



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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By
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HB 1591 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROMISE PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1591. This measure would establish a new scholarship program called Hawai'i's Promise that provides support for students with financial need as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, to attend the UH Community Colleges at no cost for tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation.

Hawai'i's Promise would be a "last dollar" scholarship. Other sources of financial aid such as federal Pell grants, UH opportunity scholarships, and other public and privately sponsored scholarships would be applied first, and then Hawai'i's Promise would provide for any unmet needs in the categories mentioned above. This measure would allow any Hawai'i resident who meets the eligibility criteria to attend a UH Community College campus, at no cost for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and transportation. We are hopeful that this measure will encourage more students to attend a community college, leading to a better trained workforce to meet the employment demands of our state.

The University of Hawai'i fully supports this bill.