



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

Date: 02/21/2019
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 1277, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawaii campus who meet certain eligibility criteria. Makes an appropriation for the Hawaii Promise Program. (HB1277 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1277, HD 1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Board of Education approved budget. 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 1277, HD 1.

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.



HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER

TESTIMONY TO HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center (<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/hepc/>) is the only public institution in Hawai‘i completely focusing on the constitution, laws, policies, programs and practices of Pre-K through adult education. Affiliated with the University of Hawai‘i’s College of Education, HEPC currently receives no financial, compensation, operational or facility support from the University.

February 21, 2019

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2019

TIME: 12:30 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 308

RE: HB 1277 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

HEPC SUPPORTS THE FUNDING, BUT NOT ALL THE DETAILED POLICY REQUIREMENTS.

CONCERNS:

1. Overly Prescriptive language. Legislative Committees are not best equipped to take on the details of program design or adjustments. The Board of Regents and the UH Administration should be given the flexibility, as intended by the Constitution, to design, refine, and manage this program. Such detailed elements such as the number of credits taken, whether a low income student may need to take a semester off, or work to support the family....this bill erroneously assumes that those most in need should behave the same as those who come from more advantaged circumstances.

For a great many students, eight semesters is not enough time to gain a degree. HEPC suggests that this list of requirements be framed as: *The Board shall consider...*rather than hard-wired requirements.

HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER

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Dr. Jim Shon, Director Phone (808) 282-1509 • jshon@Hawaii.edu

<http://manoa.Hawaii.edu/hepc/>

“5) Has been determined by the campus to have unmet direct cost needs.

(c) A student enrolled in an undergraduate program at a University of Hawaii campus, other than a community college campus, shall be eligible for scholarship consideration for **a maximum of eight semesters** if the student:

- (1) Qualifies for Hawaii resident tuition;
- (2) Completes and submits the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each academic year and accepts all federal and state aid, grants, scholarships, and other funding sources that do not require repayment;
- (3) Is enrolled in a classified degree or certificate program with **twelve or more credits** per semester;
- (4) Maintains **satisfactory academic progress**, as defined by federal requirements established pursuant to Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and determined by the campus at which the student is enrolled; and
- (5) Has been determined by the campus to have unmet direct cost needs.

2. The Promise Program is Not a question of “Statewide” concern justifying overriding the Board of Regents’ constitutional authority. This is not a case where the UH is reluctant to implement the program. Let them do their job.

3. Discouraging The Most Needy. Recent studies on similar mainland programs (Early College, etc.) suggest that inflexible, though well intended desires for accountability, requirements may actually be structurally discouraging the very students the Promise program was intended to assist.

4. Need for More Ongoing Data. Rather than hardwiring into law inflexible attempts at accountability, it may be wiser to channel these goals into identifying, describing, and tracking participants.

At this point in time, HB 1277 HD1 is making assumptions about its impact and effectiveness that are not yet supportable by good data. Among the assumptions, which are valid up to a point, are the following:

- That the program serves students who would not be attending college without the Promise Program – primarily for financial reasons;
- That students who are most likely to qualify are not already advantaged by supportive families, high levels of motivation and academic success;
- That, in the end, the Promise Program is serving the most needy.
- That the current per pupil cost of the program is appropriate.

HEPC suggests that in addition to the well deserved appropriation for a program that may have a positive impact, the bill be amended to gather data as the program is implemented.

“PROPOSED SECTION 2. The University shall utilize questionnaires, surveys, focus groups, faculty and advisor views, and other feedback mechanisms to examine the following:

- (1) To what extent the numbers and percentages of Promise Program qualifying students would have been likely to attend the University of Hawaii without the benefit of the Promise Program;***
- (2) To what extent the number and percentage of Promise Program qualifying students who begin the program are unable to complete the program or comply with its requirements;***
- (3) To what extent Promise Program students will be more likely to receive a degree sooner as a result of the Promise Program due to financial considerations; completely focusing on the constitution, laws, policies, programs and practices of Pre---K through adult education. Affiliated with the University of Hawai‘i’s College of Education, HEPC currently receives***

no financial, compensation, operational or facility support from the University.

(4) A breakdown of the per pupil costs of the program; and (5) Potential adjustments to the Promise Program to ensure it better serves the intended student beneficiaries.

Beginning in September 2021, and each September thereafter, the University shall provide an annual report on the Promise Program and the findings of this section.”

HEPC would also note that some of the same assumptions and data gaps also exist in many of the Dual Enrollment, Early College, Jump Start, and Advanced Placement International Baccalaureate programs. All of these are great additions to our public education system. Yet in their design, funding sources and amounts, we find that we can see correlations between those who participate in college success, but not yet causation. Some national studies do suggest the “most likely to succeed” are the most likely to take advantage of them. Should Hawaii want to tweak their design to ensure the most needy are indeed participating, such surveying and data collection is essential.

Thank You For Your Consideration of This Amendment to HB 1277 HD 1



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**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 21, 2019, 12:30 p.m.**

By Jill Hasegawa, President, University of Hawai'i Alumni Association

HB1277, 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 submit testimony in strong support of HB1277, HD1, which provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawai'i campus who meet certain eligibility criteria and makes an appropriation for the Hawai'i Promise Program.

My name is Jill Hasegawa, a proud alumna of the University of Hawai'i (UH) and Board President of the University of Hawai'i Alumni Association (UHAA) that encompasses and represents more than 300,000 alumni who have graduated from the University of Hawai'i system.

UHAA acknowledges and recognizes the legislature for providing funding the past two years to support the Hawai'i Promise Program at the community colleges. Due to its great success, the UH is now requesting funding to expand the program to qualified students at four-year institutions, which will significantly enhance the number of economically disadvantaged students who can attend and graduate from the University of Hawai'i. Expanding this program will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges.

We strongly support this request and ask for your support as well. It would be a great source of pride for both UH alumni and the community as a whole, to be able to provide our students with this assistance. We all know that the key to Hawai'i's economic well-being relies heavily on an educated workforce, and providing access and affordability to our state's only public higher education institutions are a necessary first step.

On behalf of UHAA, its leadership, and members, we thank you for your past commitment and service to our community, our state, and support of our UH 'Ohana. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

With Warmest Aloha,

Jill Hasegawa
University of Hawai'i Alumni Association President, JD '04



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.

By

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

HB 1277 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

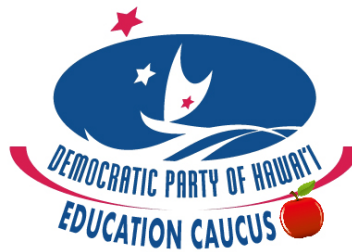
Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1277 HD1, which would provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawai'i campus. Importantly, it would amend Section 304A-506 to expand the Hawai'i Promise program to qualified Hawai'i resident attending 4-year programs at the University of Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Promise program provides financial assistance to students with financial need (as determined based on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to meet the cost of tuition, fees, books and transportation. It would be awarded only to students to meet need remaining after federal and other need-based aid is awarded.

Expanding the Hawai'i Promise program to qualified students in 4-year degree programs at the University of Hawai'i is the highest priority in the Board of Regent's budget request for the university this year. Expanding this program to all university undergraduate programs will significantly enhance the number of economically disadvantaged students who can attend—and graduate from—the state's public university. It will be a significant step forward in expanding access to economic opportunity for Hawai'i's students and preparing the educated workforce the state will need to grow in the coming decades.

The program is effective for students in the community colleges, where participation in Hawai'i Promise has led to increase student success in their programs. Many of these successful students will be ready to transfer to a 4-year UH degree program. A 4-year version of Hawai'i Promise will help these students afford the continuation of their education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HOUSE BILL 1277, HD 1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 21, 2019 · HOUSE FINANCE
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. SYLVIA LUKE

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 1277, HD 1, relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program, which provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawaii campus who meet certain eligibility criteria and makes an appropriation for the Hawaii Promise Program.

Hawai'i Promise is a scholarship program that provides free in-state tuition for qualified University of Hawai'i community college students with financial needs. Hawai'i Promise is a "last dollar" scholarship that covers direct education costs—tuition, fees, books, supplies, and transportation—for eligible students, meaning that it applies to needs not met by other forms of financial aid, such as federal grants or financial assistance from UH, employers, and other private sources.

Hawai'i Promise was established by state leaders through appropriations in the 2017 and 2018 legislative sessions, with the program's funding totaling \$2.5 million. For the 2017-18 academic year, approximately 1,500 students received Hawai'i Promise scholarships to support their community college education, with the average student award being \$1,200. Many students who graduate from community college plan to seek admission to UH's four-year degree-granting programs. Extending Hawai'i Promise to cover such programs will allow impoverished students to reach their goal of earning a bachelor's degree, which may otherwise be cost prohibitive.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Date: February 21, 2019

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: **HB 1277, 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, the Senior Policy Analyst for Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools is in **support** of HB 1277, HD1, which provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawai'i campus who meet certain eligibility criteria and makes an appropriation for the Hawai'i Promise Program.

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. We also commend the University of Hawai'i in administering this program in the community colleges, covering the unmet needs for over 1,400 students, and increasing the retention rate. **Please advance this measure.**

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and 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.

**Testimony Presented Before the
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 21, 2019 at 12:30 pm
Ken Hayashida, President
KAI Hawaii, Inc.**

HB 1277 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1277 which provide “last dollar” scholarships for the unmet need of qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawai‘i system who meet certain criteria.

I strongly support the expansion of the Promise Program. As a UH Alum and business person, I am proud of the education I received at the University of Hawai‘i and recognize the critical role UH plays in educating our citizenry for Hawai‘i’s multi-faceted workforce.

Since the Promise Program’s inception, the UH Community Colleges were able to assist 1,500 students through this program. These students and their families are now facing a more stable and prosperous future thanks to the direct support our state leaders provided to this innovative program.

By expanding the University of Hawai‘i Promise Program we can remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges. This will ensure that promising, ambitious students have the resources they need to focus on their studies, prepare to join our workforce and make positive contributions to our state.

Their future success impacts us all.

By expanding the University of Hawai‘i Promise Program we can help our state’s educational leaders meet the goal of having 55% of working-age adults hold a two- or four-year degree by the year 2025. Achieving this goal is critical to Hawai‘i’s future economic health, and our community’s wellbeing.

More Hawai‘i residents with college degrees are needed to fill workforce demands of the future.

With your support, we can ensure our state has the qualified workforce and expertise we need for balanced economic and social well-being. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.