



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

by

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

HB 2250 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding HB 2250 HD1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program Plus.

The University of Hawai'i (University) supports the intent of this bill, as expanding the Hawai'i Promise Program to qualified students in four-year degree programs at the University is the highest priority in the Board of Regent's budget request for the University this year. The intent of HB 2250 HD1 is understandable as the University recognizes that there are current and projected job shortages in the fields of teaching, health care, social work and engineering.

The University would welcome the opportunity to assist students pursuing future employment in these fields. There would be some difficulties administering such a program. For example, providing aid as a scholarship that ends up having to be repaid when students do not complete the program or do not spend three years working in the field in Hawai'i. These conditions effectively turn the scholarship into a loan program. Another difficulty is in the field of teaching, in particular preparation for secondary teaching. Students are accepted into the program after the completion of their General Education Core and after completing the majority of their academic major content courses, which then limits the student's eligibility for the Hawai'i Promise Program Plus. While the University is willing to find ways to undertake and overcome such challenges for the benefit of having this program, managing such a program would place an administrative burden on the University to collect monies from students who do not finish their program or work for three years in the State. Therefore, there are processes that must be adequately resourced.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 20, 2020

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 2250, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS
Hearing Date: February 21, 2020
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Room 308

Bill Description: Establishes the University of Hawaii promise program plus to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in bachelor's degree programs in teaching, health care, social work, or engineering at the University of Hawaii who commit to work for at least three years in Hawaii. Appropriates funds to establish, implement, and manage the program. Takes effect on 7/1/2050.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Comments

Good morning. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on H.B. 2250, H.D. 1.

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

If this measure is enacted, we respectfully request that early childhood education be included among the degrees covered by the scholarships. Early childhood education is one of the fields in Hawaii that are sorely lacking a pool of qualified workforce candidates.

One of the things we've learned from our Program as well as our collaborative work across private and public partners in the field is that most if not all of us cannot find enough qualified staff to expand quickly.

As we work to increase access to qualified early learning opportunities for our keiki, we must focus on addressing the severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators.

We have been in discussions with legislators, and working with higher education and other stakeholders statewide to understand how we can find creative ways to increase our early learning workforce to achieve the Legislature's vision.

We believe that incentives such as that proposed in this bill would be mutually beneficial for both the community and our students who are interested in entering the field of early childhood education.

Thank you for your consideration.



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

Date: 02/21/2020
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2250, 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 bachelor's degree programs in teaching, health care, social work, or engineering at the University of Hawaii who commit to work for at least three years in Hawaii. Appropriates funds to establish, implement, and manage the program. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2250, 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. We appreciate the legislature's inclusion of a three-year commitment to working in Hawaii in order to take advantage of this program. It is the Department's hope that this requirement will encourage program participants to elect teaching as their designated choice of employment. Programs such as this support the Department's on-going efforts in teacher recruitment and retention.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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.



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

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Friday, February 21, 2020, 11:00 AM

Re: COMMENTS FOR HB 2250 HD1: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

My name is Landon Li, and I am the President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii (ASUH), the undergraduate student government at UH Mānoa. We represent the voices of over 10,000 full-time classified undergraduate students on the UHM campus. The ASUH would like to offer **comments** on **H.B. 2250 HD1: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS**.

The ASUH appreciates the intent of this bill, which is to provide Promise Program funding to four-year institutions. However, we have concerns regarding some of the requirements it places upon students. Targeted scholarship funds for students who need financial aid incentivizes selecting majors and degrees that may not be best suited for them. This results in prolonged graduation rates, as students switch majors realizing their current path does not fit them, or even worse, they drop out. By dictating which fields of study are more valuable, this measure presents financially-needy students with an ultimatum between pursuing a major that does not fit them and forgoing college altogether.

The ASUH also has concerns regarding how the three-year work commitment would be overseen and implemented. Graduating students may wish to attend graduate school or other professional schools. Would they then be incentivized to not pursue higher levels of education? If exceptions are made for students who wish to pursue a post-undergraduate degree, how would that be enforced?

While the ASUH understands Hawaii is suffering from a “brain drain” in specific industries, targeting undergraduate fields of study would not directly address the underlying causes. Many educators, such as those teaching history, English, and computer science, for example, do not have education degrees. Rather, they specialize in their area of expertise and later go on to become educators. Pursuing a non-targeted field does not diminish a student’s potential contribution to Hawaii.

On behalf of the 10,000 full-time classified, undergraduate students on the UH Mānoa campus, the ASUH appreciates your intent to provide support for students needing financial aid.

Thank you very much for your time.

Landon Li, President
Associated Students of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa
landonli@hawaii.edu



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Date: February 21, 2020

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: HB 2250, HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program Plus

E ka Luna Ho'omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Cullen, a me nā Lālā o kēia Kōmike, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk, the Senior Policy Analyst for Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools is in **support** of HB 2250, HD1, which establishes the University of Hawai'i Promise Program Plus to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in bachelor's degree programs in teaching, health care, social work, or engineering at the University of Hawai'i who commit to work for at least three years in Hawai'i. This measure also appropriates funds to establish, implement, and manage the program.

We commend the legislature for funding, and the University of Hawai'i for administering, this program in the community colleges, which covered the unmet need costs for over 1,400 students and increased the retention rate. We support the expansion of the program to serve more of Hawai'i's college students in need, especially Native Hawaiians.

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! **Please advance this measure.**



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: HB 2250 HD1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PLUS
PROGRAM**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **offers the following comments on** HB 2250 HD1, which would establish the University of Hawaii (UH) Promise Program Plus to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in bachelor's degree programs in teaching, health care, social work, or engineering at the University of Hawaii who commit to work for at least three years in Hawaii. This bill would also appropriate funds to establish, implement, and manage the program.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Established in 2017, the Hawaii Promise program currently provides financial aid for any qualified student at UH Community Colleges. This program provides students aid for any financial needs not met by other forms of financial aid such as federal grants and benefits, and scholarships from UH or other sources.

While the Chamber supports the intent of HB 2250 HD1, we would note concerns around administrative costs related to the provision that requires the University of Hawaii to recoup scholarships if graduates leave Hawaii within three years of graduation and how they would be tracked after leaving.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

| OFFICERS | DIRECTORS | | | MAILING ADDRESS |
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| John Bickel, President | Melodie Aduja | Chuck Huxel | Stephen O'Harrow | P.O. Box 23404 |
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| Doug Pyle, Secretary | Stephanie Fitzpatrick | Dave Nagaji | | |

February 19, 2020

TO: Chair Luke and Members of Finance Committee

RE: HB 2250 HD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program Plus

Support for hearing on February 21

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB2250 HD1 as it would provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in bachelor's degree programs in teaching, health care, social work, or engineering at the University of Hawaii who commit to work for at least three years in Hawaii. So many students today have difficulty financing higher education. There are shortages of qualified people for jobs in nursing, education, and engineering. This bill would both help young people who need to finance their education and support our job market with qualified new applicants.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,
John Bickel, President





February 21, 2020 at 11:00 am
Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Director of Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 2250 HD 1, Relating to the University of Hawaii Promise Program Plus

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** this legislation. We appreciate the legislature's commitment to strengthening the healthcare workforce pipeline to address current needs and meet the demands of our aging population.

Our organization recently completed a supply and demand survey that found that there are more than 2,200 open positions in 76 non-physician, patient-facing roles. HAH and its members are actively working on several initiatives to help meet the current needs of healthcare organizations in the state, and this measure would help to support efforts to strengthen the workforce pipeline for critical industries facing a shortage, including healthcare. We also believe that industries such as healthcare can provide a promising career path for local students to find gainful, well-paying work with growth opportunities.

Efforts to help reduce any barriers for students interested in healthcare professions will be very important as we look at our current and future needs in the workforce. We support efforts by the legislature to strengthen our workforce pipeline in healthcare and appreciate the opportunity to support this measure.

HB-2250-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 4:52:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alan Urasaki | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2250-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 6:03:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leimomi Khan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Support HB2250, HD1. This is a well-written measure that encourages students in need of financial help for their education to pursue study in fields where there is a shortage of qualified persons, that is in the fields of teaching, health care, social work, or engineering. Also, support an amendment that would include Early Childhood Education. Especially meaningful is the accountability provisions of this legislation that requires commitment of the student to work in Hawaii for at least three years in these fields. Further, 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.

HB-2250-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 7:09:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shaun | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

HB 2250 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS

POSITION: Support

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

My name is Shaun Stone, and I am a student at UH Manoa. I am an undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. As part of my education, I'm directly helping our community by doing fieldwork assisting the homeless veterans in getting back their dignity.

I want to thank you for hearing this critical bill and the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2250, which establishes the University of Hawaii's promise program plus. To provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in bachelor's degree programs in teaching, health care, social work, or engineering at the University of Hawaii who commit to work at least three years in Hawaii.

According to a survey conducted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the cost of student loans delay marriages, kids, and home purchases. Due to the high cost of housing, Hawaii is losing teachers, health care workers, social workers, and engineers who are moving to the mainland. This bill will help offset the departure of college graduates who quickly realize the cost of living in Hawaii and paying off student loans becomes too difficult.

I would prefer to stay in the State of Hawaii and help solve the many problems that our community faces. Your support for this bill will help improve the teacher, health care, social work, and engineering recruitment problems that Hawaii is facing.

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Friday, February 21, 2020, 11:00 AM

HB 2250 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM PLUS

IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

My name is Lilian Burgo, and I am a student at UH Manoa. I am an undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I want to thank you for hearing this bill and the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2250, which establishes the University of Hawaii's promise program plus. Base on its great success, I support this bill that provides scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled in bachelor's degree programs in teaching, health care, social work, or engineering at the University of Hawaii who commit to work for at least three years in Hawaii.

According to a report written by Lauren Walizer, nearly three in four students experience unmet needs, making it a nearly universal phenomenon among today's students. I can definitely agree that students who have experience unmet needs suffer between their well-being or their education. Currently, I am a full-time student who works at 2 part-time jobs and barley surviving by paycheck to paycheck and I still have to pay my unmet needs. I want to be able to help my community, but it is impossible to help others when you are unable to take care of your well-being.

This bill HB2250 will greatly help many students, including myself, to continue school without the worries of deciding their education or well-being. I also conclude that this bill will help improve the teacher, health care, social work, and engineering recruitment problems that Hawaii is facing.

Thank you very much for your time.

Lilian Burgo

Reference

Walizer, L. (2019, May 6). When Financial Aid Falls Short: New Data Reveal Students Face Thousands in Unmet Need. Retrieved February 20, 2020, from <https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/when-financial-aid-falls-short-new-data-reveal-students-face-thousands>

