



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
February 8, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

By
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Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1455 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1455. The University of Hawai'i Maui College International and Regional Partnership Office was inspired by Filipino leaders guided by the spirit of Filipinos' immigration to Hawai'i in 1906. The Office's overall intent is to open the doors to more international countries for our students to study, changing the narrative and mobilizing a new generation of students in Hawai'i by supporting their international mobility.

Through our experience in the Philippines with the support and funding of the I.M. Ready Program and the community we, the four delegates, were able to have an experience that would otherwise not be possible. . . Through programs such as the I.M. Ready Program, I can formulate my own ideas and set new goals because of these personal experiences. Lastly, I will be forever grateful to all the new acquaintances and friendships that I have formed and have kept up with until this day. All of these are reasons why future students will benefit from international programs and why I will be returning to the Philippines as much as I can in the future.
(Alickzander Pasalo - UHMC Student IM [International Mobility] Ready Program October 11, 2018)

Our goal is to facilitate collaboration by bringing together diverse international stakeholders in science, education, business and government, the humanities and technology among our partnerships in Philippines, Prague, Japan/Okinawa and Taiwan. The Office provides a platform to foster creativity and respond to emerging challenges in our lives, communities, and the world through compassion, problem-solving and novel innovations.

The opportunity to rediscover one's roots, while earning valuable workforce development skills and international sensibilities on innovation, culture and community are among the higher education options we wish to offer our students." (University of Hawai'i Maui College Chancellor Lui Hokoana)

HB 1455 proposes to fund the University of Hawai'i Maui College's International and Regional Partnership Office that includes: one full-time position for an international educational management specialist; one part-time position for an international/regional partnership specialist; and funds to support study abroad opportunities for University of Hawai'i Maui College students.

In closing, the University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1455 on the condition that any positions or funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Biennium Budget Request.

Thank you for considering this testimony in your deliberations.

HB-1455

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:29:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1455

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 12:22:18 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/8/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kit Zulueta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson and members of the Committee,

My name is Kit Zulueta Furukawa, Marketing Director of UH Maui College. I am testifying in support of House Bill 1455, appropriating funds to the University of Hawaii Maui College's international programs.

Last June, I had the honor of leading four UHMC students to a 2-week immersion in the Philippines in a program we call I.M. Ready, which stands for International Mobility Ready. The program aims to empower students by providing them opportunities to gain global experiences, expand their network and build lasting relationships beyond the islands of Maui County. The students attended classes in our partner universities and brought back with them not only wealth of information, but genuine friendships made with their professors and classmates. It was a trip to remember.

This was made possible because of the support of Filipino leaders in the Maui community who believed in the program. We raised enough funds to execute a decade-long vision, and now come before the legislature as we deem it is appropriate at this point for our international efforts be supported to scale.

Other reasons why I support this measure:

1. While many community colleges across the nation - UHMC included - experience challenges in enrollment, it is important to innovate and find ways to remind our students of the benefit of learning and continuing their education. By expanding our partnerships in the US Mainland, in Asia and Europe, we will be able to showcase why Maui no ka oi when it comes to innovation.
2. As numbers in our visitor industry soar, our local students seek experiences outside our waters. We want them to experience the uncomfortable to gain courage and sensibilities to survive in the world, highlighting how relationships blossom among individuals who have different skin colors and speak different languages, yet we are all the same.
3. Finally, the impact made by international programs - study abroad or exchange programs, to our students are mindblowing. Plants without roots cannot grow, and

seeing how the minds and hearts of these students have changed is an investment worthy pursuing.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB1455.