



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

SB 1774

Making an Appropriation for Cultural Education and
Integration, Language, Employment, and Legal Services
for Immigrants from the Freely Associated States

Testimony Presented Before the Joint
Senate Committees on Higher Education
And
Human Services

February 17, 2005

by

Mark Silliman
Chancellor, Leeward Community College
University of Hawai'i

Testimony Presented Before the Joint
Senate Committees on Higher Education
And
Human Services

February 17, 2005

by

Mark Silliman

Chancellor, Leeward Community College
University of Hawai'i

S.B. 1774 Making an Appropriation for Cultural Education and Integration,
Language, Employment, and Legal Services for Immigrants from the
Freely Associated States

Chairs Hee, Chun Oakland, and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this written testimony in support of S.B. 1774. Leeward Community College and the United Micronesian Association (UMA), (the umbrella organization representing citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS) --- the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau) participated in meetings to establish a framework, understanding and partnership with the UMA for the purposes of providing employment and training instruction to assist with job readiness, job placement and job retention which included and was not limited to:

- A) Basic educational skills training;
- B) Occupational skills training;
- C) English as a second language training; and
- D) Mentoring

Short-term programs identified as training/workforce needs that required immediate attention for 2004 were initiated in summer and fall as a result of meetings held throughout the spring. These initial programs focused on short-term non-credit workforce training, primarily in entry-level health care through the College's existing Certified Nursing Assistant Program; English as a Second Language and basic-skills

training. The College's overall emphasis for the 2004 training would focus on adult-learners during the remaining 7 months of the year.

This report to the Legislature addresses the period between the end of spring 2004 to summer and fall terms 2004. Since the majority of the population who expressed an interest in the training resided in 3 areas of the community: Waipahu, Kalihi-Palama and Palolo Valley, and a large request were by females at one of the community meetings, the initial training was therefore established primarily for women. Male members of the community were in leadership roles, served as pastoral associates, or were undertaking physical rehabilitation (due to radiation effects from the test bombs that displaced members of the community needing to relocate to Hawaii for health care due to Hawaii's geographic and cultural proximity). The College's existing Health and Medical Education's Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A.) program was identified as the first training effort due to a similar program and success that occurred in a paid training program sponsored and held by Saint Francis Medical Center. Each participant at the time paid for 100% of the training fee. It was also envisioned that this entry-level training would provide an excellent opportunity for the women and some men to gain a first-hand experience of the C.N.A. program as a career ladder and gateway into the healthcare field.

Existing curricula was used in the program with teaching methodologies adjusted to reflect both cultural and academic issues. Additionally, some of the students who were pre-screened and accepted into the program on a probationary basis did not fulfill the English and math minimum prerequisites and requirements. Supplemental assistance was provided and arranged through the Waikiki Lifelong Learning Center (Kapi'olani Community College). The timetable that the attendees participated in the training commenced in summer with the conclusion of the training in mid-October.

Two sections and locations were established for the convenience of the students; section A was held at the LCC campus in Pearl City which was convenient for residents in the Waipahu area. Section B was held in urban Honolulu and in partnership with the Palolo Chinese Home as the on-site facility for lecture, practicum and mentoring, and internship.

The health-training program which participants attended, received a substantial tuition discount that reflected the registration fee. The College's special-funded programs through the Health & Medical Education program subsidized the majority of the costs for the overall training. This initial effort was intended to demonstrate support for the community where education would be accessible, affordable, and practical leading to an entry-level job. The College continues to seek external funds to support its efforts, primarily from federal assistance as was initially anticipated but was changed in deliberations during the final weeks of the session. Funds that the College provided as in-kind contributions accounted for 84 percent of the total actual costs. Community partners including the Waikiki Lifelong Learning Center (Kapi'olani Community College); State of Hawaii - Department of Education – McKinley Community School for Adults; Palolo Chinese Home, Palolo Housing and the United Micronesian Association which collectively accounted for almost \$5000.00. Additionally, Leeward Community College contributed nearly \$10,000 in in-kind contribution/assistance.

The \$100 registration fee paid by attendees did not cover the actual costs for instruction, textbooks, materials and CPR and First Aid training and cards. The College looks to continue the program in 2005 and will seek external funds in partnership with private and public sector non-profit organizations, government and to develop new partnerships with service providers who have expertise in certain areas including youth, family and social service organizations.

If this bill is passed with an appropriation, it should not displace items in the Board of Regents' approved University budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.