



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 22, 2018 at 12:30 p.m.

By

Donald O. Straney, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2165 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2165 HD1 that 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 Hawai'i system or any community college campus, appropriates funds to establish and implement the program, and creates a special fund.

Last session the State Legislature appropriated \$1.8M for the Hawai'i Promise program providing for scholarships to assure that community college students with unmet direct costs of their education would have those costs met by grant aid. The program is a last dollar scholarship, meaning that students are first awarded Pell grants, UH scholarships, and private scholarships before being awarded the Hawai'i Promise scholarship if it is needed to eliminate those unmet direct costs.

The program was implemented for Fall 2017 students and as of today approximately 1500 students have benefited from the Hawai'i Promise program at a cost of approximately \$2.2M. The funds needed beyond the \$1.8M appropriated by the legislature were provided from community college operating reserves. Implementation rules for the program were initiated this year and are being incorporated into University of Hawai'i Board of Regent and executive policies.

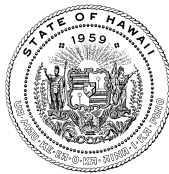
The University fully appreciates the Legislature's expansion of the Hawai'i Promise scholarships through HB 2165 HD1 to reach students beyond the community colleges and to be available to students enrolled at any UH campus who qualify for Hawai'i resident tuition. This broadened accessibility of the program to students at all UH campuses will attract more students, make college more affordable, and create opportunities for 4-year as well as 2-year degrees for our students.

The University respectfully submits one comment on HB 2165 HD1 that proposes to establish a special fund for the Hawai'i Promise program. A separate fund is not required to implement the program and would not be appropriate given the general fund source for the program. A sub account can be created within the University of Hawai'i

general fund to provide for a full accounting of the Hawai'i Promise awards. The University of Hawai'i looks forward to working with the Legislature to fine-tune the language of this bill.

The University of Hawai'i fully supports HB 2165 HD1, and is grateful for the opportunity to provide these comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DIRECTOR

KEN N. KITAMURA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2165, H.D. 1

**February 22, 2018
12:30 p.m.
Room 308**

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

House Bill No. 2165, H.D. 1, 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; establishes the Hawaii Promise Program Special Fund; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for deposit to the special fund; and appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds.

While the Department of Budget and Finance defers to the University of Hawaii regarding the merits of this bill, as a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. With regards to House Bill No. 2165, H.D. 1, the special fund does not meet the criteria of Section 37-52.3, HRS.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/22/2018
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2165, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: 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. Creates a special fund. (HB2165 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2165, HD1. The Department supports opportunities for all public school graduates to have affordable access to quality higher education opportunities at any University of Hawaii campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2165, HD1.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

HB-2165-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 11:29:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Francisco	County of Kauai	Support	No

Comments:



The House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 22, 2018
12:30 PM, Conference Room 308

RE: **HB 2165 HD1 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program**

Attention: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen and members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) **requests the Finance Committee's support for HB 2165, HD1.** For many of our students, even a small amount of funds can make a difference in keeping them engaged in learning and moving toward meeting their educational goals. A wide range of Hawai'i students must make hard choices between supporting their families and being able to continue their education. This legislation is important in making education accessible to more students and reaffirming the commitment to support affordable education.

UHPA requests the committee's support for HB 2165.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristeen Hanselman
Executive Director

University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

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HB-2165-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 11:55:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, February 22, 2018

12:30 PM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2165 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Finance:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No 2165 HD1 relating to University of Hawaii; Promise Program; scholarships; appropriation and a special fund.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. HB2165 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No. HB2165 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") as it 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; and creates a special fund.

Specifically, the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i provides that "[w]e believe that the future of our state as well as our country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. (Platform of DPH, P. 6, Line 296-300 (2016)).

"Consistent with these goals, we seek to make public college, public university, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs available to all seeking further education tuition free." (Platform of DPH, P. 6, Line 318-319 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. HB2165 HD1 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; and creates a special fund, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-2165-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 11:49:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Alvin Cabatic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a student of Leeward Community College, I support the University of Hawaii college program and it's testimony to the bill. This will be very helpful and important to me, other current students, and even future students to attending a college including universities. This bill should be approved for the affordability of higher education. Many students struggle in attending college financially. Approving this bill is important to many of us students of University of Hawaii.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2165

Senate Higher Education Committee

February 21, 2018, 12:30 p.m.

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Members of House of Finance Committee

From: Djojeanne Simon

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2165 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.

My name is **Djojeanne Simon**. I am a University of Hawaii student, studying at UH Leeward. I graduated from Waipahu High School with honors. Now, aside from school, I also work at a theater. However, despite that I have been working, my mom still refuses to let me contribute to our bills. She said that I should save the money for the future just in case FAFSA stops to provide for my tuition. And that is why I support HB 2165.

If it were not for FAFSA, I would not be able to continue studying, as the money I earn is not enough to cover my tuition either. My mom is still paying off the loans of my older brother, added to that is the house rent, phone bills, and other necessities. I am in support of the said bill, not only because of me, but also, I know there are other students who are doing their best to balance work and school. We also have to think of those who aspire to study but cannot afford to. Personally, I am afraid if I will be able to continue due to college costs. My dream is to be a clinical psychologist, or even psychiatrist. Would it be too much to say that I also want to be a drama teacher? It is really heartbreaking that what is hindering you from achieving your dreams is money.

So, I am really grateful to those who submitted HB 2165. You gave us, who really loves learning, a hope.

Thank you,

Djojeanne Simon

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of House of Finance Committee

From: Christine Kaye Guira

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2165 HDI

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.

Hello my name is Christine Kaye Guira, I am currently studying at Leeward Community College and I am majoring in computer science. This is now my 2nd year of college. Someday, I want to achieve my goal of becoming a Computer Science Degree holder because I want to contribute in expanding the industry of technology and give back what society have given me.

I support this HB2165 Bill because it seeks to help students who are struggling for paying their tuition. I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to continue their studies because people who goes to school are more likely to achieve their goals and not become a burden to our society.

If it weren't for my FAFSA, I wouldn't even know how my studies would be. The FAFSA helped a lot to students because we are not forced to work just to pay for our tuition. Nobody wants to work and then in a span of few months the money is gone because we had to pay for our bills to survive. There are some students who are striving hard to graduate but it is becoming harder for them because the cost of living is becoming more expensive, not only that they have to go school and work at the same time, some of the students that I know are working 2 or more jobs to pay for their expenses inside and outside school.

Thank you for supporting this bill, it can help a lot of college students with their problem with money and not only that you support it, instead you really pushed it to be put in hearing. I hope this bill will be passed as soon as possible. We are willing to study hard to get the grade that you require.

LATE

HB-2165-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:28:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amy agbayani	Filipina Advocacy Network FAN	Support	No

Comments:

I respectfully request you vote for hb2165, hd.1.

Mahalo plenty. Amy Agbayani, Filipina Advocacy Network



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Date: February 22, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: HB 2165 HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Cullen, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to support HB 2165 HD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program, which will provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawai'i system or any community college campus.

Post-secondary success of Native Hawaiian students is a significant objective of Kamehameha Schools and we believe that the Promise Program is an important step toward making college accessible for all students. Please **support** this measure.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.