UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I
Pamantasan Executive Committee

DATE: February 1, 2023

TO: House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Chair
Representative Rose Martinez, Vice Chair

FROM: Christine Quemuel
UH Pamantasan Executive Committee

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 968

HEARING: Friday, February 3, 2023 at 10:00 am
Conference Room 309

HB 968 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

My name is Christine Quemuel, and I am a member of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Executive Committee. I submit this testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 968, which would appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i systemwide Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

The Pamantasan Executive Council is the University of Hawai'i systemwide organization concerned with the status of Filipinx participation on all UH campuses throughout the state. The Pamantasan Council was established in l987 to addresses Filipinx representation and success on campus and to ensure that Filipinx American and Philippine courses are represented in the curriculum. The Executive Council is also charged with issues concerning Filipinx representation in the Department of Education, Filipinx workforce participation, and international relations between colleges in Hawai'i and the Philippines. The Pamantasan Council currently has no budget and is a volunteer organization comprised of University of Hawai'i students, staff, faculty, and administrators who are committed to access and diversity issues.

Funding for Pamantasan positions and projects will ensure that the state champions educational equity and diversity in higher education. We thank the Legislature for introducing this important bill and for your continued commitment to access and diversity to ensure that underrepresented communities in Hawai'i are supported.

This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly SUPPORT the passage of HB 968, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

LATE

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

10 am Friday, February 3, 2023, Rm 309

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 968 RELATING TO

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PAMANTASAN COUNCIL

SUBMITTED BY: Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights

Co-chairs, Amy Agbayani and Patricia McManaman

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members

I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR) in strong support of HB 968, a bill that addresses access, equity and inclusiveness for Filipinos at UH. I would like to note that I am an Emeritus Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Equity and Diversity and a member of the Pamantasan Council. Pamantasan is a Filipino word for higher education. HB 968 appropriates funds and 3 FTE to the Pamantasan Council. HB968 builds on Act 266 (2019) and SCR 132 (2022)

The SCR 132, report to the 2023 legislature includes " information regarding the 2019 appropriation; resource and budgetary needs; recommendations on curriculum development; and representation and success of students, faculty, and staff." The report clearly establishes the urgent need for the state legislature to support the long-term efforts of the UH Pamantasan Council and the University of Hawai'i to increase the number and success of Filipino Americans in the UH system. Filipino Americans continue to be underrepresented as students, staff, faculty administration and curriculum

My testimony in support of HB 968 references the Report to the 2023 Legislature on the Pamantasan Council Systemwide Efforts to Improve the Status of Filipino Americans at the University of Hawaii

1. Act 266 approved two positions and $155,000 for the Pamantasan Council in 2019 Due to position freeze during the pandemic, the two positions were not established but the appropriated funds were productively used to increase enrollment and enhance the academic success of Filipino Americans in the UH system. Efforts are underway to develop and offer multi-campus Filipino courses and certificates.

LATE

2. Filipino Americans continue to be underrepresented as undergraduate students in the UH system (14.1 percent) in comparison to their proportion of public school students 2 | Executive Summary (23.7 percent) in Hawai'i, among which they are the largest ethnic group. Filipino American undergraduates have their highest percentage representation at Maui College (25.3 percent) and UH West O'ahu (22.3 percent). However, they persist in being considerably represented below parity at UH Manoa (10.8 percent) and UH Hilo (6.2 percent). Among graduate students, Filipino Americans are especially underrepresented at only 5.4 percent of such students at UH Manoa.
At the UH community colleges, Filipino Americans (17.8 percent) are signiicantly underrepresented compared to their percentage of Hawai'i public school students. They have their greatest representation at Leeward (21.7 percent) and Honolulu (17.5 percent) Community Colleges. Filipino Americans who seek higher education in Hawai'i primarily enroll in the UH community colleges; however, sufficient transfer to the UH four-year universities continues to be an issue of concern.

   Filipino faculty, particularly tenure track positions are severely underrepresented at all campuses (e.g. at Manoa there are only 22 tenure track Filipino faculty and represent 2.5% of Manoa and only two interim top administrators).

   Many campuses do not offer Filipino/Philippine content courses. The Pamantasan Council is working to offer multi-campus Filipino courses and certificates.

3. Three positions requested in HB 968 are recommended in UH SCR 132 report to the 2023 legislature: Manoa Student Equity Excellence and Diversity office, Maui College Leeward Community College to develop and offer curriculum at all campuses.

Since it was established in 1988, the UH Pamantasan Council as a systemwide organization has led and supported efforts to meet the University's goals of equity and inclusion, as well address workforce needs, curriculum, research and community service. I respectfully request you approve this bill to provide 3 FTE and funds for Pamantasan Council multicampus programs.

Amy Agbayani, Emeritus Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Diversity

Co-chair Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights.

FILCOM CENTER

THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

94-428 Mokuola St., Suite 302 Waipahu, Hawai`i 96797 Phone: 680-0451 Fax: 680-7510 www.filcom.org

Our mission is to develop, own and operate a community center that provides social, economic and education services and to promote and perpetuate Filipino culture and customs in the State of Hawai`i.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs
Friday, February 2, 2023, at 10:00 am
By
Edmund Aczon
Chair, Board of Directors
The Filipino Community Center

HB 968 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the committee:

The Filipino Community Center supports HB 968 Relating to the University of Hawaii which will appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions.

The word “Pamantasan” is a Filipino word meaning “higher education”. Funding these positions will help make the university system more accessible to Filipino students and retain existing Filipino students. In addition, funding these positions will also promote programs and policies related to Filipino studies which would benefit the entire student population and the broader community.

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 968
House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
February 3, 2022, 10 am
Hawai`i State Legislature
Hawai`i State Capitol, Conference Room 309

To: Chair Adrian K. Tam, Chair
Vice-Chair Rose Martinez
Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs Members:
Rep. David Alcos III, Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett, Rep. Jeanne Kapela,
Rep Scot Z. Matayoshi, Rep. Jackson D. Sayama

From: Agnes Malate, PhD
armalate@yahoo.com

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in full support of House Bill 968 to fund three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions for the system-wide Pamantasan Council. I am a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action and have worked 30 years to increase diversity in education from high school to college. As a Faculty Specialist who was able to earn a PhD in Educational Foundations at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) with the incredible support of professors, mentors, colleagues, and students, I am a beneficiary of the transformative power that a college degree has for an individual, family, and community. I can also attest to the direct impact that affirmative action and diversity programs have had on improving the lives of the students who participated in these programs.

The Pamantasan Council was established in 1987 to address the academic success and careers of Filipinos and the quality of education for all students at the University. As a young professional who had just joined the staff at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, I was excited to be part of the planning committee for the first system-wide Pamantasan conference that included students, staff and faculty the following year. For the first time there was a unified effort to understand and address the needs of Filipinos in education and the workforce.

The Council convenes every year, rotating among the UH campuses, to share our efforts on increasing the student, staff, and faculty representation throughout the system. We also are concerned with the underrepresentation of Filipino teachers and administrators in the department of education, especially in comparison to the disproportionately higher enrollment of the Filipinos in the public school system. Incremental steps have been made in offering Philippine and Filipino-American courses in the curriculum. However, after over 35 years it is critical that funding is provided to implement the recommendations and strategies set forth in previous Pamantasan reports. Activities proposed by the different campuses, require funds and positions to ensure adequate faculty, student service personnel, lecturers, graduate assistants, and student staff.

According to the UH Institutional and Research Office Fall 2022 enrollment data (https://www.hawaii.edu/institutionalresearch/home.action), Filipino students enrolled in the UH Community Colleges is 17.8% but are only 9.3% at UHM (10.6% of all undergraduates and 5.4% of all graduates). These figures continue to be lower than Filipino students' public school enrollment (22.6%) (http://arch.k12.hi.us/reports/hidoe-data-book). Examining selected majors, 9.4% of Filipinos are in education, 4.4% in law, and 6.5% in medicine. The only major that Filipinos have consistently been well represented is nursing (24.3%). It is the most popular major that Filipinos are encouraged to pursue. In large part due to the high percentage of Filipino nurses in the workforce and access to them via a network of family and friends, a career in nursing has been a proven career path for Filipinos. For many Filipinos who are first-generation college students they lack role models, support systems, and university services to help them successfully navigate the higher education setting. However, they possess the ingredients to excel in education, contribute as professionals in Hawai‘i's workforce, and be outstanding leaders.

As the second largest ethnic group in Hawai`i, it is critical that attention be given to the challenges faced by this population and funding be provided to support the efforts of the University of Hawai`i. I am grateful to the Committee for strengthening the University of Hawai`i's and the Pamantasan Council's ability to respond to the growing needs of the second largest ethnic group in the State and urge you to pass HB 968.

Although I am an employee of UHM, this testimony reflects my personal position and is not the official position of the University of Hawai‘i.

February 1, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Re: HB 968

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

We are Filipinx/a/o students representing the Samahang Filipino Club at Hawaiʻi Community College in Hilo. **We submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **We urge you to support this measure**.

We support a bill to appropriate funds to the UH to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawaiʻi because there are many needs that Filipino students have that should be addressed. One of the issues is that although the majority of Filipino students in the UH system are at the community college, and we are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi, there are no courses available for us to learn about our history or culture at our campus. To make up for this, we have created a student club, however, it is difficult to maintain the club without the support of courses that can complement the mission of the club.

During COVID-19, Filipino courses offered at Leeward CC have become accessible to us, since they became offered online. We hope that if this measure passes, efforts to make Leeward CC's Philippine Studies Certificate program available online, across the UHCC system as a hub and spoke can be supported. We feel that every student should be given the opportunity to learn about Filipino history, culture, and social issues and that our General Education and graduation requirements should be inclusive of Filipino curriculum. Passage of HB 968 can support initiatives such as these by allocating funds to replace the full-time, tenure track position teaching Filipino Studies at Leeward CC to support the program's expansion to serve the needs of Filipinx/a/o students like us, across the UHCC system.

Many of our Filipinx/a/o students experience shame in their identity, experience mental health challenges, lack adequate representation in our curriculum, and need greater resources to support and encourage our transfer to the 4-year UH system. We ask for your support for HB 968—to allocate funds for three full-time positions to address the needs of Filipinx/a/o students in the UH system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by:
Ela Mae Gamilo, President, Samahang Club of Hawai'i CC

February 1, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Re: HB 968

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

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We support a bill to appropriate funds to the UH to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawaiʻi because there are many needs that Filipino students have that should be addressed. One of the issues is that although the majority of Filipino students in the UH system are at the community college, and we are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi, there are no courses available for us to learn about our history or culture at our campus. To make up for this, we have created a student club, however, it is difficult to maintain the club without the support of courses that can complement the mission of the club.

During COVID-19, Filipino courses offered at Leeward CC have become accessible to us, since they became offered online. We hope that if this measure passes, efforts to make Leeward CC's Philippine Studies Certificate program available online, across the UHCC system as a hub and spoke can be supported. We feel that every student should be given the opportunity to learn about Filipino history, culture, and social issues and that our General Education and graduation requirements should be inclusive of Filipino curriculum. Passage of HB 968 can support initiatives such as these by allocating funds to replace the full-time, tenure track position teaching Filipino Studies at Leeward CC to support the program's expansion to serve the needs of Filipinx/a/o students like us, across the UHCC system.

Many of our Filipinx/a/o students experience shame in their identity, experience mental health challenges, lack adequate representation in our curriculum, and need greater resources to support and encourage our transfer to the 4-year UH system. We ask for your support for HB 968—to allocate funds for three full-time positions to address the needs of Filipinx/a/o students in the UH system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by:
Ghelie Lei Tamayo, Secretary, Samahang Club of Hawaiʻi CC

February 1, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Re: HB 968

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

We are Filipinx/a/o students representing the Samahang Filipino Club at Hawaiʻi Community College in Hilo. **We submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **We urge you to support this measure**.

We support a bill to appropriate funds to the UH to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawaiʻi because there are many needs that Filipino students have that should be addressed. One of the issues is that although the majority of Filipino students in the UH system are at the community college, and we are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi, there are no courses available for us to learn about our history or culture at our campus. To make up for this, we have created a student club, however, it is difficult to maintain the club without the support of courses that can complement the mission of the club.

During COVID-19, Filipino courses offered at Leeward CC have become accessible to us, since they became offered online. We hope that if this measure passes, efforts to make Leeward CC's Philippine Studies Certificate program available online, across the UHCC system as a hub and spoke can be supported. We feel that every student should be given the opportunity to learn about Filipino history, culture, and social issues and that our General Education and graduation requirements should be inclusive of Filipino curriculum. Passage of HB 968 can support initiatives such as these by allocating funds to replace the full-time, tenure track position teaching Filipino Studies at Leeward CC to support the program's expansion to serve the needs of Filipinx/a/o students like us, across the UHCC system.

Many of our Filipinx/a/o students experience shame in their identity, experience mental health challenges, lack adequate representation in our curriculum, and need greater resources to support and encourage our transfer to the 4-year UH system. We ask for your support for HB 968—to allocate funds for three full-time positions to address the needs of Filipinx/a/o students in the UH system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by: Maria Quiocho, Vice President, Samahang Club of Hawai'i CC

HB-968
Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:41:28 PM
Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leon Florendo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

February 1, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Re: HB 968 - Appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi Pamantasan Council

Aloha Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

My name is Leon Fuimaono Florendo. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 968. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. ***I am strongly urging you all to support HB 968.***

On December 22, 2022, the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) submitted a report to the legislature in response to passage of SCR 132, reporting on the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawaiʻi. The report highlights issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation.

Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi make up 25% of the state's population. Filipinos are the largest ethnic group in the Hawaiʻi Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population. In the UH system, Filipino students are disproportionately underrepresented at only 14.1%.

In the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college system and are most likely not to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

In closing, your support for HB 968 will directly ensure that the UH Pamantasan Council will be able to address the UH student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation issues. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo, Salamat po

Leon Fuimaono Florendo

HB-968
Submitted on: 1/31/2023 5:40:35 PM
Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marnelli Joy Ulep	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee Representatives Garrett, Kapela, Matayoshi, Sayama, and Alcos.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 968. As a member of the Hawaii community and the daughter of Filipino immigrants, I submit this testimony in support of HB 968 appropriating funds to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council.

The Pamantasan Council works to improve the status of Filipinos throughout the UH system. Through my experience working in community organizations and in education, I see the value of perspectives and representation throughout all aspects of learning, mentoring, and empowerment that occur in higher education. Filipinos have and continue to make an impact on the state of Hawaii which makes the need for further representation of Filipinos as student, faculty, and staff, and in the curriculum, important. An appropriation of funding for these positions would enhance the Pamantasan Council's efforts to address and advocate for representation of Filipinos and to improve Filipino American success throughout the UH system. Thank you for your consideration.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 968
Relating to the University of Hawaii

To: Chair Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair Rep. Rose Martinez and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

From: Pua Auyong-White, Academic Support, Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity, UH Manoa

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 968
Appropriates general funds for 3.0 FTE positions for the UH Pamantasan Council for 3 FTE equivalent academic and support services specialist positions.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

The UH Pamantasan Council provides an infrastructure that has a broad and deep statewide reach that will produce competent leaders and innovative stewards on every island for the benefit of all of Hawai`i. Hawaii has a large percent of high school graduates in the state (92%) and by improving the access to higher education for Filipinos we can provide a solid and professional workforce for the entire state.

The current model of volunteers serving on the Pamantasan Council cannot effectively address the systemic and persistent disparities where Filipinos comprise over 20 percent of public school students, but only 12 percent of students at UH Mānoa; where Filipinos make up a large segment of community college students, but their transfer rates to 4-year degrees and advanced professional degrees at the University of Hawaiʻi Mānoa are disproportionately low. Subsequently, it is unacceptable that Filipinos, compared to other groups, are over-represented in entry level service jobs and underrepresented in executive positions.

I strongly encourage the committee to support this bill which intends to advance student excellence and equity in Hawai`iʻs institutions of higher learning and building a workforce by funding 3 FTE coordinator positions for the Pamantasan Council.

Pua Auyong-White
3432 B2 Kalihi Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
paw@hawaii.edu/pua888@yahoo.com
808 222-5591

House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs
Friday, February 3, 2023, 10:00 A.M.
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

February 2, 2023

H.B. 968 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the Committee:

My name is Clement Bautista, and I am a retired educational specialist and former director of the Office of Multicultural Student Services at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am also president of the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii. However, today I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawaii or the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii.

I strongly support H.B. 968 appropriating funds to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) academic and support services specialist positions. This Council, formed in 1987, is a systemwide group of individuals – students, staff, faculty and administrators – committed to address issues of representation, curriculum and research, partnerships with public schools, universities in the Philippines, workforce development and community services. While an annual conference and periodic workshops are organized, much of this has been done on an ad hoc basis. There is a need to properly staff the council for it to effectively accomplish its mission as well as the University's wider mission to diversify its research, teaching and workforce.

It is no secret that a large segment of Hawaii's population has ties or identifies with the Philippines and/or the Filipino immigration experience. This connection has neither been adequately recognized nor embraced by either Hawaii's government, business or education sectors. As we all surely know from the past neglect of recognizing our Native Hawaiian legacy and presence, simply ignoring a significant component of our population and history undermines the ethical development of our governmental, business and educational systems.

H.B. 968 will help the Pamantasan Council better coordinate and expand its activities throughout the University of Hawaii system, the Department of Education and into our communities. It is woefully clear from any examination of Hawaii history texts, museums, and media that the Filipino experience in Hawaii is either mostly unknown or misunderstood. Only by adknowledging and understanding the true diversity of who we, in Hawaii, are – as a culturally pluralistic community – can we forge a society that truly embodies the best of all our diverse social and cultural backgrounds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Clement Bautista

February 1, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Re: HB 968

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

My name is Jeanne Batallones and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure**.

I am a Counselor at a UH Community College and a member of the UH Pamantasan Council. I have worked as a counselor within the UH system for the last eight years, and in the community college system for the last 19 years. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as an Filipina educator and community advocate.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawaiʻi submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawaiʻi Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master's degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of

Japanese students earned a master's degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Batallones, Ed.D

Testimony in Support of HB 968

February 1, 2023

My name is Jonathan Y. Okamura, and I am professor emeritus in ethnic studies at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa. I have done research and published on Filipino Americans in Hawaiʻi for thirty-five years and have taught the Ethnic Studies course on Filipinos in Hawaiʻi. I also contributed to organizing the Pamantasan Council when it began in 1988.

I express my full support of HB 968, which will provide three full-time equivalent positions for the Pamantasan Council, because it has never had any designated full-time staff since it was established. Despite the lack of such staff, through the voluntary efforts of Filipino staff, faculty and students, the council has accomplished much in advancing their academic success and status in the UH system.

However, underrepresentation of undergraduate students at UH Manoa, UH Hilo, and most of the community colleges remains a continuing problem. As Filipinos have recently emerged as the largest group of students in the public schools at almost one-fourth, the critical need for administrative staff to direct and coordinate the Pamantasan Council's activities, including recruitment to the UH campuses, has gained in importance.

Please support HB 968 that provides for equal educational opportunity for Filipinos in Hawaiʻi. Thank you.

February 1, 2023

House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs
In strong support of HB 968
Feb. 3, 2023, House Conference Room 309, Hawai`i State Capitol

To: Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Chair
Rep. Rose Martinez,, Vice Chair
Members: Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett, Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, and Rep. David Alcos III

Dear Chair Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs:

Kumustakayo amin (greetings)! My name is Rouel Velasco and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure**.

I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as a Hawaiʻi-Born Filipino private citizen from Kapolei, Oʻahu. I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawai`i at Manoa, twice (with a bachelor and masterʻs degrees). I am honored to share my thoughts and story with you.

Since 1987, UH Pamantasan Council strives to enhance the Filipino experience in higher education by bringing together faculty, staff and students to advance issues on access to higher education, representation among university faculty and staff, as well as Filipino-related curriculum. Through its grassroots and voluntary efforts, the Pamantasan Council made advances to increase Filipino student enrollment, retention and degree completions. Yet, much more can be accomplished. While we celebrate that Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi and largest ethnic group in the Hawaiʻi Department of Education system, Filipinos are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system. In the midst of underrepresentation, there is hope and promise.

My story of college success moves from shame to pride and empowerment. While having been born and raised along the Waiʻanae Coast, I was not always proud to call myself Filipino, specifically Ilokano. I grew up during a time when racist local jokes attacked Fiipinos and Filipino culture. It was not until enrolling in college and attending a Pamantasan Conference that I met positive role models that look like me. I have personally benefited from the connections and opportunities Pamantasan has provided to me as a student (undergrad and grad) and as a professional staff member. The Filipino community within the University of Hawaiʻi voluntarily with little to no resources provides programs and experiences to empower and affirm the identities of Filipino college students. These connections and experiences allowed me to further my participation in the Filipino community beyond the university. I carry this pride with me in my

involvement with community-based organizations focusing on Filipino empowerment. This affirmation in my identity and being valued at the university allowed me to find home, meaningful connection and belonging to the university. For this, I am eternally grateful.

As a student affairs professional at one of the University of Hawaiʻi campuses, I see the potential and opportunities to better support Filipino student success. While existing resources exist at UH Mānoa and Leeward, I see the growing need for programs and resources to be available across the 10 campus UH system. This measure, HB 968, will provide opportunities across the UH system to further explore and affirm Filipino students' identities, culture, language and ancestral knowledge, meanwhile, making connections with other students and professional staff culminating in achieving student success and advancing community empowerment.

I thank the House for introducing HB 968 and hope that through its passage, current and future Filipino students continue to thrive and reach new levels of success. Through my storytelling, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Agyamanak! (I am grateful!)

Respectfully submitted,
Rouel Velasco

HB-968
Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:04:43 PM
Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayland Quintero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 968 is a crucial bill to pass that would more substantively instill and strengthen faculty and staff equity in the UH system, particularly at the campuses for which the three positions are proposed. Approving the teaching position at Leeward Community College would restore the former FT position that was held by a longtime faculty member before he had to retire due to medical reasons in February 2020. When the pandemic hit, this vacant position was somehow taken away and should be restored to run the Filipino Studies program at LCC.

The two Pamantasan positions were approved by the Legislature in 2019, but again the pandemic affected follow-through on the approval. We in the Filipino community strongly support and would look forward to the restoration of all three positions.

Salamat and Mahalo,

Wayland Quintero

HB-968
Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:18:46 PM
Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen-Rae Cachola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

My name is Ellen-Rae Cachola and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure**.

I am of Ilocano descent and was born and raised on Maui. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as a local Filipino who has gone through our public education system, and as a lecturer and archives manager at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa.

The University of Hawaiʻi December 13, 2022 report on the status of Filipinos at UH revealed significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi and makeup 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawaiʻi Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Filipinos are overrepresented in the UH community college system but are not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master’s degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master’s degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure-track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen-Rae Cachola

February 1, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Re: HB 968

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

My name is Norman Arancon and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure**.

I am a Professor and I provide this testimony on behalf of myself.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawaiʻi submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawaiʻi Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master’s degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master’s degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Arancon, Ph.D.

HB-968
Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:16:53 PM
Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camaron Miyamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of HB968 relating to the University of Hawaii. Funds are sorely needed for the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council to create three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions.

Filipinos continue to be an underserverd and under-represented population at the University at Hawaii and professional staff with specialized training is needed to enhamnce supportive programs for the university.

As an administrator in the Division of Student Success at UH Manoa, I continue to see the success of our students when we invest in programs that are designed to address the needs of spcecific under-represented populations.

Please pass HB968.

Mahalo.

February 1, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Re: HB 968

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

We are Filipinx/a/o students representing the Samahang Filipino Club at Hawaiʻi Community College in Hilo. **We submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **We urge you to support this measure**.

We support a bill to appropriate funds to the UH to improve the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawaiʻi because there are many needs that Filipino students have that should be addressed. One of the issues is that although the majority of Filipino students in the UH system are at the community college, and we are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi, there are no courses available for us to learn about our history or culture at our campus. To make up for this, we have created a student club, however, it is difficult to maintain the club without the support of courses that can complement the mission of the club.

During COVID-19, Filipino courses offered at Leeward CC have become accessible to us, since they became offered online. We hope that if this measure passes, efforts to make Leeward CC's Philippine Studies Certificate program available online, across the UHCC system as a hub and spoke can be supported. We feel that every student should be given the opportunity to learn about Filipino history, culture, and social issues and that our General Education and graduation requirements should be inclusive of Filipino curriculum. Passage of HB 968 can support initiatives such as these by allocating funds to replace the full-time, tenure track position teaching Filipino Studies at Leeward CC to support the program's expansion to serve the needs of Filipinx/a/o students like us, across the UHCC system.

Many of our Filipinx/a/o students experience shame in their identity, experience mental health challenges, lack adequate representation in our curriculum, and need greater resources to support and encourage our transfer to the 4-year UH system. We ask for your support for HB 968—to allocate funds for three full-time positions to address the needs of Filipinx/a/o students in the UH system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by:

Alfred Evangelista Jr., Treasurer, Samahang Club of Hawai'i CC

HB-968
Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:00:49 PM
Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Halagao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Professor at the University of Hawaii, Manoa College of Education. I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawaii.

I strongly support HB968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions.** The Bill will provide the necessary funds to create systemic conditions that will lead to the equitable representation and success of Filipino faculty and staff at the University of Hawaii, ultimately benefitting Filipino students in the State of Hawaii. Thank you for your support.

HB-968
Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:18:54 PM
Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celia Bardwell-Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 1, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Re: HB 968

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

My name is Celia Bardwell-Jones and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

I am a Filipina professor teaching at UH Hilo. I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as an Filipina and resident of Hawaiʻi State.

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawaiʻi submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawaiʻi Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master's degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master's degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Celia Bardwell-Jones

HB-968
Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:33:20 PM
Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula T. Morelli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passage of HB968

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Friday, February 3, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

February 3, 2023

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs,

My name is Nicole Alia Salis Reyes and I am an Associate Professor in the College of Education at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa. While I draw on my professional knowledge and expertise, I am testifying as an individual and do not represent the University of Hawaiʻi.

I strongly support HB 968 appropriating funds to the University of Hawaiʻi Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions.

As a Kanaka Maoli and Filipina woman, a scholar of higher education, and the first in my fatherʻs family to earn a college degree, I am deeply interested in issues of Indigeneity, diversity, equity, and inclusion. There is a noticeable educational outcome gap when it comes to Filipinos in Hawaiʻi. Whereas Filipinos comprise 25 percent of the total population of Hawaiʻi and 23.4 percent of all students enrolled in HIDOE schools, they are underrepresented at all levels in the UH System. Currently, Filipinos comprise only 14.1 percent of all student enrolled in the UH System, with 17.8 percent of students enrolled in the UH community colleges, 12.0 percent of undergraduates enrolled in UH four-year institutions, and 5.8 percent of graduate students enrolled in UH four-year institutions. Those numbers continue to shrink when we look at the representation of Filipinos among faculty and staff in the UH. Across the UH System, only 9.1 percent of all faculty and staff, 6.6 percent of all faculty, and 4.4 percent of all tenure and tenure-track instructional faculty identify as Filipino. I very much feel this underrepresentation even in my own college, the College of Education at UH Mānoa, where, as of last year, only five out of a total of 188 faculty identified as Filipino. Of my colleagues, some are in temporary positions that have become increasingly precarious during the pandemic. These conditions make it difficult and exhausting for us to be able to do the work that many of us strive so desparately to do, to prepare educators and to do research that will contribute to more socially just, culturally sustaining, and academically excellent educational institutions in Hawaiʻi.

Whereas the Pamantasan Council was formed in 1987 to review the status of and to advocate for Filipinos in the University of Hawai‘i System, it is clear from the statistics above that their/our work is not done. Three dedicated full-time equivalent positions could provide an important start toward the work of the Pamantasan Council. It is time for the State and for the University of Hawai‘i to revisit their commitments in this important work.

If we want Hawai‘i to thrive now and into the future, then we need Hawai‘i to be a place where Filipinos, one of Hawai‘i‘s largest ethnic groups, can thrive. Higher education plays a vital role in this. HB 968 can provide a first step in thinking about the University of Hawai‘i‘s commitment to serving Hawai‘i‘s Filipino community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nicole Alia Salis Reyes

DATE: February 1, 2023

TO: COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & THE ARTS

FROM: Roderick Labrador

RE: Supporting HB 968, Relating to the University of Hawai‘i

My name is Roderick Labrador and I am a faculty member in the College of Social Sciences. I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HB 968 relating to the University of Hawai‘i, to provide resources for the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. According to the latest census, Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai‘i and the biggest immigrant group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education.

I am a professor in the Ethnic Studies Department at UH-Mānoa, specializing in Filipino diaspora studies. I teach several courses related to Filipino history, culture, and politics and over the past decade I have witnessed the tremendous impact the Pamantasan Council has had on student recruitment, engagement, retention, and success despite limited resources. Although the Pamantasan Council is a UH systemwide organization and was established in 1987, it has no budget and is a volunteer organization composed of UH students, staff, faculty, and administrators who are committed to access and diversity issues. The task of the council is extensive: addressing issues related to the representation and success of Filipinos on the UH campuses; making sure that courses the cover the Philippines, Filipinos in Hawai‘i, Filipino Americans, and Filipinos in diaspora are available for students to take; facilitating international relations, partnerships, and collaborations between colleges and universities in Hawai‘i and the Philippines; addressing K-12 issues related to Filipino students; and connecting educational concerns to issues related to careers and the work force. The wide-ranging Pamantasan Council merits our support. Funding for the Pamantasan Council, its various programs, events, and projects will insure that Hawai‘i is at the forefront of educational equity and diversity in public higher education.

I thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for your continued commitment to Filipinos and other underrepresented communities in Hawai‘i. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai‘i system, the UH-Mānoa Department of Ethnic Studies, or the UH-Mānoa College of Social Sciences but reflects my own individual support and I strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support HB 968 relating to the University of Hawai‘i and Pamantasan.

Testimony H.B. 968 Pamantasan Appropriation

February 1, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Re: HB 968

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

My name is Irma Pena and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.
I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as a Lecturer at UH Manoa.
In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawaiʻi submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawaiʻi Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master’s degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master’s degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.
It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968

will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC. For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time, consideration and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Irma Pena
Adjunct Lecturer
Irma808@hawaii.edu

HB968

February 1, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
Re: HB 968

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

My name is Rebecca Carino-Agustin and **I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 968**, a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaiʻi (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full-time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. **I am urging you to support this measure**.

I provide this testimony on behalf of myself as a Filipinx student within the University of Hawaiʻi System..

In response to passage of SCR 132, the University of Hawaiʻi submitted a report to the legislature on December 13, 2022, to report on the status of Filipinos at UH. The report highlights significant issues of Filipino representation in the areas of student enrollment, transfer, degree completion, faculty and administrative leadership, and curriculum representation. Your support for HB 968 will directly support staffing to address these issues.

Although Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in Hawaiʻi and make up 25% of the state's population and also the largest ethnic group in the Hawaiʻi Department of Education system making up 23.7% of the HIDOE population, we are disproportionately underrepresented in the UH system, and consist of only 14.1% of students in the UH system.

Within the UH system, Filipinos are overrepresented in the community college system and not transferring. According to UHIRO 2019 data, out of the total 6,828 Filipinos in the UH system, the majority (63%) are enrolled in the UH community college (UHCC) system and are highly unlikely to transfer to the 4-year UH campuses.

Data from 2018–2019 obtained from the UH Institutional Research Office have shown disproportionate rates of Filipino degree completion have continued to persist, especially at the graduate degree levels (UHIRO, 2019). According to these data, 12% of all Filipino students attending the 4-year UH campus earned a baccalaureate degree, 4% earned a master’s degree, and 1% earned a doctoral degree. In comparison, 31% of Caucasian students and 25% of Japanese students earned a master’s degree, while 44% of Caucasian students earned a doctorate degree.

The 4-year UH campuses offer most of the courses related to the Philippines or Filipinos. However, at the UHCC, where the majority of Filipinos are enrolled, students do not have equal access to these courses. Among the UHCCs, Leeward Community College offers the most courses dedicated solely to the Philippine and Filipino experience, with the only academic subject certificate in Philippine Studies. However, resources previously allocated for the sole tenured faculty position assigned to the only Philippine Studies program in the UHCC system at Leeward CC were swept during COVID-19, leaving the program without adequate staffing to sustain and support the program's growth and expansion.

It is hoped that by reporting on UH efforts to address Filipino educational equity gaps, direct support for efforts such as the modification and expansion of Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Certificate program to serve as a "hub" which can offer Filipino courses online to "spoke" campuses across the UHCC system, can be realized to address the UHCC Filipino curriculum gap. Passage of HB 968 will support such efforts through the appropriation of funds to restore the only tenure track faculty position teaching Philippine Studies in the UHCC system at Leeward CC.

For the reasons stated above and towards the goal of addressing Filipino educational equity gaps in the UH system, I strongly urge you to support this measure to appropriate funds for three full-time positions to support the important work of the UH Pamantasan Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca

HB-968
Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:45:52 AM
Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winona K Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 2, 2023

Testimony to the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Re: HB 968

Dear Chair Adrian Tam, Vice Chair Rose Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs:

My name is Winona Lee and I submit this testimony **in strong support of HB 968,** a bill to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Pamantasan Council for three full time equivalent academic and support services specialist positions. I am urging you to support this measure.

Your support for HB 968 will directly support staffing to advocate and address issues related to the underrepresentation of Filipino students within the overall UH system and challenges in having Filipino students successfully transfer from community colleges to 4 year University campuses. These positions will ensure a collective effort will be sustained to address these critical educational and equity gaps.

Respectfully submitted,

Winona Lee

HB-968
Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:32:16 AM
Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wilfredo tungol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am strongly in support of this bill to appropriate funds to enable the Pamantasan Council to do its work of helping underrepresented groups to attend our higher education institution.]

As an alumni of UH Manoa I understand the importance of education and helping those who may need guidance in how to achieve higher education goals.

Mahalo,

Wilfredo Tungol

BBA 1976 and JD 1979 (UH Manoa and WSRSL)