



SCR156/SR97

**REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND
THE COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO
EXAMINE THE EXPANSION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM**

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

April 6, 2015

1:15 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** for SCR156/SR97, which requests the University of Hawai'i Office of the President and the College of Hawaiian Language to establish a working group to examine the expansion of Hawaiian language instruction throughout the University of Hawai'i system.

Once spoken throughout Hawai'i by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i or the Hawaiian language was considered to be nearly extinct by the 1980s, when fewer than 50 fluent speakers under the age of 18 were left. A major reason for the deterioration of the Hawaiian language was an 1896 law that required English instruction in Hawai'i's schools, which functioned to ban the speaking of Hawaiian language throughout the school system.

Fortunately, great strides have been made in recent decades to bring about a renaissance of the Hawaiian language. Programs such as the 'Aha Pūnana Leo's Hawaiian language immersion pre-schools, the State's Ka Papahana Kaiapuni Hawaiian language immersion program for grades K-12, and the College of Hawaiian Language and other programs in the University of Hawai'i system, have helped to revitalize and perpetuate the Hawaiian language. Also, in 1978, the Hawai'i Constitution was amended to recognize the Hawaiian language as an official language of the State, making Hawai'i the first state in the union to recognize its native language as an official language. Most recently, in 2013, the first law to be published in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i since 1943 was passed, recognizing February as Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i or Hawaiian Language Month.

Although there is much momentum in the revitalization of the Hawaiian language, for 'Ōlelo Hawai'i to thrive, rather than simply survive, its usage must be normalized. Convening a working group to examine and thereby facilitate the expansion of Hawaiian language instruction throughout the University of Hawai'i system would further the revitalization and normalization of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, and demonstrate a deserved respect for the co-official language of Hawai'i.

To more appropriately reflect the administrative structure of the OHA, OHA respectfully requests amending the language of SCR156 on page 4, lines 30-31, and of SR97 on page 4, lines 25-26, to read as follows:

- (5) The administrator of the office of Hawaiian affairs, or the administrator's designee;

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** SCR156/SR97. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
and the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
April 6, 2015 at 1:15pm
by
David Lassner
President, University of Hawai'i

SCR 156/SR 97 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE EXPANSION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM.

Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Galuteria and Inouye, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SCR 156/SR 97 and appreciates the legislature's recognition of the significant work of the UH Hilo College of Hawaiian Language programs.

We respectfully disagree, however, with asserting at this time that the current structures of the University of Hawai'i System are a barrier to achieving the objectives stated in SCR 156/SR 97. We believe that structure is one of the questions that the proposed working group should explore.

The University suggests that the scope of the working group be broadened to include representatives from all four units in the University of Hawai'i to ensure the full resources and support of the ten campuses across the entire UH System, and making working group membership reflect a comprehensive statewide and systemwide approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Date of Hearing: 4/6/2015 Time: 1:15pm Location: Conference Room 224

*Testimony of Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a
Director of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language*

REGARDING: **SCR 156 / SR 97**

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT AND THE COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TO
ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE
EXPANSION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION
THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM.

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Senators Shimabukuro and Taniguchi and the members of the Senate Hawaiian
Affairs and Higher Education and the Arts Committees,

My name is Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a. I am the Director of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani
College of Hawaiian Language. On behalf of the Hawaiian Language College I want to
express appreciation for the support given through the many signatures of Senators on
SCR 156 and SR 97 and request that these two measures be passed.

We are enthusiastic about the mandate to study ways to increase efficiency and better
involve the entire University of Hawai'i system in the unique structure that the legislature
has established for the Hawaiian language at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of
Hawaiian Language. As an indication of the level of our College's support for the two
resolutions, our Faculty Senate, lectures and staff have submitted a statement through a
separate testimony by the Faculty Senate President.

Senators, the legislature has entrusted our college at UH Hilo with shouldering an
important constitutional responsibility relating to use of the Hawaiian language in
Hawai'i's P-20 educational system. Hawai'i has received national and international
recognition for the work that has resulted from your trust in us. Schools, colleges and
universities throughout Hawai'i have benefited from the concentrated focus in Hilo to
provide a steady source of curriculum materials, modern lexicon development, and
primary Hawaiian language sources for the state. Perhaps some of your own office use
those resources such as the Ulukau Electronic Library with its Hawaiian Dictionary
feature. Ulukau has over one million hits a month.

Yet, with all that has been done - much more needs to be done if we are to serve the Hawaiian language needs of all Hawai'i's people. In the coming decade we will be facing an additional challenge as the generation that began the Hawaiian Renaissance and Hawaiian language efforts through the state will be retiring. These resolutions direct us to act now - to plan ways to meet the challenges and take our state to an even higher level of language revitalization success and acclaim.

Mahalo nui loa no ko 'oukou kākō'ō 'ana i ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma kēia mau 'ōlelo ho'oholo a no kēia mau makahiki lō'ihī.

Mahalo nui.

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Date of Hearing: 4/6/2015 Time: 1:15pm Location: Conference Room 224

Testimony of Jason Iota Cabral
President, Faculty Senate of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language

REGARDING: SCR 156 / SR 97

**REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT AND THE COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TO ESTABLISH A
WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE EXPANSION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE
INSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM.**

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Senators Shimabukuro and Taniguchi and the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs
and Higher Education and the Arts.

I write on behalf of the Faculty Senate of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian
Language of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to convey our united support for the passage of
SCR 156 and SC 97.

Attached is a resolution passed by our Faculty Senate in support of restructuring the College to
better serve Hawaiian language needs. The official resolution from our Senate is in Hawaiian as
Hawaiian is our official language of operations as mandated by the legislature in 1997.

In the nearly two decades that we have existed as a distinct college with our own faculty senate
we have moved many initiatives forward. A number of these are listed in the resolutions before
you. However, our faculty know that much more could be, and must be done.

The resolutions before you provide an opportunity to officially explore ways to build upon the
core success that has come from past actions of the legislature from 1989 to 2006 relative to
establishing distinctive structures and responsibilities for what is now Ka Haka 'Ula O
Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language. The faculty of the College fully support their
passage.

Mahalo nui loa.

Jason Cabral
Pelekikena (President)
'Aha Kenekoa Polopeka (Faculty Senate)
Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College

HE 'ŌLELO HO'OHŌLO E PI'I 'O KA HAKA 'ULA O KE'ELIKŌLANI
I KA PAE HOU O KONA MOHALA 'ANA
I KŌ PONO KA PAHUHOPU HE " 'ELUA 'ŌLELO; 'ELUA ALA"
I 'OI KELAKELA KA HO'ONA'AUAO P-20 MA KE KAIĀ'OLELO HAWAI'I
I OLA MAOLI KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I I 'ŌLELO MA'AMAU O KONA 'ĀINA KULAIWI

'OIAI, ke kokoke aku nei e pau kāuna nā anahulu makahiki o ka ho'okūhelu 'ia o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma loko o ke kumukānāwai o Ka Moku'āina 'O Hawai'i; a
'OIAI, ma loko o ia wā ua ne'e ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i mai ke kūlana pāpā 'ia 'a'ole e ho'ohana kaiā'ōlelo kula 'ia (i pau i ka MH 1986) a i kaiā'ōlelo ho'ona'auao no kekahi "Ala Ho'ona'auao Kaiā'ōlelo Hawai'i" mai ke kula kamali'i a hiki i ka papahana kēkelē kauka; a
'OIAI, ma loko pū o ia wā ua pi'i ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i mai ke kūlana he emi i ke 50 kona mau mea walewaha ma lalo o ka pae he 18 makahiki a hiki i kēia manawa he mau kaukani ma ia mau pae makahiki; a
'OIAI, ma muli o nā lanakila i loko o ka ho'ōla 'ōlelo Hawai'i ua 'ike 'ia 'o Hawai'i nei he alaka'i puni honua no nā aukahi ho'oikaika 'ōlelo 'ōiwi 'anehalapohe; a
'OIAI, 'o Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, 'o ia kekahi kikowaena ko'iko'i ma ka ho'omohala ho'ona'auao kaiā'ōlelo Hawai'i a 'ōiwi ho'i a ho'omalele hou aku i ko ke ao; a
'OIAI, ma ka ne'emua 'ana o ke aukahi ho'ōla 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani e kia mau ana ka hana ma luna o ka ho'ohui 'ia o ka 'oi kelakela o ka ho'ona'auao kaiā'ōlelo Hawai'i me ka ho'oma'amaui 'ia o ka ho'ohana 'ia o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i i 'ōlelo o kēlā lā kēia lā; a
'OIAI, ua holomua ka hana o Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani ma o ke ku'ikahi me nā ke'ena aupuni a me ke kū'oko'a mai ka wā he papahana a'o 'ōlelo a mo'omeheu Hawai'i ia ma ka māhele 'ōlelo 'ē a i ke kūlana māhele ha'awina Hawai'i kūka'awale a hiki aku i ke koleke kaiā'ōlelo Hawai'i kūkahi; a
'OIAI, ma kēlā 'anu'u kēia 'anu'u 'ōnaehana ma ka mohala 'ana o Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani ua ākea akula ka loa a me ka laulā o ka hiki ke hana no ka pono o ko Hawai'i nei a me ko ke ao me ka ho'onui i ke ahuana a pēlā pū me ka ho'onui heluna kanaka pā i ia hana;
NO LAILA, E HO'OHŌLO 'IA, eia Ka 'Aha Kenekoa ke hō'ike aku nei i kāna kāko'o a kōkua piha ma hope o ka mana'o e pi'i hou aku 'o Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani i ka 'anu'u 'ōnaehana hou i mea e ho'ākea hou a'e ai i kona lawelawe 'ana ma nā hana ho'ona'auao kaiā'ōlelo Hawai'i ahuana ki'eki'e i kaulike ai me ko kekahi 'ōlelo kūhelu a'e a i mea ho'i e ho'oikaika hou 'ia ai kona mau hana ho'ōla 'ōlelo Hawai'i i lilo he 'ōlelo ma'amaui no nā hana o kēlā lā kēia lā no nā 'ohana, kaiāulu a ke'ena aupuni o Ka Moku'āina 'O Hawai'i; a
E HO'OHŌLO HOU 'IA, ke kāko'o a kōkua piha pū nei Ka 'Aha Kenekoa o Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani e komo ma ia 'anu'u 'ōnaehana hou he mau 'ao'ao e kāko'o 'ia ai nā hana ho'ōla 'ōlelo lāhui 'ē a'e o loko o 'Amelika Hui Pū 'Ia, ko ka Pākīpika, a me ko ke ao a puni.
HO'OHŌLO LŌKAHI 'IA ma kēia lā 14 o Nowemapa, MH 2014.

Jason Cabral (Pelekikena, 'Aha Kenekoa o Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani)



(ENGLISH TRANSLATION) A RESOLUTION THAT KA HAKA 'ULA O KE'ELIKŌLANI
SEEK A NEW LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT
IN THE "TWO LANGUAGES-TWO PATHWAYS" FRAMEWORK
FOR P-20 HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MEDIUM EDUCATION EXCELLENCE
AND FULL HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE NORMALIZATION

WHEREAS, the completion of a fourth decade (a number of traditional Hawaiian significance) is now within sight since the recognition in 1978 of Hawaiian as an official language in The Constitution of The State Of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, over that period Hawaiian has been elevated from a language banned from use as a medium of education (until 1986) to a language that is now used as the medium of education in a "Hawaiian Language Medium Education Pathway" from preschool through to the doctorate; and

WHEREAS, over that period Hawaiian has moved from a language with fewer than 50 children under the age of 18 fluent in the language to several thousand speakers in that age group; and

WHEREAS, the successes attained in Hawaiian language revitalization have resulted in Hawai'i being recognized as a world leader in revitalizing endangered indigenous languages; and

WHEREAS, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language has been a key focal point in Hawaiian and indigenous language medium education with outreach to the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, from its inception Hawaiian language revitalization at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani has always been focused on a mission of combining Hawaiian language medium education excellence and full Hawaiian language medium normalization; and

WHEREAS, building on public/private partnerships Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani progressed from being a Hawaiian language and culture program in a foreign language department to being a Hawaiian Studies department of its own, and on to being a distinctive Hawaiian language medium college; and

WHEREAS, each organizational step in the evolution of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani has expanded horizons and opportunities to further serve the people of Hawai'i and the world at a higher level both quantitatively and qualitatively;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani wholeheartedly supports the development of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani on a new organizational level to further expand its various services to assure equity in high quality P-20 Hawaiian language medium education relative to Hawai'i's other official language and to normalize use of Hawaiian as a language of the family, community and government entities of the state of Hawai'i; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani wholeheartedly supports such a new organizational level that includes provisions supporting other language revitalization efforts of the United States, the Pacific Region, and the world at large.

PASSED unanimously this 14th day of November, 2014.

Jason Cabral (President, Faculty Senate of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani)



14 Nowemapa 2014

I ka po'e alaka'i hanohano o ke Kulanui o Hawai'i,
Aloha 'oukou,

'O mākou, nā kumu hapamanawa a me nā limahana o Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani, 'o ia ho'i ka po'e nona nā inoa ma lalo iho, ke hō'ike nei i ko mākou kāko'o piha i ka 'ōlelo ho'oholo a ka 'Aha Kenekoa o Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani e pi'i 'o Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani i ka pae hou o kona mohala 'ana i kō pono ka pahuhopu he "Elua 'ōlelo: 'Elua ala ho'ona'auao" i 'oi kelakela ka ho'ona'auao P-20 ma ke kaiā'ōlelo Hawai'i i ola maoli ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i i 'ōlelo ma'amau o kona 'āina kulaiwi.

*To the distinguished leaders of the University of Hawai'i,
Greetings,*

We, the lecturers and staff of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani, undersigned below, fully support the resolution of the Faculty Senate of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani that Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani seek a new level of development in the "Two languages: Two educational pathways" framework for P-20 Hawaiian language medium education excellence and full Hawaiian language normalization.

Inoa (Name):

Hannah Lockwood
Māhealani Kobashigawa
Ākeamakamae Kuyuna
D. Kanaelani Kawaiwae-Harris
S. Kaliko Trapp
Carmelito F. Arkangel
Hiilei Vuta
C. Maikalani Glendon-Paeling
D. Lei Kapono
Kellen Pā'ani Kelson
D. Keane Damrong
Kainani Kahaunahe
Kaiulani Carvalho
Nāilima Glanaw
Lepaka English
Kaulana Dameg

Pūlima (Signature):

Hannah Lockwood
Māhealani Kobashigawa
Ākeamakamae Kuyuna
D. Kanaelani Kawaiwae-Harris
S. Kaliko Trapp
Carmelito F. Arkangel
Hiilei Vuta
C. Maikalani Glendon-Paeling
D. Lei Kapono
Kellen Pā'ani Kelson
D. Keane Damrong
Kainani Kahaunahe
Kaiulani Carvalho
Nāilima Glanaw
Lepaka English
Kaulana Dameg

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Date of Hearing: 4/6/2015 Time: 1:15pm Location: Conference Room 224

*Testimony of Dr. Kauanoë Kamanā, Director of the Laboratory School
Program of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language of
the University of Hawai'i at Hilo*

REGARDING: **SCR 156 / SR 97**

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT AND THE COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TO
ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE
EXPANSION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION
THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM.

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Legislators:

My name is Dr. Kauanoë Kamanā, Director of the Laboratory School Program of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The Laboratory School Program of the College of Hawaiian Language is in **STRONG SUPPORT of SCR 156 / SR 97.**

The College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo plays a key role in the success of our laboratory school program. The College provides the majority of our teaching materials which includes expanded contemporary vocabulary in Hawaiian needed for instructional purposes. Invaluable online resources through the Ulukau Hawaiian electronic library developed and maintained by the College is a vital resource for teachers in and outside of our state. Hawaiian language assessments, teacher in-service training and parent workshops are also crucial to the success of our program and are also integral components provided by the College of Hawaiian Language.

In order to respond to the ever-growing needs of the State relative to the Hawaiian language, our laboratory school program strongly supports a formal study to determine how to restructure the College of Hawaiian Language. We believe the formal study proposed in SCR 156 / SR 97 is appropriate and timely.

The Laboratory School Program of the College of Hawaiian Language asks for your support in passing SCR 156 / SR 97. Mahalo nui.



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M. 'Ekekela Aiona

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Niulohiki
Hawaiian Language Online

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Date of Hearing: 4/6/2015 Time: 1:15pm

Location: Conference Room 224

*Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Non-Profit Educational Organization
Dedicated to the Revitalization of the Hawaiian Language*

REGARDING: SCR 156 / SR 97

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND
THE COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP
TO EXAMINE THE EXPANSION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION
THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM.

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Legislators:

My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR 156 / SR 97.

The College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo plays a key role in the success of our Pūnana Leo preschools statewide. The College provides the majority of our teaching materials which includes expanded contemporary vocabulary in Hawaiian needed for instructional purposes. Invaluable online resources through the Ulukau Hawaiian electronic library developed and maintained by the College greatly assist our teachers. Hawaiian language assessments, teacher in-service training, and parent workshop crucial to the success of our preschools are also provided by the College of Hawaiian Language.

In order to respond to the ever-growing needs of the State relative to the Hawaiian language, the 'Aha Pūnana Leo strongly supports a formal study to determine how to restructure the College of Hawaiian Language. We believe the formal study proposed in SCR 156 / SR 97 is appropriate and timely.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo asks for your support in passing SCR 156 / SR 97.

Mahalo nui,

M. 'Ekekela Aiona
Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: kaiulani@kalo.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR156 on Apr 6, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 1:12:34 PM

SCR156

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for HWN/HEA on Apr 6, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka'iulani Pahi'o	Na Lei Na'auao	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for your support!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana

Serving and perpetuating sustainable Hawaiian communities through Education with Aloha

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 4-6-2015

Time: 1:15 pm

Location: Conference Room 224

SCR 156 / SR 97 EXPANSION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM: **Support**

Aloha Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Galuteria and Inouye and Members of Committees:

My name is Katie Benioni, Chief Financial Officer of Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana, a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve and perpetuate sustainable Hawaiian communities through Education with Aloha. Our work is done primarily with Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools who deliver either some or all of their instruction in the Hawaiian language.

Many of the graduates of these charter schools go on to attend college at one of the University of Hawai'i campuses. We therefore support this resolution to establish a working group to examine the expansion of Hawaiian language instruction throughout the University of Hawaii System believing that our charter students who are seeking college degrees will benefit with the language continuum that can be created for them at the University level. Their ability to choose any degree: science, math, agriculture, etc. and have that instruction delivered in the official language of Hawaiian will only increase their skill base and opportunities as bilingual speakers in an increasingly global society. Their knowledge of the Hawaiian language and continued use of it in their future careers will also strengthen the "Aloha" for which our state is most noteworthy of and depends on for annual tourism revenue.

I ask for your support of SCR 156 / SR 97.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KB", with a small dot to the right.

Katie Benioni

64-1043 Hi'iaka Street Waimea, Hawai'i ▼ PO Box 6511 Kamuela, HI 96743

PH: 887-1117 Fax: 887-0030 www.kalo.org

Honoring the past, addressing the present, serving the future

1288 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt 1905
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
April 3, 2015

Testimony in Support of SCR 156
Requesting the University of Hawaii Office of the President and the College of Hawaiian
Language to Establish a Working Group to Examine the Expansion of Hawaiian Language
Instruction Throughout the University of Hawaii System

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Monday, April 6, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Aloha mai kākou,

The Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club is pleased to note that the Hawai'i State Legislature, Twenty-eight Legislative Session, has introduced several measures concerning the Hawaiian Language and that they are progressing through the legislative hearings. SCR156 is another measure that recognizes the importance of the Hawaiian language to our community and brings into Hawaii's education system a sense of equality of treatment of the language of the indigenous people of Hawai'i. We support SCR 156.

However, kindly recommend an amendment that would include the 'Aha Pūnana Leo as a member of the proposed working group. 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the mother of Hawaiian Language education, whose members, because of their passion, dedication and commitment, worked to revive its use. I know this from personal experience when at a young age was in the same waiting room seeking funds for Hawaiian programs, where the fledgling 'Aha Pūnana Leo members were also seeking start up funds for their Hawaiian language program. The history of 'Aha Pūnana Leo is below.

In closing, mahalo nui loa for your steadfast work in elevating the legislature's support of the Hawaiian language. Please pass SCR156 with the amendment offered to include 'Aha Pūnana Leo on the working group.

Respectfully

LEIMOMI KHAN

History

In 1896 education through the Hawaiian language in both public and private schools was outlawed on the model of U.S. policy towards the use of American Indian languages in education. Teachers are told that speaking Hawaiian with children will result in termination of employment. Children are harshly punished for speaking Hawaiian in school. By 1984 the community of fluent speakers had dwindled to a few elders and a tiny geographically isolated population on the island of Ni'ihau. Hawaiian language speaking children under the age of 18 numbered less than fifty. The demise of Hawaiian language was imminent.



In January 1984, a group of Hawaiian language educators met to discuss strategies to perpetuate the language. From speaking with elders, they knew that raising children in an environment where Hawaiian was the ordinary language of interaction was central to survival of the language. The key would be to re-establish Hawaiian Medium Education schools that existed during the Monarchical Period. They focused their efforts to nurture a new generation of speakers that would be able to describe the world through the lens of their language and culture, as well as master English and other languages using methods that had proven effective in Europe. Thus began the Pūnana Leo preschool and a reemergence of a Hawaiian philosophy of education, now known as the Kumu Honua Mauli Ola.

Pūnana Leo means “nest of voices” and depicts the dominant learning method in these centers as students are “fed” solely their native language and culture much like the way young birds are cared for in their own nests. The first of these preschools was established in Kekaha, Kaua’i in August 1984. The following year, schools were established in Hilo, Hawai’i and Honolulu, O’ahu and continued to spread to other islands thereafter.

‘Aha Pūnana Leo is closely tied to the Māori Kōhanga Reo movement in New Zealand. Indeed, the name Pūnana Leo, which is equivalent to the Māori term Kōhanga Reo, honors those connections and the inspiration provided by the Kōhanga Reo.

Today, a complete preschool through doctoral-level system of education in the state of Hawai’i is taught entirely through Hawaiian.

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Aloha pumehana kākou,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for SCR156 that requests that the University of Hawai'i Office of the President and the College of Hawaiian Language to establish a working group to examine the expansion of Nawaiian language instruction throughout the University of Hawai'i system.

I am both a former student of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian language, as well as a former staff member and faculty of the college, and witnessed firsthand the effectiveness of the college's efforts to lead the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language in all areas of life. I observed its evolution from a study area in the Humanities Department at UH Hilo with a single BA program to one that includes multiple graduate level programs up to the Ph.D. level. Its establishment and operation of the Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'ū laboratory school is a model for such collaborations between charter schools, the DOE and university.

The Hawai'i State Constitution recognizes Hawaiian as an official language of Hawaii and further recognizes that study of the Hawaiian language ought to be promoted and protected within the context of traditional and customary rights. The structure and normal operating model that the university operates under is insufficient for the system to properly address the language and cultural needs of the Hawaiian people, and the working group that this proposed legislation would establish would be a significant step in making the university the truly indigenous institution that its Board of Trustees has publicly mandated.

I urge this committee and both sides of our state legislature to pass this proposed legislation in its current wording as to begin this essential work of strengthening the University of Hawai'i's support of the Hawaiian language.

Dr. Joseph Keola Donaghy
Wailuku, Maui