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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Filipino  
2 community has grown since the first immigrants came to Hawaii in  
3 1906. According to the 2010 United States Census, people of  
4 Filipino ancestry are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaii,  
5 with fifteen per cent of residents identifying themselves as  
6 Filipino alone and twenty-five per cent of residents identifying  
7 themselves as Filipino and another race. Students of Filipino  
8 ancestry are also the second largest ethnic group in the  
9 department of education and represent more than half of the  
10 student population at Farrington high school, Waipahu high  
11 school, and Lanai high and elementary school.

12       The legislature further finds that, despite their high  
13 representation in the general population and schools within the  
14 department of education, students of Filipino ancestry are  
15 underrepresented in the University of Hawaii system. Filipino  
16 students comprise only twelve per cent of the entire University  
17 of Hawaii system student population. Six per cent of the  
18 community colleges faculty and two and one half per cent of the



1 University of Hawaii at Manoa faculty are of Filipino ancestry.  
2 The fifteen per cent postsecondary degree rate held by Filipinos  
3 is the lowest among all ethnic groups in Hawaii.

4 In 2008, the legislature adopted Senate Concurrent  
5 Resolution No. 120 (S.C.R. No. 120), requesting the University  
6 of Hawaii and the department of education to submit a report to  
7 the legislature on a plan to develop, offer, and expand  
8 Philippine language courses at public schools and University of  
9 Hawaii campuses. More than twenty Filipino community and  
10 student groups supported S.C.R. No. 120, in addition to the  
11 Filipino legislative caucus in the house of representatives,  
12 University of Hawaii, and department of education.

13 In response to S.C.R. No. 120, the University of Hawaii  
14 submitted a report recommending the establishment of a committee  
15 to consider the following tasks:

- 16 (1) Surveying Philippine language courses and courses with  
17 significant Philippine or Filipino ethnic content;  
18 (2) Identifying and supporting public schools and  
19 University of Hawaii campuses interested in offering  
20 new classes or expanding access to existing courses in  
21 Ilokano and Tagalog and related areas;



(3) Incorporating appropriate language and culture in pre-college and college recruitment and retention activities;

(4) Offering workshops, mentoring, and other professional development activities for Ilokano and Tagalog language teachers;

(5) Seeking funds for student support, co-curricular activities, and Philippine language courses; and

(6) Requesting advice and resources from San Diego Philippine language experts, Hawaii organizations, such as KNDI radio and the Filipino Community Center, and other resources.

The legislature further finds that the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council, with representation from Filipino students, faculty, and administrators, organizes annual conferences and periodic workshops on the status and aspirations of Filipinos at the University of Hawaii. The Pamantasan Council was established in 1987 to address:

(1) Filipino student, faculty, and staff representation and success;



- 1 (2) Philippine and Filipino-American courses in the
- 2 curriculum;
- 3 (3) Filipinos in the department of education;
- 4 (4) Filipinos in jobs, careers, and community service; and
- 5 (5) Relations between Philippine and American higher
- 6 education institutions.

7 Furthermore, the Pamantasan Council has the capacity to  
8 engage in substantive discussions with, and reach out to,  
9 community groups, private organizations, and state agencies to  
10 improve the status of Filipino education at the University of  
11 Hawaii and the department of education.

12 The legislature further finds that the activities proposed  
13 by the different campuses require funds and positions to ensure  
14 adequate faculty, student service personnel, lecturers, graduate  
15 assistants, and student staff. Over the years, the Pamantasan  
16 Council has identified priority activities to increase access  
17 and diversity by supporting annual conferences, workshops,  
18 curriculum development, exchange programs, internships, neighbor  
19 island travel, library material, distance education units, and  
20 community partnerships.



1 Increased coordination, additional resources, and expansion  
2 of Philippine studies, Philippine language courses, and content  
3 on the Filipino-American experience in the University of Hawaii  
4 system and the department of education will increase academic  
5 interest, student success, and graduation among Filipino  
6 students.

7 The legislature further finds that support from the  
8 Filipino community will increase the representation of Filipino  
9 students and professionals in the education, health, legal,  
10 business, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
11 fields. In particular, the Pamantasan Council will provide  
12 insight to University of Hawaii administrators and other policy  
13 makers on programs and policies related to Philippine courses  
14 and Filipino students.

15 The purpose of this Act, therefore, is to provide  
16 additional resources to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan  
17 Council to help the State and the University of Hawaii meet  
18 strategic goals for access and diversity.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to



1 fund full-time equivalent positions ( .0 FTE) for the  
2 system-wide Pamantasan Council, including instructional faculty,  
3 student personnel, and graduate assistantships.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
5 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2525.



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Appropriation; Hawaii Pamantasan Council

**Description:**

Appropriates general funds for an unspecified amount of FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students. Effective 7/1/2525. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

