

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) *

Gabriel Navalta

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) *

gnavalta@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) *

SS - IV.A. Request Board Approval to Change the Associate of Science Degree in Creative Media from Provisional to Established Status at Hawai'i Community College, Kaua'i Community College and University of Hawai'i Maui College

Your Position (required) *

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha,
Please find my testimony attached. I have also registered to give this piece orally on Zoom.
Mahalo!
Gabriel Navalta

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Gabriel Navalta_Testimony in Support of Established Status of HawCC, KauCC, UHMC CMAS programs.pdf

(99.1
kB)

November 2, 2023

To: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents Committee on Student Success

From: Gabriel Navalta, University of Hawai'i system alumnus

Regarding: Agenda Item IV. A. Request Board Approval to Change the Associate of Science Degree in Creative Media from Provisional to Established Status at Hawai'i Community College, Kauai Community College and University of Hawai'i Maui College

Aloha e UH Board of Regents,

My name is Gabriel Navalta and I am a 2023 graduate of the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu and a 2020 graduate of the Hawai'i Community College. I am testifying in support of the request to change the AS Degree in Creative Media from Provisional to Established Status at Hawai'i CC, Kauai CC, and UH Maui College. My college journey began at Hawai'i CC in 2017 as a high school Running Start (early college) student and looking back, I revel at the unfolding and evolution of my technical, creative skills in my three years of study at HawCC.

In my teenage years, my curiosity regarding creative media blossomed from watching adventure edits and videos on social media; and I thought *I want to do that too... but how do I do it - how do I get there?* Shortly after, I learned about HawCC's Creative Media program and visited its media lab in its infancy. The few iMacs, cameras, and tech available for use by students inspired me. I saw the opportunity in front of me and I took advantage of it.

Between 2017 and 2020, I had many opportunities to share in the successes of the Hawai'i CC CM-AS program and was able to build out my schedule with classes that add to my toolbox and hone the tools that I already have. Courses like 2D design, typography, and other graphic design classes have equipped me with the knowledge and expertise I need to teach high school students in my current role as a media-tech teacher and yearbook advisor. A combination of digital imaging, photography, and video production classes have prepared me for work in the media industry as a freelancer. In addition to documenting weddings and events, I am employing my learnings and leadership in projects that amplify critical voices in Hawai'i communities as well as forwarding meaningful initiatives. Prior to graduating from HawCC, I benefited from an internship with Big Island Sports Network, the opportunity to design the Spring 2020 commencement pamphlet cover, and assembled a unique portfolio of digital media products that have been accomplished in classes at HawCC.

These and many more meaningful experiences have equipped me with everything I needed to continue to be a successful student at UH West O'ahu and then flourish as a digital storyteller

after finishing my undergraduate study. I am happy to see many graduates of the Hawai'i CC, Kauai CC, and UH Maui College CM-AS programs that are wonderfully adding to their communities in employment that merges their passions as well as the needs of Hawai'i. I encourage you all to consider the provisional to established request of CM-AS programs at these three community colleges. Thank you for giving me the time and space to testify today.

Mālama,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Navalta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Gabriel Navalta