



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 9:30a.m., Conference Room 325
By Jan Javinar,
Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

HB1555 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

Section 4 of the bill proposes to appropriate a yet to be specified amount out of general revenues of the State of Hawaii for FY 2015 to increase the number of tuition waivers awarded to Native Hawaiian students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The University of Hawaii welcomes legislative support to increase access to public higher education by native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students. As an indigenous-serving institution, the University is committed to ensuring “active support for the participation of Native Hawaiians at the University.....” Section 4 of HB1555 will augment the University’s efforts in supporting native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students via its tuition exemption program authorized by state law and Board of Regents policy which provides for a minimum of 250 tuition waivers to be awarded to native Hawaiian or Hawaiian students with financial need which enables attendance at any of the ten campuses of the University of Hawaii system.

For academic year 2012-2013, the Manoa campus alone allotted 176 tuition waivers at a value of \$960,751 with the remainder of 287 waivers valued at \$465,796 allotted by the other 9 campuses. For the prior academic year, 2011-2012, the Manoa campus alone awarded 170 tuition exemptions valued at \$904,848, with the remaining 293 waivers valued at \$487,312 awarded by the other 9 University campuses.

Awarding more tuition waivers for native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students has the potential of not only increasing the numbers of native Hawaiian or Hawaiian students at UH-Manoa, the flagship research comprehensive university for Hawaii, but may also encourage their increased degree attainment towards more undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The University welcomes the support offered by this bill, provided that this support does not impact the University’s budget priorities as articulated in its budget request. We appreciate your support of encouraging our native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students to improve themselves and their community through post-secondary education.