



January 31, 2016

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Isaac W. Choy, Chair
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education

From: **Hawaii Public Health Association**

Subject: **SUPPORT – HB1613 COMMUNITY COLLEGES; TUITION WAIVER**

Hearing: February 02, 2016 at 2:00pm at State Capitol Room 309

The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) is an association of over 600 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA support the passage of **HB1613** which grants tuition waivers to eligible students at the community colleges as a pilot project to begin on Kaua'i. Access to education is at the core of economic justice and a thriving economy in Hawaii that supports sustainable industries. Although the HPHA is in support of HB1613, there are several provisions we would like for you to consider, proposed by the Hawaii Coalition for immigrant Rights:

§304A-Community college tuition waiver:

(1) The person is a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen, as determined by the board.

(2) The person [has been] is a resident of the State as defined by Section 304a-402 [prior to] at the time of applying for the waiver.

(3) The person is a graduate of a private or public high school located in the State.

(5) The person maintains [satisfactory academic progress as determined



by the community college in which the person is enrolled] cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.0 and successfully earn 67 percent of credits attempted.

(8) The person is under the age of [twenty-six] twenty-seven at the time of application to the waiver program.

(9) The person completes and submits to the Board of Regents a Free Application for Federal Student Aid application and accepts all state and federal-aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the application.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of **HB1613**.

Respectfully submitted,

Hoce Kalkas, MPH
HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Chair