



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

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

### HB 813 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 813 HD1, which establishes the University of Hawai'i Promise Program Plus.

This program would provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawai'i campus who had previously received a Hawai'i Promise scholarship while enrolled at one of the University of Hawai'i community colleges. 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 will significantly enhance the ability of community college students to transfer to a 4-year program and it will increase the number of economically disadvantaged students who can earn a bachelor's degree from the 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 soon 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.

The university is concerned, however, that students who did not qualify for Hawai'i Promise at the community college might nevertheless have unmet need when they attend a 4-year program. It would be unfortunate to exclude these students with unmet need from the benefits of this program. We estimate that approximately 858 community college graduates would benefit from the version of the Hawai'i Promise program described in this bill: 540 who would attend UH Mānoa, 114 who would attend UH Hilo and 201 who would attend UH West O'ahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-813-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 8:38:37 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/19/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support HB813 HD1. Education is a life long tool enabling opportunities for a better life. Anything that the state can do to assist students, especially those economically disadvantaged is helpful.



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

**LATE**

**Date:** 03/19/2019

**Time:** 03:00 PM

**Location:** 229

**Committee:** Senate Higher Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0813, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program Plus to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in a bachelor's degree at the University of Hawaii who are (1) graduates of a University of Hawaii community college who received a Hawaii Community College Promise Program Scholarship; and (2) enrolled at any University of Hawaii campus. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. (HB813 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 0813, HD1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Department's 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 provide testimony on this measure.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

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

**HB813, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB813, HD1, Establishing the University of Hawai'i Promise Program Plus to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in a bachelor's degree at the University of Hawai'i who are: (A) Graduates of a University of Hawai'i community college who received a Hawai'i community college promise program scholarship; and (B) Enrolled at any University of Hawai'i campus; and (2) Appropriating funds to establish and implement the 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. As provided for in this bill, expanding this program will effectively remove cost barriers to higher education for community college students now in the Hawaii Promise Program who will have this assistance when they continue their education at a four-year campus.

We strongly support this request and ask for your support as well. It would be a great source of pride for UH alumni and the community as a whole, 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. 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 supporting this measure.

With Warmest Aloha,



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

**OFFICERS**

Jill Hasegawa, JD '04  
*President*

Brandon Kurisu '99  
*First Vice President*

Jason Haruki '00  
*Second Vice President*

Randy Lu '94  
*Treasurer*

Amy Hennessey '96  
*Secretary*

**BOARD of DIRECTORS**

Jodi Endo Chai '93

Daniel Chun '02

Donalyn Dela Cruz '97

Sharla Hanaoka '95, '01

William Haning, III, MD '75

Ken Hayashida '83

Wesley Kimura '82

Ian Kitajima '85, '89

Diane Kodama '91

Rufino Dan Magliba '08, '10

Marilyn Moniz '76, '79

John Morton, PhD '97

Lauren Nahme '90

Dean Nakasone '79

Norman Nakasone '81

Thelma Nip '50, '61

Shannon Tangonan Putnam '92

MaryAnn Sacharski

Dana Takushi '91

Sharene Urakami-Oyama '93

Paul Yokota '79

**EX OFFICIO**

Arnold Kishi '71, '81

*Assistant Secretary*

Bernadette Baraquio '94, '96

*Past President*

Janet Yoshida Bullard '82

David Lassner, PhD '98

David Matlin '97

Donna Vuchinich

contact@UHalumni.org

2440 Campus Road, Unit 307

Honolulu, HI 96822-2234

808-956-2586/1-877-UH-ALUMS