

**TESTIMONY OF
CAMILLE A. MCKAYLE, PhD
PROVOST
UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS, AND
FINANCE**

**HEARING ON BILL No. 35-0133
“AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 17 VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE,
CHAPTER 15, RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIPS BY ADDING
SECTION 190GG TO ESTABLISH AN EDUCATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS
INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN THE MARITIME
INDUSTRY IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.”**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT 10:00 A.M.
EARLE B. OTTLEY LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS, ST. THOMAS**

Good Morning Honorable Donna Frett-Gregory, Chair of the Senate Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance, other members of the committee and members of the 35th Legislature present, other testifiers, members of the press, persons here in the legislative conference room and those in the viewing and listening audience. My name is Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of the Virgin Islands, and I am here representing UVI's President Dr. David Hall.

It is an honor for the University to have been asked to speak to the Legislature on matters regarding Bill 35-0133, establishing an educational scholarship program to support individuals interested in pursuing a career in the maritime industry in the Virgin Islands.

The University of the Virgin Islands is in support of this bill as it recognizes the importance of the marine industry to the economy and the culture of the United States Virgin Islands. UVI offers degrees at the bachelor's and master's levels in the marine sciences. Additionally, UVI's School of Agriculture has added a certificate program in Aquaculture.

Over the years, in support of maritime education, UVI sought to partner with Maritime Institutes in the US in order to provide a pathway to Maritime Education for Virgin Islands students. In the absence of a formal partnership, in 2018 the university adopted a Bachelor of Science in Maritime Management, which was designed to partner with existing maritime academies or institutes. This flexibility allows for students to obtain maritime training from any institute, and then complete business courses at UVI to earn the Bachelor of Science in Maritime Management. Students would transfer in 34 Maritime program technical course credits. The business education in combination with expertise and hands-on experience in the maritime industry will open doors for long-term and sustainable opportunities within the maritime industry for example, ship management, port management, logistics management, brokering, and other maritime trade and sales positions. This degree will allow students to supplement their technical expertise with the business acumen needed to participate in or lead a successful business in the maritime industry. Though the degree is available, we have yet to have a student pursue it.

Thus, UVI is in full support of this Bill which we hope would serve to increase interest in the maritime industry in the Virgin Islands, and hope to also lead to the training of future business leaders in that field.

On behalf of the University of the Virgin Islands, I thank you for the opportunity to address this topic today.