Au Curameng, RN, CM
Recording Secretary*

*Margie A. Berueda, RN, CM
Treasurer*

*Lynn Barnes, RN, CM
Assistant Treasurer*

*Bong Curameng, CCHT
Auditor*

*Michael G. Berueda, LPL
Computer Support*

*Joe Magno
Technical Support*

Mentors & Volunteers:

Christiaan De Vera, RN, BSN

Erlinda Ferrer, RN, BSN

Estrella Guevarra, RN

Delmar Magno, RN, C

Edel Matias, RN, CM

Brenda Monegas, RN

Gail Pantaleon, RN

Oscar Querido, RN

Violeta Sadural, RN, BSN

Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD 2
House Committee on Higher Education
March 21, 2017, 2:01 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey and Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Members of House Committee on Higher Education

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

Subject: UH Promise

Establishes the University of Hawai'i Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

I am proud to submit our strong support for this bill. My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. I am testifying as the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.). NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service.

I am a registered voter and constituent in District 32, Salt Lake. I work in Senate District 9 as a Kapi'olani Community College nursing faculty. Through NAMI I serve as a community research partner and mentor University of Hawai'i Filipino students. They are first to go to college in their family, low income, and under-represented in higher education. Most of their parents are immigrants working in the service industry in low paying jobs with little job security. In spite of their humble beginnings, I have seen firsthand, their successful track record of student achievement.

Scholarships for eligible students with unmet financial needs are essential for Hawai'i's economic and social well-being. Without financial aid, our students would not have been able to go on to schools of medicine, nursing and public health. Today, some have advanced to graduate school; others are employed as health professionals, who are addressing health disparities and helping to keep the cost of health care down with education and prevention.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit testimony to encourage this bill's passage.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA, President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 7:21 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: amy_agbayani@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM*

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amy agbayani	Filipino-American Advocacy Network (FAN)	Support	Yes

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Aelyssa Grace Sabado-Macanas | *President*
(808)-446-4574

Marjorie Kay Raquiz | *Vice President*
808)-772-7403

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162, SD1
Relating To The University of Hawai'i Promise Program

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Hawaii State Legislature
Attn: Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chairperson
Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Richard P. Creagan
Sharon E. Har
Kaniela Ing
Takashi Ohno
Richard H.K. Onishi
Justin H. Woodson
Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto
Date: March 21, 2017

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the Higher Education Committee:

My name is Aelyssa Grace Sabado-Macanas. I am the president of KASAMA, the Philippine Studies Student Society at University Of Hawai'i: Leeward Community College. KASAMA stands in full support of Senate Bill 1162.

We are pushing for the UH Promise Scholarship because we believe that higher education is a pathway for a more stable life and career. Many of us have to work, sometimes multiple jobs in order to pay for our tuition fees and book expenses which greatly affects our studies. Some have to take out loans to pay tuition, purchase books, and other materials needed in order to succeed in school. Tuition and book costs has been increasing throughout the years making it more difficult for us to afford higher education. As higher education fees increase, the amount of loans being taken out by students also increases making it harder for low-income students to attend college. Some of those who can no longer afford to buy their books and pay their tuition end up dropping out of college, losing their opportunity to improve their lives. In addition to that, the high cost of living in Hawai'i makes it difficult to be able to afford college and university education.

The University of Hawai'i Promise Program will greatly help us, especially those who really want to continue their studies but are not able to due to financial difficulties. Higher education is

an instrument for social and economic mobility. We are living in a highly competitive global economy, and opportunities for students to pursue higher education need to be increased in order to compete globally.

I want to thank Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and the Members of the Higher Education Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1162.

Sincerely,

Aelyssa Grace Sabado-Macanas
President
KASAMA: University of Hawai'i: Leeward



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162 SD2

House Higher Education Committee

March 21, 2017, 2 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Angus McKelvet, 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 SB 1162 SD2
UH Promise Bill*

My name is Edward Kevin Barbasa Faller a 2nd generation, working class, brown boy from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, an alumni and supporter SB 1162 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.

We put education on a pedestal. We say our grace, pretend to be educated, and only then are we allowed to say I love you. My parents, til this day work their 2nd jobs to help pay off my school loans that I acquired in my rookie years of the academy.

I strongly support SB 1162 SD2's effort to support young dreamers like I. Although I have loans, it was the earned scholarships through SEED which made graduating possible. In my final years of higher education my dad lost his job which blessed him with insufficient mortgage payments, which blessed him with

*1638 Kamehameha IV Road
Kalihi, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 843-1545*



bad credit scores, which blessed FAFSA to revoke my loan for school. I was on my way to dropout 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. My program homes the biggest of dreams in my community. This bill will bring my young participants dreams into possibilities.

Sincerely,

Kevin

*1638 Kamehameha IV Road
Kalihi, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 843-1545*

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD2

House Higher Education Committee

March 21, 2017, 2:01 pm, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 309

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey & Vice Chair Mark Jun Hashem

Members of House Higher Education Committee

From: Aira Mae Corpuz, Member and Outreach Worker, Office of Multicultural Student Services

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Aira Mae Corpuz. I am a member of the Hawaii Undergraduate Initiative(HUI) under the Office of Multicultural Student Service(OMSS) as well as an Outreach Worker for this organization. My role is to help give tours as a worker as well as to help incoming Freshman transition from high school into college.

I strongly support this bill because being a part of this organization allowed me to work for the money I have been given in Federal Work Study. This organization has taught me how college works as well as giving me the opportunity to be a worker there as well, by having me work with many different people which helped me to become well rounded. Before, I was very shy and I never wanted to leave my comfort zone. But, OMSS helped me through that and taught me skills that I needed to do my job. Also, being a part of HUI allowed me to meet new people as well as giving me the opportunity to take a college class over the summer to earn college credit early. They have helped me build up the person I am today and given me the understanding that I needed of college and work because I am the first generation of my family to go to college here in the U.S. OMSS helped me when I had no one else to guide and give me advice through college and gave me an opportunity of work so I could pay for supplies through the year.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to offer my support.

Sincerely,

Aira Mae Corpuz

Testimony Presented Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

March 21, 2017 at 2:01 PM

by

Ken Hayashida
KAI Hawaii, Inc.

SB 1162 SD2 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on [SB 1162, SD2](#) which provides “last dollar” scholarships for the unmet need of qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawai‘i system who meet certain criteria.

I strongly support [SB 1162, SD2](#). As a *UH Alumnus and a business person*, I am proud of the education I received at the University of Hawai‘i and recognize the critical role UH plays in educating our citizenry for Hawai‘i’s multi-faceted workforce.

The University of Hawai‘i Promise Program will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges. It will ensure that promising, ambitious students have the resources they need to focus on their studies and build a better future for themselves and their families.

Their future success impacts us all.

The University of Hawai‘i Promise Program will help our state’s educational leaders meet the goal of having 55% of working-age adults hold a two- or four-year degree by the year 2025. Achieving this goal is critical to Hawai‘i’s future economic health, and our community’s wellbeing.

According to the [Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce](#), by 2020, 70% of jobs in Hawai‘i will require some college. In 2014, 43.5 percent of Hawai‘i’s working age adults (25-65 years) held a 2- or 4-year college degree according to the U.S. Census. *More Hawai‘i residents with college degrees are needed to fill workforce demands of the future.*

The University of Hawai‘i Promise Program will also help our most economically disadvantaged students escape the cycle of poverty. High school graduates are three times more likely to live in poverty than college graduates, and eight times more likely to depend on public assistance.

With your support, we can truly open the doors of education for all, and strengthen our families and community as a whole. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Hayashida
KAI Hawaii, Inc.

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD2
House Higher Education Committee
March 21, 2017, 2:01 pm, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 309

March 20, 2017

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey & Vice Chair Mark Jun Hashem
Members of House Higher Education Committee

From: Ann Ito

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Ann Ito and I am a private citizen who has worked in public higher education for all of my professional life.

I strongly support this bill because higher education is the key for many to personal and professional development and fulfillment and financial barriers should not block those with the competence, potential and motivation to do so.

These funds would be a priority investment in Hawaii's people and future and even that of our planet.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to offer my support.

Sincerely,

Ann Ito

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 12:46 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ltaototo@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lupe Taototo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a current student at Leeward Community College and I strongly support the SB1162, SD2. The reason why I support this bill because I believe that higher education is a path to success. This program will help other students not to worry a lot about debts in the future and would help on focused more towards education than financial problems. It will also help me to not be in so much debt by the time I achieve my goals. It will also encourage other students to go back to college and achieve their goals. That's why I strongly support the SB1162, SD2.

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Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD2
House Higher Education Committee
March 21, 2017, 2:00 pm, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 309

To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Higher Education Committee
From: Jillian G. Panganiban, SB 1162, Waipahu High School Early College
Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Jillian Panganiban. I am currently a junior at Waipahu High School. Along with taking high school classes, I am also taking college classes. I am an Early College Olympian, which is a student who is working towards receiving their Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. I am involved in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as I am the Vice President of Communications. Phi Theta Kappa is an honor society of two-year colleges that offers its members scholarship, skills, honor and support. When I graduate from high school, besides receiving my high school diploma, I will receive an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. I strongly support the SB 1162.

Passing these bills would help those in need of money for college. School can be expensive. College tuition is constantly increasing, resulting in a countless number of students whom can not afford it. Students are not receiving enough money from financial aid, grants, loans and scholarships to meet their college expenses. With the possibility of free college tuition, the number of students attending college would likely increase. There are many students that do not attend college because of not having the financial aid to pay for college. While others are dying in student loan debts. College is a big deal. A college education is essential for the future. There are better employment opportunities for college graduates as more jobs are hiring those with a higher education. Therefore, the SB 1162 should be passed.

I would like to thank the House Higher Education Committee for their time and effort in arranging this hearing. Hopefully, my testimony has convinced the decision in passing these bills. Students would greatly benefit from this. A free college education would save students and their families a lot of money like it has to mine. Thus, I believe the SB 1162 would assist students in pursuing their goals.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 11:33 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ashleemb10@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashlee Mei Balignasay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair Members of the House Higher Education Committee From: Ashlee Mei Balignasay, Student, Waipahu High School Early College Subject: UH Promise Bill I believe that higher education is the key to success and a pathway to help us prepare for the future. It saddens me when students who just graduated from high school aren't able to attend college because of financial reasons. This bill is beneficial to me because attending college is very expensive when you have a sister who is going to attend college the next year. I want to make sure my sister and I are focused on learning instead of worrying about the price of everything such as books. In this case, my sister and I are planning to attend the College of Engineering at UH Manoa. I also believe that this bill will benefit society because the more knowledgeable people are, there would be more solutions to the problems we have today. Therefore, the money being used is worth it because of an individual's determination to learn something new everyday.

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Jackilyn B. Bolosan

94-1450 Welina Loop #10A

Waipahu Hi. 96797

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair

Members of the House Higher Education Committee

RE: Support for SB 1162, SD2 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

My name is Jackilyn Bolosan and I currently going to Leeward Community College and I'm at my second year taking Liberal Arts and want to pursue nursing.

I am supporting the SB 1162, SD2 companion bill of HB 1594 that you so thoughtfully drafted because I am a mother whose pursuing my education to provide a better life for my family. Through this bill, students like me who is struggling financially will enable me to continue my education and show to my children and the following generation the value of education. Education is important for me, and having it available to everyone will help us to better ourselves as well as to be a productive member of our community.

I am very thankful for scheduling the hearing of this bill and considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jackilyn B. Bolosan

March 20, 2017

To: Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Higher Education Committee
From: Kaisen Bartolome
Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Kaisen Bartolome, I am a student at Leeward Community College and I reside in Pearl City, District 35. I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for *SB1162 SD2*.

I strongly believe that supporting this bill will benefit us citizens since higher education will contribute more productively to the community. Education gives individuals the skills and tools they need to navigate the world. Without it, we won't be able to achieve our dreams.

I, myself, struggle to go to college and at the same time, work in two part-time jobs to sustain my college tuition needs, as well as help my parents with bill payments. After graduating from high school, I was terrified that I would not be able to go to a university due to the high amount of tuition. As a result, I have decided to go to a community college, which is more affordable. In spite of this, I still find it financially challenging.

Thank you for passing this bill and for allowing me to send my testimony in support of it.

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD2
House Higher Education Committee
March 21, 2017, 2:01 pm, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 309

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey & Vice Chair [Mark Jun Hashem](#)
Members of House Higher Education Committee
From: Marichie Rañeses Barbasa, Student from UH Mānoa
Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Marichie Rañeses Barbasa and I am a student at University of Hawaii at Mānoa. I am currently majoring in Public Health with a minor in Philippines Language and Culture. I am a registered voter in the District of Ewa Beach. I strongly support this bill because it will help to alleviate my financial struggles with school. I am given some financial aid grants and scholarships that I applied for but they are not enough to cover my whole tuition excluding other costs for school. Therefore, I currently take out loans for school because I do not have the financial support from my parents. My parents, who are Filipino immigrants from the Philippines, are not able to support me financially in school because they only make enough to support themselves first by paying for their house, having food on the table, and other bills that they need to pay off. I understand that completely, which is why I work while balancing school and other extra-curricular activities that support me in my education. Also, with this bill, students and myself will be able to get fed. Some students skip meals or do not have enough money to eat, which can definitely affect their health while in school. I strongly support this bill because I want future generations to not have to go through this struggle that we as students today had to go through. I want these future generations to go to college without having to worry about education being a debt sentence. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide my testimony. Please consider supporting this important bill.

Sincerely,
Marichie Rañeses Barbasa



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 9:10 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: babyj63@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
baby jane pacleb	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair Members of the House Higher Education Committee From: Baby Jane Pacleb, Leeward Community College As a student of UH-Leeward for almost two years now, and a mother of two children, depending on my husband's paycheck, I find it hard to make ends meet. I want to finish college to be able to give my children a better future, but with the high cost of leaving in college education here in Hawaii, I find this at first impossible. However, through financial aid, and other scholarships offered in the university, I was able to go on. And next year, I intend to apply in the Nursing Program which will cost me about \$20, 000 for my Associates, and probably around that much for my Bachelors, for the tuition fee and other expenses like books. But I am hoping for a new bill SB1162 to pass, because I strongly believe this will benefit students like me who are deserving giving our best always, but are financially in need. It will benefit the qualifying students to earn a degree, and get a better job in the future. As a result, they will be able to send their own children in college and don't have to worry about them. But if potential students are not given a chance to finish college, because they can't afford it, then these students who can be future engineers, nurses, doctors, architects, will end up only in Mc Donald's earning a minimum pay. Their children won't be able to attend college again because parents don't earn enough to send them. What becomes the future of Hawaii, lies in the hands of its people. The students, the children, they are our future. They will define what will become Hawaii in the next years to come, so it's worth investing to our future. Please support SB 1162 SD2. Thank you very much.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 7:54 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: 18shalas@waipahuh.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharmaine Allas	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Sharmaine Allas 94-1045 Mahinahina St. Waipahu, HI 96797 (808) 589-9480 March 16, 2017 My name is Sharmaine Allas. I am an eleventh grader, who is currently attending Waipahu High School. I am part of the Early College program here at Waipahu High. I also take part in our Phi Theta Kappa Organization and Olympian group. Phi Theta Kappa is a honor society we have to recognize the many early college students, as well as provide volunteer and service opportunities. The Olympian group is composed of the class of 2018 graduates who are working towards their Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. We will be receiving our degree at the same time when we graduate with our high school diploma. I support the SB 1162, SD2 I support these bills because of several reasons. Personally, I understand how expensive schooling could be. My mom plays both the role as the father and mother in our household. My mom supports many of those expenses, however, sometimes it may be difficult to keep up with me. I believe these bills are not only helping the students, but their families financially. I believe that part of the foundation to life starts with education. Education leads to a better future for all. Although, many families do not have the luxury to send their kids off to ivy league colleges, let alone state colleges. Sometimes students choose to not go to college because they need to help support their family. In these cases, the students choose to work first. As years passed, it will be harder for them to enter college because they aren't caught up. I would like to thank you for your time and effort for this conference. I hope a bunch of us students will be able to persuade you enough. Bear in mind that these bills will be helping a ton of students out. Many people's educations are at stake here because they aren't financially supported. However, I believe SB 1162, SD2 is a step closer for many to achieve their goals.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 5:58 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: bjabon@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Abon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD2 House Higher Education Committee March 21, 2017, 2:00 pm, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 309

To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair Members of the House Higher Education Committee From: Bryan Abon
Subject: UH Promise Bill My name is Bryan Abon and I reside live in Waipahu and I support SB1162. Shouldn't we give free higher education to those who want it? Many students in community college take part time jobs in order to pay for college, which makes it longer for them to finish on time. Time is something that can never be given back and with this bill we can make more students finish on time so that they can move on to the next step of their journey into whatever career they choose. As for university students, they should also be given free higher education because the student loan interest is too much, making more students go into debt. Providing money towards free higher education is a huge investment but there are other ridiculous investments that this state has made. For example the rail is costing more and more as years go by. We should pass the SB1162 to have a brighter future for our islands.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 2:51 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: vvidad@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vanessa Vidad	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair Members of the House Higher Education Committee I am in support of this bill for the following reasons listed: The opportunity of having secondary education is an opportunity for younger generations to receive a higher level of knowledge for the betterment of their future. However, one of the most common setbacks that prevent students from going to college is tuition and cost of books. Paying for these necessities can be very difficult for the student, thus making the cost of tuition and books a heavy burden, considering the high cost of living in Hawaii. With the UH Promise Program, it will ease the harsh expenses for those who are at a financial disadvantage, especially among those who work minimum wages and wishes for their children to get a higher education. What we need in our future is a well-prepared generation that are highly educated to tackle the world's problems, and the UH Promise Program is the first big step to a brighter future for not only for our children, but for the next generations to come.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 1:45 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ernajoyv@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erna Joy Villosio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Higher Education Committee, I strongly believe that the UH Promise Scholarship Program is something that should be offered to all students. With this everyone who is economically disadvantaged will be able to go to college, and they will be able to live a successful and happy life. The UH Promise Scholarship Program will help students reach their goal. This would benefit people like me who does not come from a rich family. Many students have to work multiple jobs just to pay off their college, and sometimes it's not enough. Many years after a student graduated from college, they are still paying off debt. So with this program, many students will no longer have to worry about not having enough money for college, and they will be able to focus on their studies and their future career.

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Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD2
House Higher Education Committee
March 21, 2017, 2:00 pm, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 309

To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Higher Education Committee
From: Joellah Fuentes
Subject: UH Promise Bill

Good day! I'm Joellah Fuentes, a student from Leeward Community College. I'm from a family of seven, and I'm the second one to be in college. I will be earning my AA in Liberal Arts this year and am planning on getting my bachelor's degree in Accounting afterwards. I have three younger siblings, two of them are in high school and one in middle school. I work as a math tutor in LCC Waianae but my salary is not enough to support all my basic needs as well as my family's. My mother is weak and currently incapable of working so my step father is the only one who can support our family. When the time comes that he will be unable to work, it would be a challenge for us financially. Therefore, the implementation of the Senate Bill 1162 is an important and beneficial thing not only for my siblings but also to those who are in need of it.

I believe in the value of higher education. It would enable many people to become a more productive citizen of the society. Everyone who are pursuing higher level of studies, would have more freedom to hone their talents, try new ideas, and seek the lives they want if they didn't have to start off in debt or stay stuck in a low-wage job. We would be able to focus more on our studies rather than worrying about how to scrape together enough funds for each upcoming school term. The implementation of the bill would be a development that will be the driver of a new era of Hawaiian prosperity. We will have a stronger economy and a stronger democracy when all young people with the ambition and the talent can reach their full potential, regardless of their circumstances.

So, I would like to thank you for investing for the future. There would be no change if people don't act on what they believe. I hope that the rest of the country and the world would follow your actions. We couldn't make this happen if we didn't stand together and demand that public higher education is a right for everyone, and not a privilege for the few.

Sincerely,

Joellah Fuentes
joe_ellah@yahoo.com
(808)265-0660

**Testimony Presented Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
March 21, 2017 at 2:01 PM
by
Bernadette Baraquio**

SB 1162 SD2 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on [SB 1162, SD2](#), which provides “last dollar” scholarships for the unmet need of qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawai‘i system who meet certain criteria.

I strongly support [SB 1162, SD2](#). As a proud graduate of Leeward Community College, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and current President of the University of Hawai‘i Alumni Association, I am grateful for the education I received at the University of Hawai‘i and recognize the critical need for more students to have access to quality, affordable higher education in the State of Hawai‘i.

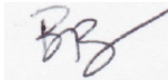
The University of Hawai‘i Promise Program will essentially remove the financial burden associated with college tuition and fees and help aspiring students really focus on their studies to build a better future for themselves and their families.

It is our kuleana to ensure the success of our future alumni. The kokua they receive today will translate into future benefits for our beautiful state.

The University of Hawai‘i Promise Program will help our state’s educational leaders meet the goal of having 55% of working-age adults hold a two- or four-year degree by the year 2025. Reaching this objective will help fill the workforce demands of the future while ensuring economic health and overall well-being of Hawai‘i.

Higher education is the key to helping those most in need escape the cycle of poverty and provide a new path to opportunity and financial freedom. The University of Hawai‘i Promise Program offers that road to success for our young minds and future alumni. With your support, we can truly open the doors of education for all, and strengthen our families and community as a whole. Mahalo once again for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 1162, SD2.

Bernadette Baraquio



Leeward Communiy College AA Liberal Arts ‘94
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa BA Broadcast Journalism ‘96
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa MA Candidate Communications 2017
University of Hawai‘i Alumni Association President
Bb88@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 4:00 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: jiramire@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The House of Finance Committee Attin Rep Sylvia Luke Chair Rep J.K. Cullen Vice Chair Members of the Finance Committee I am a fellow Leeward Community College student and I believe that giving free tuition for students in community colleges will give students the opportunity to concentrate on their studies, instead of their jobs. Students also coming from unprivileged families would also be given a chance to get their degree and the best way to prove they are capable is by first attending a community college. Another reason why I believe free community college would be good is to make the three social classes as separated as it should be. This financial help with help the economy and the workforce will be more far educated with more students participating.

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Representative Angus McKelvey and Representative Mark Hashem,

I would like to start off with an honorable quote:

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

-Malcolm X

Some say that Education is the key to success and I agree with that. What is a student without having some guidance? What is a school without providing the materials that students' want and needs? What is a leader without an education? In the near future, us, the students of college institutions will one day be in your shoes. Guiding, providing, and leading others to fight for what they believe in.

My name is Crezel Andrea Alegado and I am an Early College student of Waipahu High School who is currently enrolled at Leeward Community College. Since being a part of this program, I have been able to experience the benefits of getting a higher education. Along the way, I've gained skills that helped me expand my knowledge and self-growth.

I come from a Filipino family and we struggle financially. I was born in the Philippines but raised here along with my two younger siblings. As the oldest, I have to set a great example to my siblings and other family members because they look up to me. This is why I support this House Bill because of the benefits it provides to those who want an education and ensure them that the money will provide them the opportunity to have it. Education is an action that creates possibilities and encourages us to discover ourselves. Education is an intention that gives our country's new leaders hope and insight of what they are capable of.

I would like to thank the Education Committee for hearing our testimonies. This is not only my voice, but also the people who want a chance of getting an education without worrying about the cost. This will become true if we have the possibility to make this bill happen.

Sincerely,
Crezel Andrea Alegado

Hello Everyone,

My name is Librado Dumanjug III and I am a student at University of Mānoa. To be direct I support the SB 1162 because one day it will save a life. Corny, yes, but true. Two years ago I transferred from Leeward Community College to University of Mānoa and it was one of the hardest things to do. I transferred from a two-year community college to a University. Everything was different, the commute, the language, the atmosphere, and the culture. The university didn't have that coziness and relaxed feeling that LCC had. In fact once I got to the university I felt my body tense up, I felt the pressure that the school puts on you. At LCC is quite different there was pressure, but not as much as Mānoa.

The LCC family definitely is played a big influence in my life because of them I got involved in my community like never before. I was involved with Kasama (Filipino club) and a program called Sulong Aral, both of which helped me in my college career. Kasama club broaden my horizon of what it means being Filipino in Hawai'i. It is because of them I am proud of my brown skin and proud to be called Filipino. The Kasama club has done many community services such example follows Martin Luther King Parade, Filipino Parade, Pasko, and many more. With their presence they have brought smiles, laughter, and awareness to the community letting them know that there is a club who is willing to spread joy and the Filipino Pride in the community. Who is not afraid to embrace their brown skin, their flat nose, and their slanted eyes.

Sulong Aral, they have push and push myself in pursuing my academic career. They are the ones who sat down with me as reminded me on my reason in pursuing higher education. Initially, I wanted to dropout and focus on my military career, but with their help they pushed me to keep going in my academic career. They are the reason why I am graduating this Fall 2017. They are the reason why I am pursuing in becoming a teacher. They are the reason why I want to get my Masters in higher education counseling. They are the reason why I am here today. My goal in life is to help younger generation in finding their way in life. Finding their way in wanting to live for a greater propose. Finding their reason to LIVE.

I can't thank enough for those individuals who have changed my life for the better. Honestly, if it wasn't for them I do not know where I will be. That being said pushing this bill would not just help students, but also the community. The community will only benefit from their children in learning. Having accessible higher education will allow students to learn and to pursue a future career. It gets them thinking and giving the mind set "I would like to be..." or "I want to be..." Isn't that enough for all of you? Or do you want to get in the way that?

March 19, 2017

To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Higher Education Committee
From: Piaopenta Solis, Leeward Community College Student
Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Piaopenta Solis and I'm currently residing in Waipahu. . I'm currently a full time student attending UH Leeward Community College. Next spring semester (Spring 2018) I plan on transferring to UH Manoa to study Architecture. I'm writing this testimony to support the bill SB1162 SD2. Education is important for all ages. The bill will not only help us current students, but as well for the next generations to come.

University or Community college, students struggle to pay for their tuitions, books, and other school expenses. Even with the help of financial aid, student loans, and more there are still students who still struggle. But there are also other students who are not qualified to receive these benefits. With the UH promise Bill it will help students with their tuition, books, and school expenses. Passing these Bill will give hope to the next generation to continue their education and strive for more. Thank you for your time in reading my testimony, I hope this bill pass. Please think of the future for the younger generations.

Sincerely,

Piaopenta Solis

Dear Representative Angus McKelvey and Representative Mark Hashem,

My name is Elisha Ramones. I am a Waipahu High School Early College student. I have been an Early College student since my freshmen year of high school. I am here in support of Senate Bill 1162.

You probably think that my opinion is biased since I have been going to school (both high school and college) at no cost for my whole life, however this year I have had the chance to see what the cost of education is really like with my older sister. This year, she is a senior and started applying to colleges and getting acceptance letters. My whole family went through each school she got accepted to and looked at the cost and the money they offered her.

I believe that this bill would help Hawaii families, such as mine. In Hawaii, it's rare to see families with only one child and even with one child, some debt could pile up. Most of these families have two or more children to send to college, making their debt skyrocket to an unimaginable amount. Some of these families have to worry about their children's debt as well as parents and/or older siblings personal debt that has been accumulated over their educational careers. If a family's debt were to increase, then it could cause additional issues (such as: homelessness, choosing between food and utilities, etc.).

I also believe that if education was free in Hawaii, more young people would stay on island rather than going off island. The more young people that stay would mean that future resources would stay in on the island. The only reasons students decide to go off the college somewhere else is because, 1.) certain schools specialize in whatever they want to major/minor in, or 2.) to build a better networking system. If students decided to stay home for college, the island would grow in resources. The future influencing the future. More students would create a life for them here, where they start their own business or join the State of Hawaii Government causing the next generation to not have a reason to leave for schooling. Everything they would want/need is here on the island.

Right now, it is most essential to pass this bill now because the Finance Committee did not pass the bill for the funding for the Early College program. For the 11 schools that have Early College program, the free college classes offered will not be offered after this May. The minority, first-generation, and low-income students would not have a chance to go to school after graduating for high school, the Early College program gave them a chance to start collecting their college credits for free. With the program gone, the UH Promise is the last chance for these students to go further their education after high school instead of working or doing nothing.

Thank you to the committee for hearing SB 1162 and allowing me to speak today and taking the time to hear my thoughts and opinions. Education is one of the essential

necessities humans need in life, in order to get a stable job to earn money, and build a life for themselves. We would not be able to do that if the only thing on our minds is paying off debt because we decided to further our education just so we could live comfortably. Education shouldn't be a debt sentence.

Thank you,
Elisha Ramones

Edna Mae Felix
Waipahu High School Early College
17 March 2017

Dear Representative Angus McKelvey and Representative Mark Hashem,

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". This quote summarizes what I believe education really is. I believe that education is so important to the point where it is the foundation of everything. My name is Edna Mae Felix, a current Junior attending Waipahu High School. I immigrated to Hawaii when I was 7 years old. I started first grade with no knowledge on how to speak English nor understand the language. I persevered and worked extremely hard to get to where I am today. I am currently the President of the Academy of Health and Sciences, a part of Student Government, inducted to the Phi Theta Kappa, an Early College Olympian, HOSA member, member of National Honor Society, and a part of AVID Service club. I would have never expected myself to be the way I am now without Early College, the supports from my teachers, and with the mindset I currently obtain.

I have enormously grown as an individual from when I first came to Hawaii to now. I would not be able to achieve everything without the free education I have received, and my parents would not be able to pay for me to get an education because of their tight budget. I currently am in the Early College program that Waipahu High School provides, which is a free opportunity to earn college credits at the same time as being a High School student. I have learned to value the meaning of free post high school education.

I am in support of this bill, because I see how this would positively affect many families lives especially the students. It would give the kids an opportunity to be able to achieve their goals without the burden on themselves and on their families on how they will get the money to pay for their education. Education is such an important thing today, and students should be inspired to learn and focus on their own learning instead of worrying about how to pay for it.

Some might think that us students do not really know much because we are still young. But we actually understand and know more than other people expect. We know the hardships that our family and parents go through just to provide our needs. I currently started working because I wanted to help my parents with money and to provide for myself. While working, I have realized how hard it really is, which makes me appreciate the Early College program in my school.

The price for education after High School has been increasing so much which affects students because they will get the mindset of not wanting to continue their education after High School because they would rather work. Education after high school should be a motivation to work hard in order to have a better future and not be a burden on the students and their families. Education after High School should be a straight pathway to their dreams and not so much having a lot of bumps on the road because they have to worry about money.

Sincerely,
Edna Mae Felix

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD 2
House Committee on Higher Education
March 21, 2017, 2:01 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey and Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Members of House Committee on Higher Education

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen

Subject: UH Promise Program

I am proud to submit my full support of this bill. My name is Jean Jeremiah. I am speaking as a private citizen. 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 scholarships for qualified students will help address education disparities for vulnerable pockets of students from diverse backgrounds, including students who are Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, houseless, LGBTQ, single parents returning to school, and students who may come from families that are caught in the cycle of income inequality with adverse social determinants they are struggling to overcome. 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 by prioritizing our limited State budget for capacity building investment in our millennial generation, with scholarships consistent with the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the chance to offer my strong support.

Very Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:44 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: chasity8@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chasity Morimoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Higher Education Committee Rep . Angus McKelvey Chair, HED I am a Leeward Community College student and I strongly support SB 1162, SD2 I believe that higher education is beneficial towards students that are struggling to balance financial necessities and school. I have fellow peers that find it difficult to pay for their own tuition, thus making it difficult to live a normal life without debt. I have family members that have children and are trying to attend school to better their lives for themselves, and their children. What makes attending school complicated for them is that they don't have any funds to pay for school and take care of their child and other responsibilities that comes with being a responsible adult. I personally struggle with two jobs and paying for school. The stress level that I have being 19 years-old should not be so complex. Juggling studying, paying off finances, working two jobs back to back just to just make it by in life. This isn't just difficult for me, but others that are in the same position as me. With that being said, this bill is very crucial and it will not only save me and my generation, but future generations to come

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March 16, 2017

To Whom it may Concern

Dear Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey,

Higher education is something that everyone should have access to for various reasons. People in today's society all come from different backgrounds, with some being more fortunate than others. Most people are not able to have the same opportunities as others, where some people have different living conditions. Some may struggle with keeping filling their needs, such as food and water. Due to people having different backgrounds, people may not be able to get the money needed to pay for college. College is essential in getting a job that pays well in today's society, and without having access to college, people will be stuck with jobs that do not pay as well. Everyone has potential to come up with ideas that can contribute to society's future, whether it be new policies, buildings, or more. However, people are not able to voice their thoughts as actively as they could, and as such people should be offered education in order to get the jobs they want. Everyone can work hard in college to get the degree they need, and most people are unable to go to college due to lacking the funding needed. With this being passed, everyone can access higher education and be able to get more opportunities. As such, everyone should be able to access higher education in order to give the less fortunate more opportunities.

Very truly yours,

Amber Viernes

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:13 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: djq@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel John Quiamas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of SB1162 SD2 because I believe that efforts should be made to reduce the cost of college for those who need it. Currently, many people in Hawai'i do not have any college education; according to the Research and Economic Analysis Division, this number equates to about 37.4% of the population. Although money certainly is not the ONLY factor that is responsible for this number, the fact that it is a factor for some means that economic disadvantage is the reason why many people in Hawai'i do not have high-paying jobs. In our present society, many jobs require some sort of college degree; some employers for higher paying jobs may not even hire if an applicant that lacks a college education. By having higher education be something that only those that are economically advantaged has access to puts those that can't afford it at a disadvantage. I believe that this is unfair because people that can't afford a higher education are essentially "locked out" from succeeding in securing a good, high paying jobs and better opportunities because they lack the education to get in. Education should NOT be a privilege; everyone should be entitled to a fair chance at a good job. The UH Promise Program will allow for those who are truly serious about their education, and at an economic disadvantage, to receive the training and skills they need to succeed in the workforce. This is why I support the UH Promise Program.

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To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair
Members of the House of the Higher Education Committee
From: Todd Takayama, Student, University of Hawai'i – Leeward Community College
Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Todd Takayama and I am a registered voter in the Pearl City district. I am attending my second year at Leeward Community College and intend to graduate at the end of the semester. I plan to attend the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu in Fall 2017.

I support SB-1162 because I believe higher education should be free for those in low-income households. Having a college education allows greater access to higher-paying and more sustainable jobs. College tuition is the barrier that prevents people from removing themselves from poverty and therefore should be eliminated.

Community college provides strong background for young adults for an affordable price. Although the intention is to graduate with an Associate's Degree in two years, many students stay more than two years because they are unsure about what occupation they want to do for the rest of their life. Personally, I attended college elsewhere for three years until I realized that it was not what I wanted to do. After a total of five years of attending college, I still do not have a degree, but I did accumulate a substantial amount of debt, estimating to roughly \$20,000. This financial burden may follow me for decades if I am unable to find a well-paying job. Although I will most likely not attain the benefits of free education, the future generations should.

Thank you for hearing these bills and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I understand the importance of the bill reaching this stage and I greatly appreciate your time and effort.

Sincerely,
Todd Takayama

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:04 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: shuntlem@Hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shuntle maneja	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Angus L.K McKelvey, Representative Mark J. Hanse and to all the Members of the Higher Comittee, I support the idea of having a free higher education because it will help all of us students who wants to attend higher education without worrying of being indebt throughout our life. Us students wants to attend a higher education in order to give back to our community and we can create a better future.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:31 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: 18eliuyo@waipahuh.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Jane Maluyo	Early College Waipahu High School	Support	No

Comments: To: Representative Angus L.K McKelvey, Chair Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair Members of the House Higher Education Committee From: Elizabeth Maluyo, Student, Early College Waipahu High School Subject: UH Promise Bill As a part of the Early College program from Waipahu High School, I strongly believe that the UH Promise Scholarship Program would be beneficial to many students and should be offered. Being a student in the Academy of Health and Sciences, I am aware that I would need to dedicate a lot of my time to schooling after high school to reach my goal of becoming an Emergency Room Physician. But attending college for that many years would mean that I would have to use much of my parents and even my own money to pay off my expenses. Though this is plausible, I come from a family with three children who also have the dreams of taking a role in the medical field. There are students out there who have the capability and mindset of becoming something big in the future but are being halted because of the schooling that they can't afford, just like me. This UH Promise Bill will allow many of these students to reach their goals and this is why I am in STRONG support of SB1162 SD2.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:27 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: mvaleros@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Germaine Valeros	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Angus L.K. Mckelvey, Representative Mark J. Hashe, and to all the members of the House Education Committee I am a supporter of a free higher education because it will benefit a lot of students mostly to those who are in a low income family who wants to have a higher education. Also there would be more students who wants to pursue their study because they will be more focused on their studying than working and studying at the same time for their college debt that they need to pay and mostly they won't focused. Secondly, It will get more students to go and have their higher education rather than just having their AA degree and stop on that degree because of the money they need to pay to go on a higher level.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:24 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: nicolesd@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Daguimol	Early College Waipahh High School	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Representative Mark J. Hashe, and to all the Members of the House Higher Education Committee I am a supporter of free higher education, SB1162 SD2 because it'll benefit so many students seeking their opportunity in college. Many students aren't able to attend college because their parents don't have the budget to put them through school, so it's like their amazing minds in school will end up going to somewhere else because they aren't able to pursue the career of their dreams. Free higher education will open up so many opportunities for students. Many people that graduate from higher education ends up pursuing their dream careers, but yet they're stuck paying their college loans for many years after. Free higher education will not only help families put their children to school but it will help and prevent college graduates from being drowned in college loans. Lastly, free higher education will benefit the new students to come as well as all of our futures.

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Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD2
House Higher Education Committee
March 21, 2017, 2:01 pm, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 309

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey & Vice Chair [Mark Jun Hashem](#)
Members of House Higher Education Committee
From: Your name, title, organization
Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Debieh Amberlyn Ramos Miguel. I am a first generation college student and graduate of Leeward Community College and University of Hawaii West Oahu. I'm submitting a testimony in full support of SB1126.

Being a first generation college student money for schooling was limited coming from a working class family working multiple minimum wage jobs. It was difficult to be supported financially when my parents priority to pay for living expenses. Luckily I was supported by a scholarship from UH West Oahu, which helped alleviated financial tension for schooling. I was then able to focus on my studies rather than consumed by my financial needs. Supporting UH students through scholarships will help achieve their goals as well as their dreams.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to offer my support.

Sincerely,

Debieh Amberlyn Ramos Miguel

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 11:40 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: ernalynes@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ernalynne Micah Sao	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Angus L.K. Mckelvey Representatives Mark J. Hashe And to all the members of the house higher education committee I am a supporter of free higher education because free college can benefit many students to have a better future. Free college can help them to reach their dreams and goals. It can also help their family who wants them to go college. Moreover, I believe that there should be a free higher education because not everyone can afford to go college. For instance, myself alone, can't afford to go college. As a result my family or even myself are the ones that will suffer just for me to go college. If there is free higher college for students it will lessen the work for parents and for students. It can also help students to get the career they want. Free higher education should be for everyone who desires to go college and that includes myself.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 11:31 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: gaburfria3@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
fria gabur	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Angus L.K Mckelvey, Representative Mark J. Hashe and to all the members of the house higher education committee I am a supporter of a free higher education because not all people have the money to pay for college tuitions etc. Parents struggle trying to make money just to get their children go to college. Everyone struggles, and some fail to go college. Students who are willing to go college, who has the passion, talent and brain, sometimes don't get to go college because of financial problems. It is so unfair that because of money problems these type of students don't get to go college and get a higher education. I am a supporter because me myself want to go college without having my parents/family to struggle just to make money for me to go college. If possible I want to pay for college that I can work for and not have to work daily from morning to night just for me to stay in college. If there were free higher education, many students will have so much opportunities ahead of them.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 12:13 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: mcop@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MYRA PASCUAL	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair Members of the House Higher Education Committee Thank you for hearing the bill SB1162 SD2 which is the UH Promise Program. This is the companion bill of HB1594 that was passed in your committee. I am a Leeward Community College student and highly support SB1162 because I believe that higher education will help me achieve the things I want to be in the future. I am an immigrant, working two jobs trying to make both ends meet and sending myself to school. I only rely on the scholarships and grants for me to attend college. Higher education is very important to me because it will be my transportation or it will be my way to further and pursue my career. I am the first person in my family that is working on a degree and I must make sure that I finish it because my parents are getting older and I am the only one they are relying on in helping them. Free university education will greatly help me in becoming the person I want to be in the future and I will make sure that I will give back to the community that helped me achieve these dreams into a reality. Thank you so much for investing in the future.

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 SB1162 SD2
House Higher Education Committee
March 21, 2017, 2:01 pm, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 309

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey & Vice Chair Mark Jun Hashem
Members of House Higher Education Committee
From: Your name, title, organization
Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Randell Dejesus. I am a 15 year old working class Filipino immigrant. From Kalihi, representing kvibe and Attending farrington high school as a sophomore. I immigrated from the Philippines at the age of 5 with my mother and older sister with hopes of a better life, not knowing why or what we ran away from. I support state bill 1167 SD2 with hopes of understanding my people's oppressions and their similar journey for liberation. Speaking from my experiences with having safe spaces to learn and to be heard allowed me to have an idea of what it means to emancipate and liberate myself. continuing the pamantasan conference will not only be beneficial for me but for other future leaders, and ambitious students who are in the search of a better life.

Sincerely,

Randell Dejesus

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162, SD2
House Committee on Higher Education
March 21, 2017, 2:01 pm
Hawai`i State Legislature
Hawai`i State Capitol, Conference Room 309

To: Chair Angus McKelvey
Vice-Chair Mark Hashem
Committee on Higher Education Members: Rep., Richard Creagan, Rep. Sharon Har, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Richard Onishi, Rep. Justin Woodson, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

From: Agnes Malate, MEd
armalate@yahoo.com

I am in strong support of the SB 1162, SD2 to establish the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system or any community college campus. Providing scholarships to cover the balance of direct educational cost when all other funds have been exhausted will be of tremendous help to the students who are struggling to finance their education and often times have to work.

Funding this bill is an investment in Hawai'i's workforce and its future. It is necessary to ensure that higher education is accessible to all from diverse background and not just to those who are able to afford it. The Promise Program is a significant step in increasing the number of Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Pacific Island, and others from underrepresented groups to obtain a college degree.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony and I ask that you pass SB 1162, SD2 for the well being, growth, and future of our community.

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.

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD2

House Higher Education Committee
March 21, 2017, 2:01 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 309

To: Chair Angus L. K. McKelvey & Vice Chair Mark Jun Hashem
Members of House Higher Education Committee

From: Clement Bautista, Director, UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Clement Bautista, and I am the director of the UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services. I strongly support this bill because I see first-hand the need for additional funds to support students in higher education for the following reasons:

- 1) Too many students are hampered by the need to take off-campus jobs to supplement their financial aid. We need to invest in our students. Students come to the university to learn and experience things not experienced before or are not present in the larger community. It is a waste for students not to learn these ideas or experience these interactions when they are given the opportunity to do so. It is also wasteful for our community and our future not to support students to partake of these experiences.
- 2) The burden of paying back loans will be reduced. For some students, going to college is a commitment they cannot afford to take. By reducing the potential debt a low- or even middle-income student may incur through loans, more students will be able to make the long-term commitment in a higher education experience.
- 3) Students constantly negotiate and apply to various sources for financial aid. Although the university, the internet and other third-party sources have eased this process, the complexity of finding financial aid is still a shifting maze for students and their parents. Families need to have good and reliable information to plan their future – a future that is often very novel for them. Simplifying this process by providing enough funds to completely cover direct costs is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for hearing this bill and the opportunity to offer my support.

Sincerely,

Clement Bautista
744 Elepaio Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
clement.bautista@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162

The House Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:01p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Rep. Agnus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Members: Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Rep. Sharon E. Har, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matusmoto

From: Tricia May A. Mauricio

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162

Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

My name is Tricia May A. Mauricio. I am a University of Hawaii student at the Leeward Community College campus. I live in Pearl City, District 35, my Senate Representative is Senator Clarence K. Nishihara and my House Representative is Representative Roy M. Takumi. I strongly support SB 1162.

I am in strong support for this bill because I am the first in my family to attend college. My mother and I are the only breadwinners in our family and we live paycheck-to-paycheck supporting our household and extended family. My mother endures weeks at a time working and only coming home to change clothes and a bite to eat. Whereas I spend weeks with little to no sleep working two jobs and attending school full time. This scholarship would greatly help to alleviate, at least, the expenses needed for school. This scholarship would be especially helpful because my younger brother will be entering college this fall, and my sister will follow soon after. My family, as is for others, strongly believes that higher education means attaining a better job therefore improving Hawaii's economic and social mobility. If that is the case, then higher education needs not only to be encouraged but also affordable and attainable for those willing and dedicated to gain the higher education they deserve.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass SB 1162.

Sincerely,

Tricia May A. Mauricio

To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair
Members of House Higher Education Committee

From: Marjorie Kay Raquiz

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD2

Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. (SB1162 SD2)

Hi my name is Marjorie Kay Raquiz. I am a resident of Waipahu, District 94. I am a current student of Leeward Community College. This is my second semester in college. I am majoring in Computer Science and currently working on my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. I will be transferring to University of Hawaii Manoa in Fall 2018 to pursue my Master's Degree in Computer Science.

I am supporting UH Promise Program because I know it will help a lot of people who wants to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams like me. College cost a lot of money and money should not be the reason for people not to go after their dreams. In my family, there's two of us that are attending college. My sister is attending UH Manoa and I'm attending Leeward Community College. Since community colleges only offers Associate's degree, I will need to transfer to graduate school to get my Master's degree. Universities like UH Manoa, where I will be transferring to, cost a lot more than the tuition fee at any community colleges. Because of the cost of attendance, I must work longer hours just to save up for my education. This is not just me, but almost everyone who goes to college. This bill is a very big help to every college students who are struggling to balance work and their studies at the same time.

I would like to thank you for supporting the bill. It will help a lot of people who wants to pursue higher education, but are not financially ready to pay for all the fees and the tuition. I am sure that everyone is willing to work hard to meet all the requirements that comes with the bill and make sure that all your hard work to pass this bill and help college students will not go to waste. Once again thank you very much.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162, SD2
Relating to the University of Hawai`i Promise Scholarship Program

March 20, 2017

The House Higher Education Committee

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, *Chair*

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, *Vice Chair*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 1162 SD2**. My name is Geryll Anthony Alcantara Agno. I am testifying as a proud Leeward Community College graduate last Spring 2015 and a current student of the Bachelor's in Science in Nursing program of the University of Hawai`i at Manoa. Getting through college as a member of the working class is difficult if you do not want to accumulate debt, whatever your major of choice may be.

I have been fortunate enough to not need to take loans for my tuition because I have been awarded multiple scholarships that fully covered it. However, I want my fellow students to also have the opportunity to not have to worry about tuition like I do. Not worrying about tuition help me perform better in my classes which means that I will be more prepared to be an active and contributing member of the society once I graduate and become a professional.

Investing on students today will allow them to be contributing members of society and will provide a good return of investment in the long run.

This bill will be able to provide scholarships to students whose tuition is not fully covered by grants and scholarships they already have, and also for students that do not receive any aid at all.

Thank you for hearing this bill.

Sincerely,

Geryl Anthony Alcantara Agno

UH – Manoa Student

Testimony presented before the

House of Representative

Committee on Higher Education

Representative Angus McKelvey and Representative Mark Hashem

DATE: Tuesday, March 20, 2017

TIME: 2:01 PM

ROOM: Conference Room 309

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

By Czarina Ydmarra Isabelle Galario

Waipahu High School Early College Student

SB 1162 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

POSITION: Support

My name is Czarina Ydmarra Isabelle Galario. I am currently a senior at Waipahu High School. I am also currently enrolled under the early college program. I enrolled into the Early College program two years ago, which is the summer before I entered my junior year. When I enrolled myself into a class, I did not intend to keep taking classes until I graduate high school. That enrolment was suppose to be a trial. However, after taking 1 class, I realized that this program not only help me with my high school credits but with my college credits also. Early college made me realize what type of advantage I got myself into and while I'm at it, I might as well make use of the free college courses that the program has to offer. This program particular made me realize what I would want my future to look like. When I graduate high school, I will finally have at least 32 credits of college. After I graduate from high school, I plan to attend The University of Hawaii Manoa and major in Law while working in the military. After graduating with my bachelor's degree, I would still like to continue my studies to obtain my Ph.D., however, I am still open to any other majors or fields that I would like to enter.

Testimony presented before the

House of Representative

Committee on Higher Education

Representative Angus McKelvey and Representative Mark Hashem

DATE: Tuesday, March 20, 2017

TIME: 2:01 PM

ROOM: Conference Room 309

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

By Czarina Ydmarra Isabelle Galario

Waipahu High School Early College Student

I am aware that the bill SB 1162 is a bill that is relating to the University of Hawaii Promise program which will give out scholarships to students under the University of Hawaii. I strongly believe that this bill should be passed because there are a lot of students who need help paying their college tuition fees no matter what their status are. As an immigrant from the Philippines, I know how hard it is for most of us to even attend school. I know this is a generic immigrant story but I still hope that matters somehow. We permanently came here in Hawaii on February 21, 2012. We came here to find greater opportunities that will someday help us fulfil our greatest dream to finally live at ease. Coming here in Hawaii was and is still a blessing because not everyone is given a chance to walk the path to a better life. However, I did not realize how hard it is to survive in a community that is full of competition. Yes, I admit that there are a lot of scholarships out there but they do not give it to every single student who apply. We migrated here to study and pursue a better living but it's already hard in the beginning. Most of the immigrants who leave their motherland for that American dream will sacrifice everything to move out of poverty and obtaining a higher education is just the first step to that success. The society pressures the youth to step up because we are the future of tomorrow, but how are we supposed to do that if it's already difficult for us to obtain our educations in the first place? There are a lot of students out there that deserve to go to college but are being blocked and pulled back by financial problems. A higher education is the

Testimony presented before the

House of Representative

Committee on Higher Education

Representative Angus McKelvey and Representative Mark Hashem

DATE: Tuesday, March 20, 2017

TIME: 2:01 PM

ROOM: Conference Room 309

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

By Czarina Ydmarra Isabelle Galario

Waipahu High School Early College Student

escape code out of poverty and the gateway to success. Every single determined student should have the access to college because it does not only pull us out of poverty but also gives us an opportunity to build our credibilities that are very useful in a community who mostly pay attention to our backgrounds.

I modestly submit my testimony in support of Hawaii's Promise Bill which I hopefully will help and support the current and upcoming students who will willingly challenge the college life. We humbly ask for this bill to be passed in hopes of a better life. Instead of making education a debt sentence, we humbly ask that you make education our gateway to our success. On behalf of the rest of the student body, we humbly ask that you give us a chance to change our lives. We PROMISE to strive towards our studies in return to your generosity to fulfill our longtime dreams of having an affordable college. We will work hard in the upcoming years of our education so that we can give back to the community someday. We thank you for lending us your time to listen to our testimonies. We thank you for supporting and investing in the bill that will eventually improve the future of the people.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162

House Committee on Higher Education

March 21, 2017, 2:01pm

Conference Room 309

To: Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Members of House Committee on Higher Education

From: Rouel Velasco, individual citizen

RE: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Access to higher education can be difficult for students from marginalized, disadvantaged and disenfranchised communities. Establishing the University of Hawai'i Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawai'i system is a step in the right direction to make higher education accessible to all.

My name is Rouel Velasco and I am first-generation Filipino American raised in Ma'ili of Wai'anae. I am a proud graduate of Wai'anae High School and a two-time graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a BA in History and MEd in Educational Administration. I have over 10 years of professional experience working in higher education in the area of student activities and student affairs. I am currently employed at UH West O'ahu and have the honor and privilege in working with amazing, courageous and talented college students. I strongly support this bill because financing college becomes one the major predictors for reasons students leave and dropout out of college without a degree. Students at UH West O'ahu and other campuses come to college with enormous responsibilities to the family from caring for parents, grandparents, siblings and for a good sizeable amount are student-parents themselves, caring for their own children. Students cannot solely rely on financial aid to cover school expenses, many of the students I come into contact with work more than one job to make ends meet. While some may argue that college students only focus on their studies, there are many who struggle to manage between school, family, and work. The connecting thread that binds school, family and work is money, to finance college expenses, pay for bills including rent, water and electricity and to work so that all expenses can be covered. This considerable overwhelming stress load affects the college student from being a successful and thriving college student. As a supporter of SB 1162, this program will provide financial support to a great number of students whose dreams and aspirations will now be within reach of attainment.

I support the intent of this bill to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the UH system. Thank you for hearing this bill and for accepting this written testimony.

If you would like to further discuss my support for this bill, I may be contacted at 808-218-0833, or by email, rouel.velasco@gmail.com.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1162 SD2 HD1

House Higher Education Committee

March 21, 2017, 2:01 p.m., Conference Room 309

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey and Vice Chair Mark Hashem
Senate Higher Education Committee Members

From: Juanito V. Moises, Jr., Civil Engineering Student (Junior) at UH Mānoa

Subject: UH Promise Bill

My name is Juanito V. Moises, Jr. I strongly support student scholarships. I am currently a junior as a Civil Engineer in the College of Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am also a program assistant and tutor for GEAR UP Waipahu. GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. We help Waipahu students prepare for college by providing financial literacy workshops, tutoring, and many other opportunities that will equip them in their college journey.

I strongly support this bill. It is just as important to support incoming freshmen and undergraduates who also meet the criteria of unmet financial needs for this bill, and who are enrolled at UH Maui, UH Hilo, UH West O'ahu and UH Mānoa. Also, it would give the community college students scholarships if they transfer to any of the UH universities. It would encourage them to pursue a professional career in a higher degree program and not be limited to just an associate's degree if scholarships are limited to just being in a community college. We need more local students in the professional field.

The passage of this bill is important because scholarships have helped me through college to continue my education in the career of engineering. Only one of my parents have been working and making low income, but they have always encouraged me to do well during my high school years so that I can receive scholarships to pay for my college expenses because they were not able to have enough money to pay for my college expenses. Because of scholarships I have been motivated to pursue a career in engineering. Some of my high school classmates has struggled with financial assistance to go college, and many of them has taken a break from school to work and make enough to at least get into a community college. Others who were already in community colleges has stayed there longer and working part time to accumulate enough money that will help them with their financial struggles so that they can transfer to a university in Hawaii. I believe that scholarships for students in any colleges in the UH system would help them pursue their dreams like how I am pursuing my own dreams of becoming an engineer.

Thank you for hearing these bills and for the opportunity to offer my strong support.

Sincerely,

Juanito V. Moises, Jr.

March 20, 2017

Private Citizen Testimony

Testimony

SB 1162 SD2: Establishes the UH Promise Program

To whom it may concern:

As Filipino graduate of Leeward Community College, a graduate of the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa, and as a current student services administrator at the UH Mānoa College of Education, I strongly write in support of SB 1162 SD 2 that establishes the UH Promise Program which will provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the UH system. I personally have benefited from similar programs in the past that have provided financial assistance to UH students and can see how the UH Promise Program will help improve the higher education achievement of many in Hawai'i.

Higher education costs continue to increase and this especially impacts those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who typically represent ethnic groups that are underrepresented in Hawai'i public higher education.

In particular are Filipinos and Native Hawaiians who respectively represent the 2nd and 4th largest ethnic groups in our state.

SB 1162 SD2 will help to ensure that a significant portion of our Hawai'i population will have access to financial resources that support higher education pursuits.

With higher education as a key means to social mobility and an important factor of an economically thriving community, all of Hawai'i can benefit from SB 1162 SD2.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 12:48 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: lho@hawaiiublicpolicy.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM*

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/21/2017
 Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka'ano'i Walk	Kamehameha Schools	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

Date: March 20th, 2017

The Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Re: Support for SB1162 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. The Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (GSO) stands in **support of SB1162**. The GSO represents approximately 4,700 graduate students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Providing equal access to higher education is a bedrock principle of the GSO. Too often, rising tuition rates have limited that access. While there is a plethora of financial aid programs to help prospective students obtain a college degree, they often fall short of covering the full cost.

A robust system of Higher education is an essential component to building a more dynamic and innovative economy. By providing access to all Hawai'i residents, we ensure that a burgeoning innovation economy benefits local families who may not have the means to cover the rising cost of higher education.

More than just a job training program, we teach our students to think critically and creatively, which enables them to be better citizens and scholars. SB1162 is a promise to the people of Hawai'i that the benefits higher education will remain open all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. **For our students and our communities, we urge you to pass SB1162.**

LATE

Dear
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Higher Education Committee,

I am a highschool student and a college student at the same time. I prioritize education because it is important when gaining success and a career. But not everyone can get higher education.

Education costs a large amount of money. Many people are in debt by the time they get their degree for years. College is has a lot to pay for and not many people have that kind of money. This results into majority of people that are unable to have a chance because they can not attend college for something simple as the cost.

We can solve this problem. It could be easier if we made colleges and high education more affordable to the public than it already is. More people will have the chances and opportunities to learn knowledge everyday.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Laura Daclison

LATE

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1162 SD2
House Higher Education Committee
March 21, 2017, 2:01pm, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 309

To: Chair Angus L. K. McKelvey & Vice Chair Mark Jun Hashem
Members of House Higher Education Committee
From: Nicole Alia Salis Reyes, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Educational
Administration, College of Education, The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Subject: UH Promise Bill

To Chair McKelvey and Vice Chair Hashem:

My name is Nicole Alia Salis Reyes, and I am an Assistant Professor of Higher Education in the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I write in strong support of SB 1162 for several reasons.

Research shows that students from lower socio-economic backgrounds participate in higher education at lower rates than their peers. Yet college attendance has also been found to increase an individual's lifetime earning potential exponentially. SB 1162 would help to alleviate the financial barriers to postsecondary participation that many students from low socio-economic backgrounds face. As more students from such backgrounds become college-educated, they would become better equipped to serve their communities and to contribute to the state's workforce needs in an increasingly globalized, knowledge economy.

Sincerely,

Nicole Alia Salis Reyes, Ed.D.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 12:14 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: elloisep@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

LATE

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELLOISE	university of hawaii-leeward	Support	No

Comments: Rep. Angus L.K Mckeley Chair, HED I am a Leeward Community College student and I highly support SB 1162, SD 2 because I believe that higher education is a key to success and a better future. I am an immigrant who goes to work and school full time and striving for the best. I also believe that this scholarship will help me and my siblings and other family who are struggling financially. It would be my pleasure if this bill gets approved because it will give low income families and students now and in the future the opportunity to pursue a career for a better future. Mahalo for hearing SB 1162!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:15 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: aidalynguerrero0@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM



SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aidalyn Guerrero	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative, Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Higher Education Committee, I strongly support the UH scholarship program. Government need to help us student to pay our higher education because I believe that this program helps us to attend college and help us to pursue our dreams in life. As a student, many of us struggling with financial problems, and this is one of the reason why many student cannot attend higher education. I also believe that having a higher education of students can make a big impact and change in our lives and makes us more knowledgeable in everything especially into our. So help us to reach our dreams and being more determined in pursuing our dreams by approving this program.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:17 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: cabantog@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017
Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Mae Cabantog	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair Members of the House Higher Education Committee I strongly support the SB1162. As an early college student, I believe that higher education should be paid for by grants, and therefore should be free. It should not be a debt sentence. If anything, we should pay for the classes we fail, and not the classes we pass because it'll be a way for students to stay focused in school, and to avoid asking for a student loan. Furthermore, college is a path that gears toward success, so money shouldn't hold students back from pursuing their dreams.

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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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 6:49 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: Alysac@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017
Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alysa Clark	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: To: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair Members of the House Higher Education Committee From: Your name, title, organization Subject: UH Promise Bill I am writing in support of the UH Promise Bill. I feel students of higher education should be able to go to earn a college education regardless of financial status. That would not be possible with the costs of modern tuitions. Students are pressures to get a degree and a life-lasting career in order to be successful in life, but the cost of that can be too overwhelming. I believe this bill should be passed so that our students can earn a better future for them and their communities.

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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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 6:05 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: winniegj@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Winnie Juan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The House HED Rep. Angus L.K. Kelvey Chair, HED My name is Winnie Juan who is a full time college student that lives in Waipahu and goes to Leeward Community College. I am in strongly full support of the Bill SB 1162, UH Promise Program because I do believe students deserve higher education. This is the companion bill of UH Promise Bill. I support the bill because everyone should earn a higher education. Higher education is important for the students now and for the future. It is an investment in me and for the young people today. College now is competitive and if there will be free education then it will have access to those who want to go to college. This higher education is important to me because it will be extended to a 4 year term. This education will help those for their future school career and career. I know that pushing for this bill will take a lot of support from people. I am striving to be a Clinical Medical Assistant and it will take me about fifteen months at Hawaii Medical College. I know this Bill won't cover me because I won't be going to a UH school, but I support those who attend or will attend one. I know that with supporting this Bill will make a difference because it will change how I am financially stabled right now. Lastly, I would like to thank the committee members for considering my testimony to be heard as a voice. I know that scheduling a hearing is a part of the process and needs to be heard. I thank you once again for your time and effort in making this bill a successful one. Sincerely, Winnie Juan

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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LATE

My name is David Ballesteros Brown and I am an Early College student of Waipahu High School who is currently enrolled at Leeward Community College. Through this program I have been able to witness first-hand the benefits of education upon the disadvantages and use how great the impact of it is upon their lives and future. Which is why I firmly believe that House Bill 1594 is of great benefit to the people of our State, and why I would pledge my utmost support for the passing of this bill. By giving the necessary money to individuals within our state in order for them to pursue higher education, we will be ensuring our future as a state, and a nation of progress.

Education is a vital pillar to the functioning and advancement of any society. Without it we would not have the vast exchange of ideas and information that we have today. For without education we would not have the progress that is greatly prized within our state and nation. Yet we continue to make it a struggle to earn a higher education for low-income families, for those who came here for a brighter future. Is it just that we would take away the opportunity for such individuals to earn an education, to ensure that they can provide for themselves and their families? We should not subject the people of this state into a sentence of debt merely so they can achieve the education that is necessary for them to lead a normal life. By paving a path for people of this Island to achieve higher education and a better life for themselves, we can ensure the foundation of our people and the future of our state by entrusting it not to an uneducated populace, but instead one that has had the chance to grow and better themselves with the education provided by this bill.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 2:26 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: lgrand@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM*

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/20/2017
Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Grandinetti	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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Christopher D. Yanuaria
2600 Campus Road
Honolulu, HI 96822



Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:01 PM

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 309

RE: SB 1162 (SD2) RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM.

Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system or any community college campus. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Aloha Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Christopher D. Yanuaria, a proud Filipino and alumni of the University of Hawai`i at Manoa. I am currently working at the University as a junior faculty specialist under the Prevention Awareness Understanding (PAU) Program. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1162 (SD2).**

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 underserved regions and populations (i.e. native Hawaiians and low-income students) 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 this bill is to lessen the financial burden of families and individuals who are underserved to prepare them for success in higher education, the workforce, and their communities.

SB 1162 (SD2) 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 SB 1162 (SD2).

Mahalo,

Christopher D. Yanuaria, MSW
Program Coordinator
PAU Violence Program
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

March 16, 2017

TO: The House of Representatives Committee of Higher Education:
Representative Justin Woodson- Chairperson
Representative Mark Hashem- Vice Chairperson
Representative Richard Creagan
Representative Sharon Har
Representative Kaniela Ing
Representative Takashi Ohno
Representative Richard Onishi
Representative Roy Takumi
Representative Lauren Matsumoto

Late Testimony

FROM: Ariel Wallace-Wong

RE: SB 1162 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM
- **SUPPORT**

Chairperson Woodson and the members of The House of Representatives Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Ariel Wallace-Wong, a current student with the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at The University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing today in support of SB 1162, relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- According to a study done by the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Hawaii ranked third in the nation for college affordability, yet only approximately 44% of the working force in Hawaii has received a post-secondary degree.
- According to the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, higher education has become expensive and unaffordable for low to middle income families, which has led to a high drop out rate.
- According to The Hawaii Education Policy Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, as of 2003, tuition for both resident and non-resident students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa has more than doubled.
- According to The Hawaii Education Policy Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, 46.6% of college students in 2013 who had left the University of Hawaii at Manoa without completing a degree reported leaving due to the high cost of tuition and fees.

For the future of our workforce in Hawaii, it is pertinent to ensure that students who attend college can afford higher education without worrying about all the student debt.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB 1162.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments.

HEDtestimony

**Late
Testimony**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 11:44 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: rjsao@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1162 on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM

SB1162

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 21, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rhonaleih Joy Sao	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair Representative Mark J. Hashe, Vice Chair Members of the House Higher Education Committee The State of Hawaii should help students pay for college because higher education is the key to success. It is a way to shape and build us for future purposes and an opportunity that will transform our aspirations in life into reality. College should not be a debt sentence. These things are the reason why I strongly support SB1162.

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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