

HB2224 HD1

Testimony

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.
Report Title:	University of Hawaii; Appropriation; Hawaii Pamantasan Council (\$)
Description:	Appropriates general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students. (HB2224 HD1)
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HEA, WAM
Introducer(s):	AQUINO, BELATTI, CACHOLA, CULLEN, DECOITE, ICHiyAMA, KAWAKAMI, MIZUNO, SAY, TSUJI, YAMANE



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
March 22, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

By
Dr. Lori Ideta
Vice Chancellor for Students
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2224 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of HB 2224 HD1, which would provide resources for the system wide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. The word "Pamantasan" is a Filipino word meaning "higher education". The Pamantasan Council, established in 1987, is open to all students, administrators, faculty and staff from the various UH campuses.

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

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

HB 2224 HD1 includes information on recent census, UH and DOE data on Filipinos (second largest group in the state and the department of education) and their under-representation among college graduates, and current UH students, staff and faculty.

The University thanks the Legislature for introducing this bill and for its continuing support for access and diversity.


The University supports the intent of HB 2224 HD1 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pamantasan Executive Council

DATE: March 21, 2016

TO: Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

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

RE: **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2224, HD1 (HSCR822-16)**
Hearing date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 1:30pm

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Higher Education hearing in strong support of HB 2224, HD 1 relating to the University of Hawai'i, to provide resources for the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai'i, the largest immigrant group, and the largest Asian ancestry group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education.

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

Funding for Pamantasan positions and projects will ensure that the state champions educational equity and diversity in higher education. We thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for their continued commitment to diversity to ensure that underrepresented communities in Hawai'i are supported. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support HB 2224 HD 1, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

Pamantasan Council members:

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

Christopher D. Yanuaria
954A ʻĀlewa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817

Rep. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 1:30 p.m.

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 415

RE: HB 2224, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Appropriates general funds for 4.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity, including for programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

Aloha Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Christopher D. Yanuaria, a proud Filipino and alumni of the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa. I am currently working at the University as a Respondent Support Coordinator and Violence Prevention Educator under the Prevention Awareness Understanding (PAU) Program. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2224, HD1.**

I was born and raised in Kahului, Maui where many of its residents 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 Hawaiʻi, the high living and tuition cost made it difficult for my family to get by—not to mention the many unique barriers migrant families face. I have watched both of my parents work long hours and juggle multiple jobs to make sure my sister and I had everything we need. I have realized how blessed I am to have studied in college, and my hope is that other Filipinos can have the same opportunity.

It was concerning for me to learn that in Hawaiʻi 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 Hawaiʻi system. The goal of the Pamantasan Council is to help promote access and diversity on the

University level by addressing unique challenges faced by Filipino families in Hawai‘i. The Pamantasan Council also helps to empower students by teaching and celebrating the rich Filipino culture and heritage, which have been found to improve Filipino enrollment and retention.

SB 2224 is not just good for Filipinos, but it is good for all of us who call Hawai‘i home.
I urge you to please support HB 2224, HD1.

Mahalo,

Christopher D. Yanuaria, MSW
Respondent Support Coordinator
Violence Prevention Educator
PAU Violence Program
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hearing date: March 22, 2016, Conference Room 224, 1:30 pm

Supporting Testimony for HB2224 HD1
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

To Honorable Chair Sen. Taniguichi and Members of the Committee

I am an Administrative Professional Technical staff at the University of Hawaii at Manoa working in student affairs. I am grateful and proud to be involved in Pamantasan and am writing in strong support of HB2224, which would provide resources for the system-wide Pamantasan Council.

Pamantasan has played an integral part in bringing together Filipino faculty, staff and students to address issues of representation for Filipinos across the spectrum of higher education. Filipinos are the second largest ethnic groups in the State of Hawaii, yet the number of Filipinos students enrolled, as well as faculty and staff employed within the UH System are underrepresented. The Pamantasan Council strives to address this issue along with the retention and success of Filipinos system-wide.

As University of Hawaii alumni, I greatly benefited from Filipino language programs and Filipino student groups that Pamantasan promotes and supports. When I became a new staff at the University seven years ago, Pamantasan was one of the first projects I was encouraged to be involved in. I was grateful for the opportunity to connect and build relationships with other Filipino professionals. It was also encouraging knowing that Filipino students have a platform to express their needs, network with potential mentors, and share their educational successes and retention stories.

Funding for Pamantasan would help ensure the continued successes of our students in higher education. Thank you to the legislature for introducing this bill to provide your support for diversity resources in higher education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Pagala Barnett

Date: March 21, 2016

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

From: Sabrina Fallejo Uganiza

Re: Testimony In Support of HB 2224
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

I am a proud Filipina, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa current graduate student, alumni, and currently work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I write in strong support of HB 2224 which would provide funding and resources for the UH system-wide Pamantasan Executive Council.

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

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

I thank the House for introducing HB 2224 and hope that through its passage, Filipina/o students faculty, and staff can continue to thrive in higher education. I strongly support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Executive Council.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at fallejo@hawaii.edu.

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