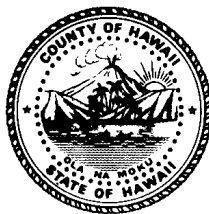


REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

February 24, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 2010 HD 1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I
Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
12:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2010 HD 1, relating to the University of Hawai'i. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to support the preservation and cultivation of the Hawaiian language by providing scholarships to students pursuing Hawaiian language degrees through the University of Hawai'i's Hawaiian language programs. The deterioration of the Hawaiian language occurred during 1896 with a law that required English instruction in Hawai'i's schools. In practice, this law effectively banned students from speaking Hawaiian in their schools. Recently reaffirmed by the Hawai'i Supreme Court in their August 13, 2019 ruling on *Clarabal v. Department of Education*, "that the Hawaiian education provision was intended to require the State to institute a program that is reasonably calculated to revive the Hawaiian language". Article X, section 4, of the Hawai'i State Constitution claims that the "State shall provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture, and history in the public schools". Providing scholarships to encourage the revival of the Hawaiian language will assist with the hope that the Hawaiian language will continue to thrive and will not be lost. I encourage you to amend the effective date to begin in the year July 1, 2021 instead of July 1, 2050.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Finance to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Rebecca Villegas

Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 25, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.

By

Donald O. Straney

Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2010 HD1– RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2010 HD1, which would provide scholarships to students pursuing degrees and certificates in Hawaiian language at the University of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i System (UH) supports this appropriation to fund scholarships for students who take and learn the Hawaiian language. UH has seen an increase in the numbers of students seeking knowledge of Hawaiian history and its language. As an indigenous serving institution, this scholarship will assist students in their ability to further their 'ōlelo Hawai'i while attending any of UH's 10 campuses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Date: February 25, 2020

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka‘ano‘i Walk

RE: HB 2010, HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai‘i

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Cullen, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana, aloha! My name is Ka‘ano‘i Walk, the Senior Policy Analyst for Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools is in **support** of HB 2010, HD1, which appropriates funds to provide scholarships to students pursuing Hawaiian language certifications or degrees within the University of Hawai‘i system.

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is the language of our home—being used and celebrated by thousands across the pae ‘āina (archipelago) in government, education, and commerce alike. Nevertheless, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), our beloved Hawaiian language remains critically endangered. The scholarships proposed in HB 2010, HD1, will support the education of more students to become ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i speakers, which is necessary to reverse this trend.

In addition, a degree in Hawaiian language can serve as a first step towards teacher certification and licensure, thereby increasing the number of potential Kula Kaiapuni and other Hawaiian language immersion teachers. An increase in Hawaiian language immersion teachers is greatly needed, especially considering the State’s responsibility for ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i education, recently clarified by the Hawai‘i Supreme Court in *Clarabal v. State*.

We appreciate the amendments to this measure which acknowledge that while a Hawaiian language degree from either Kawaihuelani at UH Mānoa or Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani at UH Hilo may be the ultimate destination for students, many students in pursuit of a Hawaiian language degree or certificate begin their post-secondary education in one of the many UH community colleges.

Through our continued work with scholars, students and Hawaiian language speakers, as well as collaborations with community partners, governmental agencies and Native Hawaiian organizations, Kamehameha Schools strongly supports measures that promote and sustain the

renormalization of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, an official language of Hawai‘i.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! **Please advance this measure.**

HB-2010-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 9:36:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Does UH give scholarships to students studying other languages on an equal basis? No

LATE

HB-2010-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 7:58:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2010-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 9:42:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juanita Kawamoto Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: