



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 22, 2018 at 12:30 p.m.

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

HB 2501 HD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Last session the State Legislature appropriated \$1.8M for the Hawai'i Promise program providing for scholarships to assure that community college students with unmet direct costs of their education would have those costs met by grant aid. The program is a last dollar scholarship, meaning that students are first awarded Pell grants, UH scholarships, and private scholarships before being awarded the Hawai'i Promise scholarship if it is needed to eliminate those unmet direct costs.

The program was implemented for Fall 2017 students and as of today approximately 1,500 students have benefited from the Hawai'i Promise program at a cost of approximately \$2.2M. The funds needed beyond the \$1.8M appropriated by the legislature were provided from community college operating reserves.

Implementation rules for the program initiated this year are consistent with the conditions described in section 2(b) of HB 2501 HD1 and are being incorporated into University of Hawai'i Board of Regent and executive policies.

The Board of Regents has requested an additional \$700,000 in the supplemental budget to raise the fund to \$2.5M. These additional funds will allow the University to actively market the program to prospective students and provide an incentive for students to pursue higher education.

Finally, HB 2501 HD1 proposes to establish a special fund for the Hawai'i Promise program. A separate fund is not required to implement the program and would not be appropriate given the general fund source for the program. A sub account can be created within the University of Hawai'i general fund to provide for a full accounting of the Hawai'i Promise awards.

In closing, I wish to thank the Legislature for their commitment to the Hawai'i Promise program and the funding that was provided this past year. Our highest priority is to expand the program to attract more students and we hope that you will give full consideration to our supplemental budget request.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DIRECTOR

KEN N. KITAMURA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2501, H.D. 1

**February 22, 2018
12:30 p.m.
Room 308**

**RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE
PROGRAM**

House Bill No. 2501, H.D. 1, establishes the Hawaii Community College Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at a community college; establishes the Hawaii Community College Promise Program Special Fund; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for deposit to the special fund; and appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. With regards to House Bill No. 2501, H.D. 1, the special fund does not meet the criteria of Section 37-52.3, HRS.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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

Date: 02/22/2018
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2501, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. (HB2501 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2501, HD1. The Department supports opportunities for all public school graduates to have affordable access to quality higher education opportunities at any University of Hawaii Community College campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2501, HD1.

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.

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 11:31:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Francisco	County of Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 22, 2018, 12:30 P.M.

By Bernadette Baraquio

HB 2501 HD1– RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2051 HD1 which provides “last dollar” scholarships for the unmet need to qualified students at any campus of the University of Hawaii system who meet the certain criteria. I strongly support HB 2501 HD1.

As a proud UH Alum and President of the UH Alumni Association, I am grateful for the education I received at the University of Hawai'i and recognize the critical role UH plays in educating the future generations of our state.

The University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program will effectively remove cost as a barrier to higher education for UH students statewide facing prohibitive financial challenges. It will ensure that promising ambitious students have the resources they need to focus on their studies and build a better future for themselves and their families.

Their future success impacts us all.

In times of economic uncertainty, investments in higher education are more critical as institutions of higher learning are essential to preparing students for the current and future workforce.

We all talk of focusing on the quality of education offered at our institutions. However, we cannot speak quality without first addressing funding to preserve and enhance the worth of education.

The University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program will continue to work toward our 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 well being.

As John F. Kennedy once said, “Let us not think of education only in terms of its costs, but rather in terms of the infinite potential of the human mind that can be realized through education. Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our Nation.”

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Warmest Aloha, Bernadette Baraquio, UH Alumni Association President

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 11:47:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, February 22, 2018

12:30 PM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2501 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No HB2501 HD1 relating to University of Hawaii; Community College Promise Program; Scholarships; and appropriations.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. HB2501 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No. HB2501 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") as it establishes the University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawaii system and appropriates funds to establish and implement the program.

Specifically, the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i provides that "[w]e believe that the future of our state as well as our country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. (Platform of DPH, P. 6, Line 296-300 (2016)).

"Consistent with these goals, we seek to make public college, public university, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs available to all seeking further education tuition free." (Platform of DPH, P. 6, Line 318-319 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. HB2501 HD1 establishes the University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawaii system and appropriates funds to establish and implement the program, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:20:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaylyn Idefonzo	University of Hawaii-Leeward	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2501 HD1 because I am a working student that is struggling to pay for my education.

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:19:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dustinn Doloroso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2501 to help the students in the School for their need.

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:19:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gian Paulo A Mauricio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 11:45:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Cabanatuan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm a student at leeward community college and I support the HB2501. I believe higher education is something very important not only for me but for others in the future.

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 11:49:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
baby jane pacleb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

As a current student of UH-Leeward, and a mother of two, financial help is very important. I have receive scholarshpos in the past, and this made a huge difference in my life as a student and as a mom. I was able to be a full time student, and focus on my studies. In the past, I used to work some hours, to earn the money for my tuition and for my personal needs. As we all know, living in Hawaii is very expensive, and most of the time, two jobs are needed just so we can meet all our needs. But with all the scholarships that the government is offering for deserving students, we are able to make enough time for our studies and for our family.

I am hoping that this Bill will passed because this will help many students. It will have a big impactb on students, their families, even in our society. The more students that are able to finish college, the greater their chance to get a higher paying job. I believe that through this bill approved, it will lessen people depending on government. I think that this is a better way to help the peopel of Hawaii, better than FOOD STAMP or FREE Medical. More college graduates, lesser people needing assistance from government, lesser homelessness problems, and better future.... Better Hawaii.

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 11:51:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tylor Pavao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2501 because I believe that everyone is entitled to higher education to better their lives, and the lives if the world.

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of House of Finance Committee

From: Christine Kaye Guira

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2501 HDI

Establishes the University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program to provide scholarship for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawaii.

Hello my name is Christine Kaye Guira, I am currently studying at Leeward Community College and I am majoring in computer science. This is now my 2nd year of college. Someday, I want to achieve my goal of becoming a Computer Science Degree holder because I want to contribute in expanding the industry of technology and give back what society have given me.

I support this HB501 Bill because it seeks to help students who are struggling for paying their tuition. I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to continue their studies because people who goes to school are more likely to achieve their goals and not become a burden to our society.

If it weren't for my FAFSA, I wouldn't even know how my studies would be. The FAFSA helped a lot to students because we are not forced to work just to pay for our tuition. Nobody wants to work and then in a span of few months the money is gone because we had to pay for our bills to survive. There are some students who are striving hard to graduate but it is becoming harder for them because the cost of living is becoming more expensive, not only that they have to go school and work at the same time, some of the students that I know are working 2 or more jobs to pay for their expenses inside and outside school.

Thank you for supporting this bill, it can help a lot of college students with their problem with money and not only that you support it, instead you really pushed it to be put in hearing. I hope this bill will be passed as soon as possible. We are willing to study hard to get the grade that you require.

To:

From: Marjorie Kay Raquiz

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2501

Establishes the University of Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. (HB2501)

Hi my name is Marjorie Kay Raquiz. I am a resident of Waipahu, District 94. I am a current student of Leeward Community College. This is my second semester in college. I am majoring in Computer Science and currently working on my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. I will be transferring to University of Hawaii Manoa in Fall 2018 to pursue my Master's Degree in Computer Science.

I am supporting UH Promise Program because I know it will help a lot of people who wants to pursue higher education and achieve their dreams like me. College cost a lot of money and money should not be the reason for people not to go after their dreams. In my family, there's two of us that are attending college. My sister is attending UH Manoa and I'm attending Leeward Community College. Since community colleges only offers Associate degree, I will need to transfer to graduate school to get my Master's degree. Universities like UH Manoa, where I will be transferring to, cost a lot more than the tuition fee at any community colleges. Because of the cost of attendance, I must work longer hours just to save up for my education. This is not just me, but almost everyone who goes to college. This bill is a very big help to every college students who are struggling to balance work and their studies at the same time.

I would like to thank you for supporting the bill. It will help a lot of people who wants to pursue higher education but are not financially ready to pay for all the fees and the tuition. I am sure that everyone is willing to work hard to meet all the requirements that comes with the bill and make sure that all your hard work to pass this bill and help college students will not go to waste. Once again thank you very much.

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:21:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2501

Senate Higher Education Committee

February 21, 2018 12:30 p.m.

To: Sen. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Sen. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

From: Divina Galicha

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2501 HD1

Establishes the University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. (HB2501 HD1)

My name is Divina Galicha. I am currently taking Liberal Arts at Leeward Community College and will be transferring to Kapiolani Community College in the spring of 2019 to pursue Radiologic Technology. This is now my second year at Leeward.

As the oldest member of the family, it is my responsibility to teach my younger siblings the right attitude and mindset in achieving their goals as well as helping other people. My first semester, I had to work in order to add more incoming to support me in school and so that I will no longer ask my parents for money. Unfortunately, I had to quit the job because I was not able to manage the work and the school. My parents are always having financial challenges, I do not want them to suffer even more just because I need money to support my education. If it was not for the FAFSA, I would not be able to enroll at Leeward Community College and figure out what I want as a career. If this bill will pass and become a law, it will definitely benefit not only for me, my siblings, but also to all other aspiring students who are determined and persistent in achieving their goals.

Thank you for supporting this bill. I am sure that all of the students will do their best and work hard to put all of the requirements in need for this bill. More students will have more opportunities to go beyond what they really love to do. Once again, thank you so much.



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
LEEWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Arts and Humanities Division
Asian/Philippine Studies Program

February 21, 2018

The House Finance Committee

Rep. Sylvia Luke, *Chair*

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, *Vice Chair*

Members:

Rep. Romy M. Cachola

Rep. Lynn DeCoite

Rep. Beth Fukumoto

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates

Rep. Daniel Holt

Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura

Rep. Chris Todd

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita

Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola

Rep. Gene Ward

Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for hearing **HB 2501**, relating to the **University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program**. I am aware that you also supported a similar bill last Spring 2017 that made available \$1.8M to support the unmet education needs of students in the UH Community Colleges. For that, I would like to express, once more, my deep appreciation and thanks.

I would like to register the same support I had for the UH Promise Program. I ask you to pass HB 2501 and be an instrument in ensuring an educated and productive Hawaii.

I am aware of students who have to struggle hard to pay for their college education -- some of them taking a job or two while in school, others dropping off from college because it has become unaffordable.

I ask that the State invest in our young people and in Hawaii's future by allocating resources to help our community college students finish their education. Many of our community college graduates have moved on to complete their four-year degrees, while others have been prepared to join the workforce and contribute to the state and nation. Either way, the results have been positive, promising and productive.

Thank you for supporting this bill and for placing your trust in our young people. It is our hope that this bill will ultimately become a historic legislation in our State.

Sincerely,

Raymund Liongson, PhD
Professor

LATE

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:26:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amy agbayani	Filipina Advocacy Network FAN	Support	No

Comments:

I respectfully request you vote for hb2501, hd1.

Mahalo plenty. Amy Agbayani, Filipina Advocacy Network.

LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2501 HB1
The House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 02, 2018, 12:30pm Conference Room 308

To: Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair, Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen
Members, Rep. Romy M. Cachola, Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Rep. Beth Fukumoto,
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Rep. Daniel Holt, Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Rep.
Bertrand Kobayashi, Rep. Matthew S. LoPresti, Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Rep.
Nadine K. Nakamura, Rep. Chris Todd, Rep. Kyle T. Yanashita, Rep. Andria P.L.
Tupola, Rep. Gene Ward

From: Tricia May A. Mauricio

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2501

Establishes the University of Hawaii Community College Promise Program to provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawaii system. Appropriates funds to establish and implement the program. (HB2501 HD1)

My name is Tricia May A. Mauricio. I am a student of University of Hawaii at the Leeward Community College campus. I live in Pearl City, District 35 and my House Representative is Roy M. Takumi. I strongly support HB2501 HD1.

I am in strong support of this bill because I am the first in my family to attend college. My mother and I are the only breadwinners in our family and we live paycheck-to-paycheck in order to support our household. My mother is an immigrant from the Philippines and has been working since we moved to Hawaii. When my father got injured at work, she had to work twice as much in order to ensure that we remained well nourished. She has since then endured working three jobs. She is barely home and when she is, it is to come home for a change of clothes and a bite to eat.

At an early age, I got a summer job at my auntie's business in order to lighten the load for my mother so she could focus on caring for my younger siblings instead. I kept the small job through high school while I juggled school, extra curricular activities, and church and community works. Now, as a college student, I spend weeks with little to no sleep, working two jobs while attending school and staying active with church works. The sacrifices that my mother and I have made up to now, and the sacrifices we are willing to make, has been to ensure that our family is cared for, and that includes ensuring that my siblings get through college for their better and brighter future.

This scholarship would greatly help to alleviate at least the expenses needed for school. This especially important for me because my brother just entered college, and our youngest sister will soon be entering college in a short three years. My family, as is for others, strongly believe that higher education means attainment of better job opportunities. Better jobs improve Hawaii's economic and social mobility. If this is the case, higher education needs to not only be encouraged, but also affordable and attainable.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and the opportunity to submit my testimony. Please vote to pass HB2501 HD1.

Sincerely,

Tricia May Mauricio



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Date: February 22, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: **HB 2501 HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Community College 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 and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to support HB 2501 HD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i Community College Promise Program, which will provide scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any community college campus of the University of Hawai'i and appropriate funds for the 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. Please **support** this measure.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to 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.

LATE

HB-2501-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:35:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylen-Jay Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a current student at Leeward Community College. I very much support HB 2501 as it has tremendously helped my family and I with our financial situation. My mother is the primary care provider for our family, but she does not have a degree, nor did my father. My parents were Filipino migrants who worked as a General Laborer (Father) and Custodian (Mother). Because of them, they have inspired me to go to school and achieve my desired career. In my senior year of high school at JCHS, they were always worried about paying for tuition for universities, let alone community colleges. I reassured them that community colleges offer the same scholarships and opportunities as universities but at a more reasonable price. My freshman year of college has been fantastic as I was granted loans and scholarships by the UH Promise Program to help my family's financial worries. I, too, was worried for cost of paying for college, but this program has implemented such efforts to help me achieve my career in life. I am part of the future generation and so are my peers who desire to obtain the education they deserve! Thank you so much!