



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1594, HD 1
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

February 21, 2017

The House Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, *Chair*
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, *Vice Chair*
Members of the Committee on Finance

The Faculty Senate at Leeward Community College, voting unanimously, strongly supports HB 1594 to establish the University of Hawaii Promise Program, providing scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any campus of the University of Hawaii system.

The Leeward CC Faculty Senate represents over 300 faculty members of the College in the various disciplines such as the Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Math and Science, Language Arts, Business, and Professional Arts & Technology. In terms of residence, faculty members are widely dispersed across the island.

The Leeward CC Faculty Senate particularly supports a "tuition-free" community college education, but recognizes the broader impact of a scholarship program for qualified students across the university system. Most of our students work part-time as they navigate the rigors of higher education. Many of them have also taken loans with high interest rates just to pay for college.

HB 1594 is a very a sound and common-sense initiative. The University of Hawai'i Promise Program would be an investment that will reap far-reaching rewards. We ask that you pass the bill.

Thank you for hearing HB 1594 and for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

On behalf of the Leeward CC Faculty Senate,

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