



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 22, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

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

HB 1455 HD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1455 HD1. The University of Hawai'i Maui College International and Regional Partnership Office was inspired by Filipino leaders guided by the spirit of Filipinos' immigration to Hawai'i in 1906. The Office's overall intent is to open the doors to more international countries for our students to study, changing the narrative and mobilizing a new generation of students in Hawai'i by supporting their international mobility.

Through our experience in the Philippines with the support and funding of the I.M. Ready Program and the community we, the four delegates, were able to have an experience that would otherwise not be possible. . . . Through programs such as the I.M. Ready Program, I can formulate my own ideas and set new goals because of these personal experiences. Lastly, I will be forever grateful to all the new acquaintances and friendships that I have formed and have kept up with until this day. All of these are reasons why future students will benefit from international programs and why I will be returning to the Philippines as much as I can in the future. (Alickzander Pasalo - UHMC Student IM [International Mobility] Ready Program October 11, 2018

Our goal is to facilitate collaboration by bringing together diverse international stakeholders in science, education, business and government, the humanities and technology among our partnerships in Philippines, Prague, Japan/Okinawa and Taiwan. The Office provides a platform to foster creativity and respond to emerging challenges in our lives, communities, and the world through compassion, problem-solving and novel innovations.

The opportunity to rediscover one's roots, while earning valuable workforce development skills and international sensibilities on innovation, culture and community are among the higher education options we wish to offer our students." (University of Hawai'i Maui College Chancellor Lui Hokoana)

HB 1455 HD1 proposes to fund the University of Hawai'i Maui College's International and Regional Partnership Office that includes: one full-time position for an international educational management specialist; one part-time position for an international/regional partnership specialist; and funds to support study abroad opportunities for University of Hawai'i Maui College students.

In closing, the University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1455 HD1 on the condition that any positions or funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Biennium Budget Request.

Thank you for considering this testimony in your deliberations.