



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
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by

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and

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### SB 605 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 605 which would fund 5 graduate assistants to conduct and disseminate research and support students interested in Asian American and Pacific Islander educational issues as well as careers in higher education and student affairs. Recent research shows AAPIs are underrepresented and underserved in many higher education institutions. AAPIs are only 5% of the nation but are the two fastest growing racial groups in the United States. Hawai'i is the state with the highest proportion of AAPI population and these groups are the majority in the state and the University of Hawai'i.

Funding graduate student assistants will increase the capacity of the Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity at Mānoa to work collaboratively with AAPI scholars nationally and with faculty from academic units at Mānoa and other campuses to address critical issues in higher education, and support careers in student affairs and higher education.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB605 provided that it does not adversely affect other UH budget priorities.