



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

10:10 Tuesday February 28, 2023

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 959 RELATING TO
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PAMANTASAN COUNCIL

SUBMITTED BY: Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights

Co-chairs, Amy Agbayani and Patricia McManaman

Chair de la Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee;

I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR) in strong support of SB 959 a bill that addresses access, equity and inclusiveness for Filipinos at UH. I would like to note that I am an Emeritus Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Equity and Diversity and a member of the Pamantasan Council. Pamantasan is a Filipino word for higher education. SB 959 appropriates funds and 3 FTE to the Pamantasan Council. HB968 builds on Act 266 (2019) and SCR 132 (2022)

The SCR 132, report to the 2023 legislature includes “ information regarding the 2019 appropriation; resource and budgetary needs; recommendations on curriculum development; and representation and success of students, faculty, and staff.” The report clearly establishes the urgent need for the state legislature to support the long-term efforts of the UH Pamantasan Council and the University of Hawai'i to increase the number and success of Filipino Americans in the UH system. Filipino Americans continue to be underrepresented as students, staff, faculty administration and curriculum

My testimony in support of HB 968 references the Report to the 2023 Legislature on the Pamantasan Council Systemwide Efforts to Improve the Status of Filipino Americans at the University of Hawaii https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/bills/DC246_.pdf

1. Act 266 approved two positions and \$155,000 for the Pamantasan Council in 2019. Due to position freeze during the pandemic, the two positions were not established but the appropriated funds were productively used to increase enrollment and enhance the academic success of Filipino Americans in the UH system. Efforts are underway to develop and offer multi-campus Filipino courses and certificates.

2. Filipino Americans continue to be underrepresented as undergraduate students in the UH system (14.1 percent) in comparison to their proportion of public school students 2 | Executive Summary (23.7 percent) in Hawai'i, among which they are the largest ethnic group. Filipino American undergraduates have their highest percentage representation at Maui College (25.3 percent) and UH West O'ahu (22.3 percent). However, they persist in being considerably represented below parity at UH Manoa (10.8 percent) and UH Hilo (6.2 percent). Among graduate students, Filipino Americans are especially underrepresented at only 5.4 percent of such students at UH Manoa. At the UH community colleges, Filipino Americans (17.8 percent) are significantly underrepresented compared to their percentage of Hawai'i public school students. They have their greatest representation at Leeward (21.7 percent) and Honolulu (17.5 percent) Community Colleges. Filipino Americans who seek higher education in Hawai'i primarily enroll in the UH community colleges; however, sufficient transfer to the UH four-year universities continues to be an issue of concern.

Filipino faculty, particularly tenure track positions are severely underrepresented at all campuses (e.g. at Manoa there are only 22 tenure track Filipino faculty and represent 2.5% of Manoa and only two interim top administrators).

Many campuses do not offer Filipino/Philippine content courses. The Pamantasan Council is working to offer multi-campus Filipino courses and certificates.
3. Three positions requested in SB 959 are recommended in UH SCR 132 report to the 2023 legislature: Manoa Student Equity Excellence and Diversity office, Maui College Leeward Community College to develop and offer curriculum at all campuses.

Since it was established in 1988, the UH Pamantasan Council as a systemwide organization has led and supported efforts to meet the University's goals of equity and inclusion, as well address workforce needs, curriculum, research and community service. I respectfully request you approve this bill to provide 3 FTE and funds for Pamantasan Council multicampus programs.

Amy Agbayani, Emeritus Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Diversity

Co-chair Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights.

February 27, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 959

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

We are Filipinx/a/o students representing the Samahang Filipino Club at Hawai‘i Community College in Hilo. **We submit this testimony in strong support of SB 959**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **We urge you to support this measure.**

We support a bill to appropriate funds to the UH to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai‘i because there are many needs that Filipino students have that should be addressed. One of the issues is that although the majority of Filipino students in the UH system are at the community college, and we are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai‘i, there are no courses available for us to learn about our history or culture at our campus. To make up for this, we have created a student club, however, it is difficult to maintain the club without the support of courses that can complement the mission of the club.

During COVID-19, Filipino courses offered at Leeward CC have become accessible to us, since they became offered online. We hope that if this measure passes, efforts to make Leeward CC's Philippine Studies Certificate program available online, across the UHCC system as a hub and spoke can be supported. We feel that every student should be given the opportunity to learn about Filipino history, culture, and social issues and that our General Education and graduation requirements should be inclusive of Filipino curriculum. Passage of HB 968/HD 1 can support initiatives such as these by allocating funds to replace the full-time, tenure track position teaching Filipino Studies at Leeward CC to support the program's expansion to serve the needs of Filipinx/a/o students like us, across the UHCC system.

Many of our Filipinx/a/o students experience shame in their identity, experience mental health challenges, lack adequate representation in our curriculum, and need greater resources to support and encourage our transfer to the 4-year UH system. **We ask for your support for SB 959—to allocate funds for three full-time positions to address the needs of Filipinx/a/o students in the UH system.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by:

Ela Mae Gamilo, President, Samahang Club of Hawai‘i CC

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 959

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 1, 2022, 10:10 am

Hawai'i State Legislature

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 211

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Vice-Chair Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran
Committee on Ways and Means Members: Henry J. C. Aquino, Lynn DeCoite, Kurt Favella, Lorraine R. Inouye, Dru Mamo Kanuha, Michelle N. Kidani, Donna Mercado Kim, Chris Lee, Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Glenn Wakai

From: Agnes Malate, PhD
armalate@yahoo.com

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in full support of Senate Bill 959 to fund three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions for the system-wide Pamantasan Council. I am a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action and have worked 30 years to increase student diversity in education from high school to college. As a Faculty Specialist who was able to earn a PhD in Educational Foundations at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) with the incredible support of professors, mentors, colleagues, and students, I am a beneficiary of the transformative power that a college degree has for an individual, family, and community. I can also attest to the direct impact that affirmative action and diversity programs have had on improving the lives of the students who participated in these programs.

The Pamantasan Council was established in 1987 to address the academic success and careers of Filipinos and the quality of education for all students at the University. As a young professional who had just joined the staff at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, I was excited to be part of the planning committee for the first system-wide Pamantasan conference that included students, staff and faculty the following year. For the first time there was a unified effort to understand and address the needs of Filipinos in education and the workforce.

The Council convenes every year, rotating among the UH campuses, to share our efforts on increasing the student, staff, and faculty representation throughout the system. We also are concerned with the underrepresentation of Filipino teachers and administrators in the department of education, especially in comparison to the disproportionately higher enrollment of the Filipinos in the public school system. Incremental steps have been made in offering Philippine and Filipino-American courses in the curriculum. However, after over 35 years it is critical that funding is provided to implement the recommendations and strategies set forth in previous Pamantasan reports. Activities proposed by the different campuses, require funds and positions to ensure adequate faculty, student service personnel, lecturers, graduate assistants, and student staff.

According to the UH Institutional and Research Office Fall 2022 enrollment data (<https://www.hawaii.edu/institutionalresearch/home.action>), Filipino students enrolled in the UH Community Colleges is 17.8% but are only 9.3% at UHM (10.6% of all undergraduates and 5.4% of all graduates). These figures continue to be lower than Filipino students' public school enrollment (22.6%) (<http://arch.k12.hi.us/reports/hidoe-data-book>). Examining selected majors, 9.4% of Filipinos are in education, 4.4% in law, and 6.5% in medicine. The only major that Filipinos have consistently been well represented is nursing (24.3%). It is the most popular major that Filipinos are encouraged to pursue. In large part due to the high percentage of Filipino nurses in the workforce and access to them via a network of family and friends, a career in nursing has been a proven career path for Filipinos. For many Filipinos who are first-generation college students they lack role models, support systems, and university services to help them successfully navigate the higher education setting. However, they possess the ingredients to excel in education, contribute as professionals in Hawai'i's workforce, and be outstanding leaders.

As the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i, it is critical that attention be given to the challenges faced by this population and funding be provided to support the efforts of the University of Hawai'i. I am grateful to the Committee for strengthening the University of Hawai'i's and the Pamantasan Council's ability to respond to the growing needs of the second largest ethnic group in the State and urge you to pass SB 959.

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.

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:19:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winona K Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 27, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 959

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, and Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Winona Lee and I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 959 - a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent (FTE) academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

SB 959 will help to secure important staff positions required to advocate for and address issues related to the underrepresentation of Filipino students within the overall UH system and the challenges facing Filipino students as they transfer from community colleges to 4-year University campuses. These positions will ensure a collective effort will be sustained to address these critical educational and equity gaps for deserving Filipino students and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Winona Lee

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:51:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Balbag-Gerard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 27, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 959

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Erica Lei Balbag Gerard and I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 959, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

I provide this testimony on behalf of myself, a private citizen from Aiea, Oahu and as a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii Manoa campus. As a student affairs professional at one of the University of Hawaii Community Colleges, it saddens me to see that issues of Filipino representation continue to persist for the next generation of learners. In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai'i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968 will directly support staffing to address these issues and give hope to a new generation of Filipino learners for an education that leads to a better quality of life for them and their families.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai'i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately

underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system. Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master's degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master's degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Lei Balbag-Gerard

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 2:33:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Halagao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Professor at the University of Hawaii, Manoa College of Education. I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawaii.

I strongly support SB 959, **a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions.** The Bill will provide the necessary funds to create systemic conditions that will lead to the equitable representation and success of Filipino faculty and staff at the University of Hawaii, ultimately benefitting Filipino students in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your support.

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:36:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leon Florendo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 27, 2023

Testimony to The Senate: Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 959

Aloha Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Kieth Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Leon Fuimaono Florendo. I am member of the University of Hawai‘i Pamantasan Executive Council and Leeward Community College Pamantasan Committee. I am also Associate Professor Counselor at Leeward CC Wai‘anae Moku Education Center and I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawai‘i (UH). I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 959. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the UH Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. ***I am strongly urging you all to support SB 959.***

On December 22, 2022, University of Hawai‘i submitted a report to the legislature in response to passage of SCR 132, reporting on the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai‘i. The report highlights issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation.

Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai‘i make up 25% of the state's population. Filipinos are the largest ethnic group in the Hawai‘i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population. In the UH system, Filipino students are disproportionately underrepresented at only 14.1%.

In the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system,

the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college system and are most likely not to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

In closing, your support for SB 959 will directly ensure that the UH Pamantasan Council will be able to address the UH student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation issues. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo, Salamat po

Leon Fuimaono Florendo

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:43:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leon Florendo	Testifying for Sariling Gawa Youth Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 27, 2023

Testimony to the Senate: Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 959

Aloha Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Kieth Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Leon Fuimaono Florendo, President of Sariling Gawa Youth Council. We are submitting this testimony in ***strong support of SB 959*** a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for 3 full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. We are urging you all to support ***SB 959***.

Sariling Gawa Youth Council has been dedicated to Filipino youth leadership development efforts since 1980. Ensuring that Filipino youth are empowered to be community leaders with a deep understanding of their history, languages, culture and values. Over 3,000 high school students across the state have participated in our annual Sariling Gawa’s Youth conferences and workshops. Throughout our organization’s 40 plus year history, these students expressed a common desire which is to increase their pride, respect and appreciation of their Filipino cultural heritage.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the UH submitted a report to the legislature on December 22, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968 HD1 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai‘i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai‘i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDEOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UH Institutional Research Office (IRO) 2019 data, out of the total

6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UHIRO have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master's degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master's degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is our hope that by UH reporting on its efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "Hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "Spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. The passage of HB 968 HD1 will support these efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, Sariling Gawa Youth Council strongly urge you all to support **SB 959** to appropriate funds for 3 full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon F. Florendo

President – Sariling Gawa Youth Council

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 4:00:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen-Rae Cachola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Ways and Means Committee,

Please support SB 959. This will help to support the recruitment and retention of Filipinos into our four-year universities, to aspire toward professional degrees and higher levels of education. Supporting them through this bill can contribute to Filipino/a/x growth in leadership, through the workforce, and through expertise to advocate for our communities' needs.

Mahalo,

Ellen-Rae

February 27, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 959

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Jeanne Batallones and **I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 959**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure.**

I am a Counselor at a UH Community College and a member of the UH Pamantasan Council. I have worked as a counselor within the UH system for the last eight years, and in the community college system for the last 19 years. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as an Filipina educator and community advocate.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai‘i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for SB 959 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai‘i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai‘i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master’s degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of

Japanese students earned a master's degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. **Passage of SB 959 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.**

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, **I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Batallones, Ed.D

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Time: 10:10 AM

Place: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

February 27, 2023

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

I am sending testimony in strong support of SB 959, relating to appropriating funds to the University of Hawai‘i Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions.

My name is Phillippe Fernandez-Brennan and I am a PhD student in Education: Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM), member of the UHM College of Education Tinalak Council, council member of the College of Education Doctoral Student Association (COEDSA), and member of the Pamantasan Council. I have also taught in the Hawai‘i public schools for the past 10 years. I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawai‘i nor the Hawai‘i Department of Education.

I strongly support SB 959 because Filipinos are the largest non-White and Asian ethnic group in Hawai‘i, with 25% of the population identifying as Filipino. The majority of Filipinos in Hawai‘i are Ilokano, coming from the Northern region of the Philippines. Despite a strong presence in Hawai‘i since 1906 and significant contributions to the fabric of Hawai‘i, Filipinos as a community, continue to struggle socially, politically and economically.

Filipinos in Hawai‘i have undergone what is interpreted by scholars as a “process of cultural and ethnic disidentification,” a denial of their heritage and embrace of the dominant ideologies of a local identity while being aware of their marginalization and the lack of social benefits for being Filipino in Hawai‘i.

At the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM), 2021 data showed that Filipinos accounted for only 5.9% of faculty at the UHM. Data from 2016 indicates the same trend of Filipinos accounting for only 2.6% of the entire UHM faculty. At the College of Education (COE), Filipinos are disproportionately underrepresented among the COE faculty with only 5 of 174 faculty members (2.8%) of Filipino heritage. Fall 2021 data indicates that Filipinos are underrepresented at the College of Education as teacher candidates and graduate students. Filipinos represented only 11% of teacher candidates and 7.6% of graduate students at the COE. As the highest producing licensure Education Preparation Program (EPP) in Hawai‘i, this low

number of Filipino teacher candidates consequently leads to under-representation of Filipino teachers and administrators employed in the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE). The most recent data in 2021 shows that Filipinos have one of the lowest representations of teachers (7.4%) and administrators (5.1%) employed by the HIDOE. This is problematic because Filipino youth represent the majority of the students in Hawai‘i public schools. I argue that there is a link between the underrepresentation of Filipino teachers and administrators and lack of Filipino curriculum to persistent low performance, low achievement and lack of success among Filipino students at Hawai‘i K-12 public schools.

The Pamantasan Council advocates for the increased representation of Filipino-focused courses and faculty in higher education. Thus, the Pamantasan Council provides the need for oversight and accountability at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa for access to higher education, support of Filipino students, and to ensure equitable representation of Filipino students, the largest K-12 public school student population. I fully support SB 959 1 to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillippe R. Fernandez-Brennan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phillippe R. Fernandez-Brennan

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 5:13:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marnelli Joy Ulep	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee Senators Aquino, DeCoite, Inouye, Kanuha, Kidani, Kim, Lee, Moriwaki, Shimabukuro, Wakai, and Fevella.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 959. As a member of the Hawaii community and the daughter of Filipino immigrants, **I submit this testimony in support of SB 959 appropriating funds to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council.** The positions supported by these funds would help the work the UH Pamantasan Council does to improve the status of Filipinos throughout the UH system and the state of Hawaii.

The University of Hawai‘i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022 to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation.

Currently, I am a Program Support Staff at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu campus for the Business Administration Division. I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawaii, the West Oahu campus, or the Division.

I am a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa two times over and throughout my student and professional career, the UH Pamantasan Council has supported me and provided encouragement and resources for this first-generation college student.

Through my experiences working in community organizations and in education, I see the value of perspectives and representation throughout all aspects of learning, mentoring, and empowerment that occur in higher education. Filipinos have and continue to make an impact on the state of Hawaii which makes the need for further representation of Filipinos as student, faculty, and staff, and in the curriculum, important. An appropriation of funding for these positions would enhance the Pamantasan Council's efforts to address and advocate for representation of Filipinos and to improve Filipino American success throughout the UH system.

Agyamanak unay and thank you for your support and consideration.

Paula T. Morelli, PhD, LLC
1511 Ehupua Place, Honolulu, HI 96821
morelli@hawaii.edu

February 27, 2023

Committee on Ways and Means: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair & Senator Glibert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair,

RE: SB959

Dear Committee on Ways and Means: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair & Senator Glibert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair,

My name is Paula T. Morelli, an independent research and behavioral health consultant, and University of Hawai'i retired faculty. I am testifying in support of SB959 for funding related to the three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions which deliver **the Pamantasan Council's systemwide efforts to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawaii.**

I support and strongly endorse Pamantasan's critical work in developing and educating Hawaii's Filipinos in their educational quest. The Pamantasan network prepares Filipino students across the state with a strong foundation to be contributing citizens. Investing in Pamantasan's personnel infrastructure is vital to maintaining and strengthening their long-term positive outcomes.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Paula T. Morelli, PhD, LLC

February 27, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 959

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

We are Filipinx/a/o students representing the Samahang Filipino Club at Hawai'i Community College in Hilo. **We submit this testimony in strong support of SB 959**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **We urge you to support this measure.**

We support a bill to appropriate funds to the UH to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai'i because there are many needs that Filipino students have that should be addressed. One of the issues is that although the majority of Filipino students in the UH system are at the community college, and we are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i, there are no courses available for us to learn about our history or culture at our campus. To make up for this, we have created a student club, however, it is difficult to maintain the club without the support of courses that can complement the mission of the club.

During COVID-19, Filipino courses offered at Leeward CC have become accessible to us, since they became offered online. We hope that if this measure passes, efforts to make Leeward CC's Philippine Studies Certificate program available online, across the UHCC system as a hub and spoke can be supported. We feel that every student should be given the opportunity to learn about Filipino history, culture, and social issues and that our General Education and graduation requirements should be inclusive of the Filipino curriculum. Passage of HB 968/HD 1 can support initiatives such as these by allocating funds to replace the full-time, tenure track position teaching Filipino Studies at Leeward CC to support the program's expansion to serve the needs of Filipinx/a/o students like us, across the UHCC system.

Many of our Filipinx/a/o students experience shame in their identity, experience mental health challenges, lack adequate representation in our curriculum, and need greater resources to support and encourage our transfer to the 4-year UH system. **We ask for your support for SB 959—to allocate funds for three full-time positions to address the needs of Filipinx/a/o students in the UH system.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by:

Ghelie Lei Tamayo, Secretary, Samahang Club of Hawai'i CC

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 10:35:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorenzo Perillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 27, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 959

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Lorenzo Perillo and I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 959, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

I am a first-generation Filipino American who was born here in Honolulu and now a tenured professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I see first-hand the educational gaps at the university level that impact Filipinos in Hawai'i and beyond. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as an individual citizen.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai'i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for SB 959 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai'i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master's degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master's degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of SB 959 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorenzo Perillo, PhD

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 12:01:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayland Quintero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means on **SB 959**

Kumusta to Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

How can the Hawaii State Legislature fulfill promises and demonstrate its commitment to meaningful inclusion of a major local ethnic constituency while helping to cultivate an authentic sense of belonging within our public higher education system for people who identify as Filipino?

As a member of the Filipino American community, I strongly support SB 959 as a way forward toward substantively instilling and strengthening faculty and staff equity in the UH/Community College system, particularly at the campuses for which the three positions are proposed.

By approving funding for the faculty position at Leeward Community College, the State Legislature would restore the former fulltime position that was held by a longtime faculty member before he had to retire due to medical reasons in February 2020. When the pandemic hit, this vacant position that held great significance for students and community members, especially on the West Side of Oahu, was somehow taken away. Full passage of SB 959 would restore the position and once again open the door for a dedicated instructor-coordinator to teach the courses, run, sustain, and further develop the only the Filipino Studies program among all of the community college campuses. By restoring this position at LCC, the Legislature would be demonstrating its commitment to the original promise made when the LCC teaching position was first created.

The two Pamantasan staff positions were approved by the Legislature in 2019. However, the pandemic prevented follow-through on full implementation. Now that we have entered a post-COVID era of restoration, more meaningful inclusivity and forward thinking, you have a prime opportunity in this session to make good on the promises made in 2019 for these two staff positions.

We in the Filipino American community strongly support and look forward to the Legislature to make good on promises by advancing and fully funding the three faculty and staff positions articulated in SB 959.

Salamat and Mahalo!

Wayland Quintero

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 12:29:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree Quintero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee::

SB 959 is an important bill to pass as it would address Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, particularly at the campuses for which the three positions are proposed. Two Pamantasan positions were approved in 2019, but the pandemic affected the positions from being fully realised. The teaching position at Leeward Community College would restore the former full-time position that was taken away at the beginning of the pandemic. This position should be restored to sustain and support the growth of the Filipino Studies program at LeeCC.

I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council. The Filipino American community strongly supports the restoration of all three positions.

Respectfully,

Desiree A. Quintero

February 27, 2023

Testimony

Re: for SB959

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Norman Arancon and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure.**

I am a Professor and I provide this testimony on behalf of myself.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai‘i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai‘i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai‘i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HODOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master’s degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master’s degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,


Norman Arancon, Ph.D.

Testimony to Senate Committee on Ways and Means
in Support of SB 959

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

March 1, 2023

My name is Jonathan Y. Okamura, and I am professor emeritus in ethnic studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I have done research and published on Filipino Americans in Hawai'i for thirty-five years and have taught the Ethnic Studies course on Filipinos in Hawai'i. I also contributed to organizing the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council when it began in 1988.

Fully aware of some of the difficulties that Filipinos have experienced in attaining a college education in Hawai'i, I express my full support of SB 959. The bill provides for three full-time equivalent positions for the UH Pamantasan Council because it has never had any designated full-time staff since it was established. Despite the lack of such staff, through the voluntary efforts of Filipino staff, faculty and students, the council has accomplished much in advancing their academic success and status in the UH system, including increasing graduation rates at the four-year campuses.

However, underrepresentation of undergraduate students at UH Manoa, UH Hilo, and most of the community colleges remains a continuing problem. As Filipinos have recently emerged as the largest group of students in the public schools at almost one-fourth, the critical need for administrative staff to direct and coordinate the Pamantasan Council's activities, including recruitment to and retention in the UH campuses, has gained in importance.

I kindly request that you support SB 959 because it will provide for equal educational opportunity for Filipinos in Hawai'i. Thank you for your attention to this request.

February 28, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 959

Aloha Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am Ginger Hamilton, former Director for the Minority Access & Achievement Program (MAAP), at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHHilo). This program was established and funded by the legislature in 1990, to address the under-representation of ethnic minorities, including Filipinos, pursuing higher education. **I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 959**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure.**

I have retired from UHHilo, but am aware that the issues that impede equal representation among Filipinos continue to persist. MAAP provided services that promoted student and academic development, encouraged transfer from the community colleges, addressed cultural awareness/enrichment and focused on increasing retention and graduation of minority students. The office was committed to advocating for equal access, fostering a climate that supports success through peer mentorship, assessing student learning and personal development, creating opportunities that motivate and inspire students, and developing collaborative partnerships with faculty and others. Unfortunately, upon my retirement in 2018, UHHilo did not fill this position that addressed the needs of underrepresented students, including Filipinos. Hence, the importance of the Pamantasan Council in addressing what each of the UH campuses are doing regarding the recruitment and retention of Filipinos in higher education.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai'i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to outline the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for SB 959 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai'i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master's degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master's degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, the Filipino Studies program at UHHilo, which was established in 2012, after many years of community input and petitions, is still struggling for adequate funding and positions causing the program to stagnate and not to grow and expand.

The campus climate is an important factor in the ability of a student to be able to navigate and integrate into the institution. Filipino students face many challenges such as racism and discrimination, lack of role models, financial difficulties, cultural identity, culture shock, socialization and many are first generation college students. It is hoped that by reporting on UH endeavors to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts to address these such issues can be realized.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginger Hamilton, former Director
Minority Access & Achievement Program
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
ion and eligible for financial aid.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pamantasan Executive Committee

DATE: February 28, 2023

TO: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: Christine Quemuel 
UH Pamantasan Executive Committee

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 959

HEARING: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 10:10 am
Conference Room 211

HB 968 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

My name is Christine Quemuel, and I am a member of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Executive Committee. I submit this testimony in strong SUPPORT of SB 959, which would appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i systemwide Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

The Pamantasan Executive Council is the University of Hawai'i systemwide organization concerned with the status of Filipinx participation on all UH campuses throughout the state. The Pamantasan Council was established in 1987 to address Filipinx representation and success on campus and to ensure that Filipinx American and Philippine courses are represented in the curriculum. The Executive Council is also charged with issues concerning Filipinx representation in the Department of Education, Filipinx workforce participation, 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 your continued commitment to access and 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, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly SUPPORT the passage of SB 959, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

LATE

February 28, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 959

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Ana Bravo and **I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 959**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure.**

I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as a Filipina American instructor supporting students at the community college, where a majority of our Filipino students are.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawai'i submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for SB 959 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawai'i Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master's degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master's degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of SB 959 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Ana Bravo

LATE

SB-959

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 11:58:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wilfredo tungol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM committee:

My name is Wilfredo Tungol and I am submitting my testimony in strong support of this bill.

I am an alumnus of UH Manoa, receiving both my undergraduate and law degree from the Shidler College of Business and the Richardson School of Law. Filipino students were underrepresented even back then (early 70's) with less than 2% of the undergraduate population. Today, the Filipino student population remains underrepresented at UH-Manoa.

I believe that this bill will help address the inequality and disparity in the UH Manoa and allow Filipino students in the community college system to continue with their higher education.

Please pass this important bill.

Wilfredo Tungol

BBA, 1976, JD 1979