Testimony for the Leeward Sustainable Agriculture Program

1 message

Zeus Gean Paul Miguel <zeusgean@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, May 2, 2023 at 6:22 PM

Please see the attached.
Mahalo

V/r,
Zeus Miguel

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Zeus Miguel Testimony_Leeward Sustainable Agriculture Program.pdf
33K
May 1st, 2023

Re: Provisional to Established Status Associate in Science (AS) in Sustainable Agriculture

Dear committee members,

My name is Zeus Miguel and I am a student at Leeward CC pursuing my A.S. degree in the Sustainable Agriculture program. I am here to provide testimony in support and request the Board to support the Established Status of the Associate in Science in Sustainable Agriculture.

I wanted to become a farmer like my father in the Philippines, but I did not know where to start. My first instinct was to go back to school and study it, and glad that I found Leeward Community College offering AS in Sustainable Agriculture. I began the program in Fall 2021 taking mostly agricultural classes.

The program enlightened me to the importance of sustainable farming in food production for our and future generations. With the program, I was able to recognize my skills in plant cultivation, strengthen my soil knowledge, and expertise in farming practices that prepared me to become a better farmer. I started my small farm in Waialua with the goal of producing vegetables that regenerate the land.

The program and its staff provided a way for me to connect to business owners, agricultural experts and farmers that assisted me to become a farmer. I am currently working with Hawai’i Food Products to grow luau leaves for their manufacturing business.

Within two years at the Sustainable Agriculture program, I was exposed to scientific and cultural practices in agriculture that prepared me to participate in two different programs. One of my internships was at the GoFarm Hawaii where I learned to grow crops commercially. This summer, I will be interning at CTAHR for an undergraduate research program that focuses on data-driven agriculture.

These and much more are the reasons why I am writing this letter.

I strongly support the establishment of the Associate in Science in Sustainable Agriculture at Leeward Community College

Mahalo,

Zeus Gean Paul Miguel
zeusgean@hawaii.edu
Provisional to Established Status Associate in Science (AS) in Sustainable Agriculture
1 message

Bryceson Tugade <btugade@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, May 2, 2023 at 11:11 PM

Aloha mai kākou,

Here is my testimony in support of the Sustainable Agriculture Program to acquire permanent status. Mahalo nui.

E mālama pono,

Bryceson Tugade

Graduate_Testimony_Draft_Bryceson_Tugade (3).pdf

35K
May 1, 2023
Bryceson Tugade
1032 Hulaku‘i Drive

Re: Provisional to Established Status Associate in Science (AS) in Sustainable Agriculture

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing this letter in support of the Sustainable Agriculture Program to acquire permanent status. I graduated from the program in (Spring of 2021) with an A.S. in Sustainable Agriculture. Transferred to University of Hawai‘i - West O‘ahu to pursue a B.A.S in the Sustainable Community Food Systems Program.

I am now employed at UH Mānoa as a lab technician with the Tropical Plant Soil Sciences Department, alongside being employed with the DOE as a paraprofessional.

In my current studies at UHWO, we utilize a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the need for systemic change of our current food system. While pursuing both my A.S in SA, and my B.A.S in SCFS, I’ve had the opportunity to conduct research and study at various scales. From local, national, and international. While remaining focused in advancing sustainability in our ‘āina, using Hawai‘i as an example, to understand the rest of the world.

What skills has the Sustainable Agriculture Program helped you acquire?

The skills in the Sustainable Agriculture Program helped me to acquire the ability to have an academic career centered around plant biology & tropical agriculture, focusing on sustainable practices. This entails the ability to understand various facets of plant propagation, integrated pest management, soil science, etc. Considering this, the SA program has been instrumental in providing me with the skills necessary to pursue further academic and career interests. Such as opportunities ranging from research with the USDA to the International rice research institute in the Philippines, to opportunities for work at UHM.

Why do you think the Sustainable Agriculture Program is important?

This program fit my career goals immediately after the program, allowing me to have an in-depth perspective of plant sciences combined with an emphasis on sustainability in Hawai‘i’s growing environmental obstacles and the like. Also, meeting with professors that have prepared me for career development in agriculture and plant science. The SA program assisted in a seamless transition to programs like at UH West O‘ahu, in the Sustainable Community Food Systems program, furthering my educational pathway. And giving me the opportunity to advance my degree with prospects following my undergraduate degree.
I strongly support the establishment of the Associate in Science in Sustainable Agriculture at Leeward Community College

Mahalo piha,

Bryceson Tugade
btugade@hawaii.edu
My Name is Rin Kusaka, I am a student at Leeward Community College in my fourth semester of the Integrated Industrial Technology Associate in Science Degree program. I am submitting this testimony in support of transitioning the Integrated Industrial Technology program for a provisional to established status.

I am presently employed at Toell USA, Pure Hawaiian Water as a maintenance technician. The company bottles water that is sold in Japan and Hawaii. Initially my company sent me to Leeward CC to attend the electrical technology workforce training, while enrolled I found out about the IIT AS degree and shared the program with my company. The coursework in the IIT program directly relates to the skills necessary to conduct preventative and corrective maintenance on the water bottling plant.

Pure Hawaiian Water has struggled in the past to recruit and hire trained maintenance workers, the plant is highly automated and requires a working knowledge of multiple disciplines, the IIT degree program has provided me with the knowledge and skills to maintain the equipment and systems that bottle our water. Moreover, the coursework includes lab work that allows students to understand the integration of multiple equipment and systems. During my time as a student I have been able to directly apply the concepts taught in the IIT program to troubleshoot and repair our bottling equipment. I am thankful that I have been able to attend the IIT program and immediately apply my knowledge and skills at my company.

Rin Kusaka
Testimony in support of BS in Dietetics

4 messages

Amy C Brown <amybrown@hawaii.edu>  Thu, Apr 18, 2023 at 9:47 AM
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu
Cc: Monica Esquivel <monicake@hawaii.edu>

Dear Chair and Board of Regents Members,

I am a University of Hawaii at Manoa professor for 23 years that graduated with a BS and MS from the Human Nutrition and Food Science program in 1981 and 1983 respectively. I continued in my graduate studies to receive a doctorate from Virginia Tech in 1986, the year I became a nutrition professor. I have been teaching college nutrition and clinical research for 37 years. I wrote the textbook Understanding Food (7th edition) which is the number one textbook in it's field of dietetics for 23 years. I was also a Dietetic Program Director for many years. I am very familiar with UHM's Dietetic program and especially the overall field of nutrition, dietetics, and food science.

I wholeheartedly support the granting of an established BS Degree in Dietetics for the following reasons:

- The curriculum track already exists and does not need additional faculty or administrative support. It existed when I went to college as a separate track under Food Science and Human Nutrition.

- The BS in Dietetics simply needs to be recognized as a separate track in a department that has experienced several merges of different degrees (animal science).

- The distinction makes the curriculum clear to students pursuing a profession in dietetics.

- The degree name also makes it clear to institutions trying to accept dietetic students into required internships, and eventual job positions. There is a lot of delineation between the courses required for the different tracks (nutrition, dietetics, food science, animal science) under the "Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences" that are not clear to outside agencies. If you group "dietetic" students with "nutritional sciences" (for pre-med, pre-dental, pre-graduate school, etc that do not need many of the dietetic requirements) and "animal sciences," it could hurt our graduates competing with other students for the very limited number of internships necessary to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).

- The BS of Dietetics is one of the few degrees where students can graduate and pursue an allied health professional degree with a very respectable salary in a state that needs financially viable jobs.

- The BS of Dietetics is one of the strongest programs I have seen. It was started many years ago by a University of California at Berkeley scientific researcher that infused a new program at the University of Hawaii with a very strong scientifically based curriculum. I was proud to be a graduate, and I know that future graduates will all benefit from the BS of Dietetics designation.

Aloha,
Amy Brown

Amy C. Brown, PhD
Professor
Department of Quantitative Health Sciences
John A Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii at Manoa
651 Ilalo Street, MEB 224
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-692-0907
808-692-1266
Aloha,
I am writing in support of the proposal for the UHM dietetics proposal's advance to established status.

As the only accredited training program for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs), the BS in Dietetics serves as an important degree to ensure that there is a pool of qualified nutrition professionals to serve the state of Hawai‘i. RDNs provide medical nutrition therapy and other nutrition services to treat and prevent diet-related chronic conditions (diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease). In Hawai‘i these chronic health conditions disproportionately impact Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations, who are also underrepresented in the RDN profession. The UHM dietetics program has the opportunity to address these disparities.

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Monica K. Esquivel PhD RDN CSSD
Associate Professor
Dietetics Program Director (UHM Dietetics Website & UHM ISPP Website)
Click HERE for Dietetics Advising Appointments
Department of Human Nutrition Food and Animal Sciences
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University of Hawai‘i Mānoa
1955 East West Road Ag Sci 314 L
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
monicake@hawaii.edu
P: (808) 956-8691
I am a settler on this ‘āina who now calls Kaneohe home. I acknowledge that the ‘āina on which we gather at University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, is part of the larger territory recognized by Indigenous Hawaiians as their ancestral grandmother, Papahānaumoku. I recognize that generations of Indigenous Hawaiians and their knowledge systems shaped Hawai‘i in sustainable ways that allows me to enjoy these gifts today. For this I am grateful and I seek to support the varied strategies that the Indigenous peoples of Hawai‘i are using to protect their land and their communities, and I commit to dedicating time and resources to working in solidarity. Mahalo.
Aloha,

Please find my written testimony in support for the establishment of the BS in Dietetics program.

Thank you,

Jean Butel

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Jeannie Butel, PhD
Program Director, SNAP-Ed and EFNEP
Program Manager, Children's Healthy Living (CHL) Center of Excellence
1955 East West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: 808-956-4124
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Hawai'i Nutrition Center website: https://nutritioncenter.ctahr.hawaii.edu/
CHL Center of Excellence website: https://www.chl-pacific.org/

Written Testimony for BS Dietetics program.pdf
140K
Written Testimony to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Board of Regents
in support of the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics program

Jean Butel, MPH, PhD
Program Director, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education (SNAP-Ed) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

May 1, 2023

To the Distinguished Members of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) Board of Regents:

My name is Jean Butel; I am with the UHM SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs testifying on behalf of my community. I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics program, which would provide needed registered dietitians in Hawaii and the Pacific region. The dietetics program at UHM is the only accredited training program for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) in the Pacific and the program has shown success. Within 1 year of graduation >80% of students are 1) enrolled in a graduate program, 2) enrolled in a dietetic internship, or 3) are working in a dietetics or health related position. In addition, 86.7% of program graduates pass the registration examination for dietitians within the first year of attempt.

I support the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics program because of the impact on the SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs and the communities these programs serve. SNAP-Ed provides nutrition classes to seniors and single adults whereas EFNEP helps families with young children and youth lead a healthy lifestyle by teaching skills to create healthy low-cost meals and to be more physically active. Having the dietetics program as a resource is invaluable to the programs.

Both SNAP-Ed and EFNEP serve communities with socioeconomic disparities. Over 60% of class participants are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders. The ability to relate to the strong cultural and traditional systems of these participants plays a significant role in addressing these disparities. Having a dietetics program embedded in UHM, a Native Hawaiian serving institution, is best suited to develop a workforce able to address these needs.

I support the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics program University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Thank you for your time.

Jean Butel, MPH, PhD
Aloha mai,

Please accept this written testimony in support of moving the dietetics degree program to receiving permanent status (previously the Dietetics curriculum was a track within the Food Science Human Nutrition major). This program is the only ACEND accredited program in the Pacific Region.

I am a faculty member in the department of Human Nutrition, Food, and Animal Sciences and teach 300 level courses for the dietetics degree program. I am also a Registered Dietitian.

Some important points to make:
This Program is the only accredited training program for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) in the Pacific
a. The program is accredited as a Didactic Program in Dietetics through the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

b. The program was recently re-accredited in 2023.

c. The Commission on Dietetic Registration currently reports 184 licensed RDNs in Hawai‘i, and a recent program survey found that about 75% of these RDNs have been educated at CTAHR.

d. Average annual enrollment is 41 students (average from 2017-2023) with a graduation of 21 students (average from 2018-2022).

Student success is evaluated annually through program assessment efforts
a. 100% of students are meeting minimum performance in Knowledge Requirements for RDNs
b. Within 1 year of graduation;80% of students are 1) enrolled in a graduate program, 2) enrolled in a dietetic internship, or 3) are working in a dietetics or health related position.
c. 86.7% of program graduates pass the registration examination for dietitians within the first year of attempt (3 year average), a minimum 80% average is required for accreditation.

Need for RDNs in the state is strong. The dietetics program is needed to fulfill the demand needed in the state.
a. The RDN profession is expected to grow as much as 7% among all from 2021 to 2031
b. Hawai‘i has the 5th highest employment per thousand jobs of RDNs in the US and the 3rd highest salaries (average $75,000 annually)
c. There is a workforce shortage of Dietitians in the state of Hawaii as indicated in this recent workforce assessment:


Nationwide enrollment of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (NHPI) students in accredited dietetics programs is 54% lower in 2022 compared to 2021, the UHM program is best suited to address this disparity.
a. In Hawaiʻi RDNs work in communities where extreme socioeconomic disparities influence the health outcomes of NHPI individuals and families.
b. Strong cultural and traditional systems embedded within these disparities play a significant role in how our RDNs must practice- the UHM dietetics program is the only program situated in a Native Hawaiian serving institution and thus is best suited to develop practitioners to address this disparity.

The Dietetics Program recognizes the University's commitment to being a Hawaiian place of learning and acknowledges its kuleana to train students from underrepresented communities in the profession.


Mahalo for noting my testimony in support of the program receiving permanent status.
I acknowledge that the ‘āina on which the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa occupies is part of the larger territory recognized by Indigenous Hawaiians as their ancestral grandmother, Papahānaumoku. I recognize that her majesty Queen Lili‘uokalani yielded the Hawaiian Kingdom and these territories under duress and protest to the United States to avoid the bloodshed of her people. Hawai‘i remains an illegally occupied state of America. I further recognize that generations of my ancestors' knowledge shaped Hawai‘i in sustainable ways that allows all of us to enjoy Hawai‘i today. For this I am grateful and as a Native Hawaiian I recognize my kuleana – both my responsibilities as well as my dear privileges – to care for this ‘āina for the many generations yet to come. I also recognize my kuleana to invite each of you to help me in this most important endeavor.
Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

**All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board’s website.

Your Name (required) *
Amy Tousman, MPH, RDN, LD, CDE

Your Organization (optional)
University of Hawai‘i

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *
tousman@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *
A&SA IV.E. Recommend Board Approval of Established Status for the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Your Position (required) *
Support

Your Testimony/Comments
Aloha Board Members.
My name is Amy Tousman and I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and a lecturer for the Dietetics Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). I am writing in support of changing the status of the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Dietetics from provisional to an established program.

The UHM Dietetics Program is the only accredited training program for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) in Hawai'i and the Pacific. There are currently 184 licensed RDNs in Hawai'i. A recent program survey found that approximately 75% of these RDNs have been educated through our program at CTHAR.

Student success in this program is evaluated annually. These evaluations show that 100% of students are meeting minimum performance in Knowledge Requirements for RDNs. Within a year of graduation, >80% of students are either enrolled in a graduate program, dietetic internship, or are working in a dietetics or health-related position. 85.7% of program graduates pass the registration examination for dietitians within the first year of attempt.

The need for RDNs in the state of Hawai'i is strong. Many Hawai'i residents suffer from nutrition-related conditions such as diabetes, chronic kidney disease, hypertension, and heart disease. RDNs offer cost-effective prevention and treatments for these conditions. In addition, our population of kupuna is expanding. There is a great need for RDNs to work in this arena as this population is also prone to many nutrition-related conditions that are not only costly to treat, but impact quality of life.

Currently, there is a shortage of health care professionals in the state of Hawai'i. RDNs can help fill this gap as they work as part of interprofessional teams in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, dialysis centers, and community programs. It is important that we are able to educate and train future RDNs at UHM so that they stay home and contribute to the Hawai'i's health care work force.

The need for accurate, evidenced based nutrition information is also important in serving our local population. The BS in dietetics from UHM requires much coursework in the biological sciences such as biology, biochemistry, anatomy, and physiology. This is important in understanding the role of nutrition in the body. In addition, the UH dietetics courses provide students with knowledge of the nutritional values of local and culturally appropriate foods which helps prepare them to work with our ethnically diverse population.

Nationwide enrollment of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) students in accredited dietetic programs is 54% lower in 2022 compared to 2021. The UHM dietetics program is ideally situated to address this disparity. In Hawai'i many RDNs work in communities where socioeconomic disparities play a role in health outcomes of NHOPI individuals and families. Strong cultural and traditional systems embedded within these disparities play a significant role in how our RDNs must practice. The UHM dietetics program is the only program situated in a Native Hawaiian serving institution and thus is best suited to develop practitioners to address this disparity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Tousman, MPH, RDN, LD, CDE
FSHN Lecturer

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached