

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2023

RE: S.B. No. 959

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 959 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council to expand its capacity to support educational equity for Filipinos and other populations underrepresented in higher education.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council Executive Committee; Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights; Sariling Gawa Youth Council; Samahang Filipino Club of Hawai'i Community College; National Alliance for Knowledge, Empowerment, and Meaning; and sixteen individuals.

Your Committee finds that while there have been significant increases in the representation and success of Filipino students, faculty, and staff within the University of Hawai'i System, Filipino Americans continue to be underrepresented as undergraduate students (14.1 per cent) in comparison to the proportion of Filipino American public school students (23.7 per cent) in Hawaii, among which Filipino Americans represent the largest ethnic group. The University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council helps to address this underrepresentation of Filipinos within



higher education through curriculum development, programming, and support services.

Your Committee also finds that the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council does not limit its activities to individuals of Filipino descent. The Council actively supports and engages in outreach to other populations also underrepresented in higher education, such as individuals of Micronesian descent. Despite the Council's wide reach, the Pamantasan Council depends upon volunteers, limiting its capacity to serve the entire University of Hawai'i System. To expand the Council's capacity to support educational equity for Filipinos and other underrepresented populations in higher education, this measure appropriates funds for three Academic and Support Services Specialists for the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council to continue to support the University's goals of equity and inclusion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 959 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,

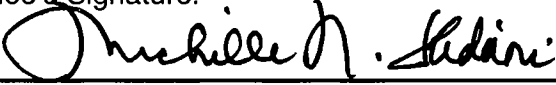


DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 959	Committee Referral: HRE, NAM	Date: 2-7-23		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	/			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes