



Board of Regents &lt;bor@hawaii.edu&gt;

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## TESTIMONY FOR BSNS

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**Morgan Dutkoski** <mjdutkoski@gmail.com>  
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Wed, Feb 13, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Good morning,

I'm really excited about the prospect of UH West-Oahu having a Natural Science degree with a concentration in Applied Mathematics. I found myself in my junior year at UHWO in a college algebra course when my professor sparked my interest in mathematics. After working with the amazing math faculty and completing an applied math project with Dr. Yong, I realized that applied math was the career field I wanted to work toward. I did not think I had the capacity to learn higher level maths. At that time, there wasn't a math degree available at UHWO and I continued in my Social Science pathway. Traveling to UH Manoa was not an option for me as the traveling time would not coincide with my livelihood. Also, their program offerings were not in the applied maths field. Instead I attempted to take as many math courses as possible, however, a degree in applied math would have made my transition to a career in math much easier than with my social science degree. An applied math undergraduate degree would have better prepared me for my applied math graduate program which has been a challenging transition as well. I needed to supplement courses through Southern New Hampshire University which added challenges to my mathematical understanding prior to graduate school. If the opportunity was present to complete a BSNS in Applied Mathematics I believe I would have fewer obstacles now, post graduation.

With the smaller class sizes at UHWO, I was able to experience math on a personal level and discover a passion that I believe I would have missed at a larger university. I am extremely excited for the possibility for future students to have an applied math concentration. This could benefit the local community with a stronger science program in the local area of UHWO and will open doors to the graduates of the program that wouldn't have the opportunity elsewhere. The math faculty at UHWO have cultivated a department that inspires undergraduates to attempt the difficult and to push for success. This program is an important opportunity and I truly hope it comes to fruition.

Sincerely,  
Morgan Dutkoski



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## Written Testimony - Revised

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**Mark Moran** <mcmoran@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Wed, Feb 13, 2019 at 10:51 AM

Aloha,

Apologies. The version I sent you is incorrect. Please replace it with the version attached to this email. Mahalo!

- Mark

Mark C. Moran  
Web Content Specialist

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Kapi'olani Community College  
Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching & Technology (CELTT)  
Web & Mobile Development Group



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**Letter re Provisional Bachelor of Creative Media Degree - Mark Moran v2.pdf**  
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February 13, 2019

Aloha mai kākou!

My name is Mark Moran. I am writing in support of the proposed provisional Bachelor of Arts in Creative Media degree program at UH West Oahu.

In 2015 while living on Moloka‘i, I decided to go back to finish my degree. I searched out a program that would provide me with the education and skills necessary to hone my expertise in the constantly changing landscape of creative media. But unfortunately my “ideal” program didn’t actually exist in the UH system. At the time I considered going elsewhere -- perhaps to California or even Europe. But, I decided to stay in Hawai‘i and work towards my degree at UH West Oahu even though there were some “pukas” in the course offerings.

Unlike a lot of students in my program, I come to this program with a wide range of experiences and skills in this very field. I have over 20 years of experience as a professional UI and UX designer both in the U.S. and Asia. I’m already familiar with the current trends and requirements of the industry. I just didn’t have the degree to backup my knowledge and experience. That is why I was seeking a degree that best prepared students for this flexible and ever-changing industry.

Now, as a senior, having gone through many of the courses required for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Creative media, I’ve discovered that, while the program is the best Creative Media program in Hawai‘i, it is not the best program for preparing students for the requirements of the industry.

I am actually a strong proponent of a broad-based, liberal arts focused education. I think excessive specialization can lead to some knowledge gaps. This is why I prefer a University to a trade-school. However, there are requirements for the current degree program that do not apply to the work of professional creatives. And, by requiring students to take these courses, such as upper division statistics, you’re preventing them from the opportunity to take courses that will better prepare them for optimal job placement after graduation.

The creative media degree is a skills-focused program. The value of the degree is in the skills that it imparts on the students. Having a degree program that has been forced into place around non-relevant requirements, and not specifically tailored for creative media students, is a disservice to the students.

From what I can ascertain, Chris Lee and the entire leadership of the ACM, has some amazing plans for this program. Providing this focused degree program is one step towards fulfilling that vision and increasing both the skills and employability of creative media graduates. I strongly encourage you to approve this new provisional Bachelor of Creative Media degree.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Mark Moran



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## TESTIMONY FOR BSNS

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**Alexander Bautista** <arbautis@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Wed, Feb 13, 2019 at 11:17 AM

My name is Alexander Bautista, and I have a bachelors degree in business administration with a concentration in finance, and I spent about half my college career learning about mathematics and research. Currently, the hawaii job market is oversaturated with business graduates, and after a year of sales, I managed to get a career as a merchandiser, only because of my mathematics background. A bachelors in natural science with a concentration in applied math would have meant a whole new world of possibilities for me, and a simple search on a job posting site would show you what I mean. In the business sectors, a standard degree is no longer enough. A math-centric education would provide a better competitive advantage when applying for jobs, and more applicable skills that employers are looking for in this modern era. Even if an individual does not want to pursue a mathematics degree, the ability to learn math skills alongside any degree will be one of the most valuable assets both the students, and UHWO will have, and this will only become more evident as time goes on. This is why I am a strong supporter of this new program. Math is more than just a class. It is a highly needed skill set that can prepare all graduates for an ever-changing, technologically advancing world.