



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1162, HD 1
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Promise Program

February 21, 2017

The Senate Ways and Means Committee
Sen. Jill Tokuda, *Chair*
Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, *Vice Chair*

The Faculty Senate at Leeward Community College, voting unanimously, strongly supports SB 1162, HD 1 to establish the University of Hawaii Promise Program, providing scholarships for the unmet direct cost needs of qualified students enrolled at any of the campuses of the University of Hawai'i.

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 Oahu.

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 taken loans with high interest rates just to pay for college. Some promising students have discontinued their studies because of financial limitations.

SB 1162 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 SB 1162 and for the opportunity to testify in support of it.

On behalf of the Leeward CC Faculty Senate,

Steve Jacques
Co-chair, Legislative Relations Committee
jacques@hawaii.edu

Raymund Liongson
Co-chair, Legislative Relations Committee
liongson@hawaii.edu

William McDaniel Albritton
Chair, Faculty Senate
walbritt@hawaii.edu