



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

Date: 02/18/2015
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0487 RELATING TO A STATE-FUNDED COLLEGE GRANT PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a state-funded Aloha Grant Program, to be developed and administered by the Department of Education.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports this bill to establish the Aloha Grant Program and provide appropriations to award college tuition assistance grants to eligible public or private high school students . However, the Department requests that any appropriation for HB 487 not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget request.

Two comments:

- Clarification on eligibility may be needed for part (b) as it appears to require that individuals belong to two mutually exclusive groups: "high school students" and those that have "obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent."
- Any appropriations for this program would reduce the proportion of the Department's budget that is expended by principals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB487

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Nishihara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: From the office of the President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii, I support this bill. A possible amendment would be adding a probationary period on page 2, line 12, like how the regents and presidential scholars have a probationary period for academics.



ASUH
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i
YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Martin M. Q. Nguyen
Chairperson
ASUH Committee on External Affairs

February 18, 2015

Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Chairperson
House Committee on Education
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813



Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno and Members,

I am submitting testimony in my capacity as the ASUH Committee on External Affairs Chairperson in support of HB 487 which establishes a state-funded Aloha Grant Program, to be developed and administered by the Department of Education.

Now more than ever, our State is seeing our best and brightest leave for the mainland and other destinations in search of fulfillment of their higher education goals. We as a state must strive for a multi-faceted solution that HB 487 fulfills by actively demonstrating to students that the State Legislature want them to stay in Hawaii for their higher education, not simply through words but, through action.

Various other states have introduced state funded grants and scholarships to incentivize their students to remain in their state and contribute towards shared growth and development. The State of California has established the very successful Cal Grant program, administered by the California Student Aid Commission, which awards various types of need-based and competitive grants "up to \$12,192 a year to pay for college expenses at any qualifying California college, university or career or technical school in California" (CalGrants, 2014).

While I understand that there is an issue in regards to the source of monies for a program such as the Aloha Grants, please understand that the students of Hawaii and the public would very much like to see the State Legislature truly begin to invest in the future, through education. If not, we will only continue to see the trend of sons and daughters of Hawaii leaving the islands and never returning.

After discussion with the members of the ASUH Committee on External Affairs, we agree that HB 487 creates opportunities of incredible value to the current and future students of the State of Hawaii and would demonstrate a step in the right path for education.

Therefore, I strongly recommend that this bill be passed through the House Committee on Education.

Sincerely,

Martin M. Q. Nguyen
Chairperson, Committee on External Affairs
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



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MAILING ADDRESS

PO. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawai'i 96823

February 13, 2015

Chair Takumi and the Education Committee

Re: HB 487 Relating to State-funded College Grant Program
Hearing on Feb. 18, 2105

Dear Rep. Takumi and Committee Members:

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 487 to create a state-funded college grant program for eligible high school students, to be known as the aloha grant program. Individual grant amounts shall be not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$5,000 per recipient and may be applied annually, up to a maximum of four years. Too many students are not getting the skills they need to compete in the world because they cannot afford college tuition. If these students are willing to forgo some income to take time to be a student, we should make it as easy as possible. This bill is a good step in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President

HB487

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Nagaji	Iolani Political Activism Club	Support	No

Comments: House Committee on Education Testimony for HB 487 Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 2 p.m. The Honorable Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and members of the committee: My name is Dave Nagaji and I am submitting testimony in support of HB 487, which establishes the Aloha Grant program. Paying college tuition has been a significant problem for my generation. There are, of course, the fortunate few whose families are wealth enough to afford the tuition payments without a problem. Beyond that, some students are high academic or athletic achievers, earning them scholarships. While it is true that these people are able to afford college, the average student has been largely neglected. Not all students have the wealth or the great talent to easily afford a higher education. Many are too concerned with sustaining themselves and their family members to invest in their future. It is for these reasons that the we find a grant for Hawaii residents attending local colleges, universities, and community colleges necessary. Such aid would benefit the State of Hawaii in two ways: Those who could not otherwise afford higher education would now have it put within their reach, and those who could leave for the mainland would now have a financial incentive to stay here. In these two ways, the amount of well educated people within Hawaii would increase, benefitting all residents. Sincerely, Dave Y. Nagaji, representing the Iolani Political Activism Club

HB487

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Though I did not understand where the monies for the grant would be found, I support this bill because our keiki can often use any help possible to fund their schooling after high school.

HB487

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Froilan Garma	Individual	Support	No

LATE

HB487

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Schulz	Individual	Support	No

LATE

HB487

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kendyl Oshiro	Individual	Support	No

LATE

HB487

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxie Kamoshida	ASUH	Support	No

LATE

HB487

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerrin Lawi-an	Individual	Support	No

LATE

LATE

HB487

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Zakimi	Individual	Support	No

LATE

LATE

HB487

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Krystal Shon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please make this available to local youth.

LATE

LATE

HB487

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vicki	Individual	Support	No