



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
and
House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs
February 12, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

By
Donald O. Straney
Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2010 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Woodson and Yamane, Vice Chairs Hashem, Quinlan and Todd, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2010, which would provide scholarships to students pursuing degrees in Hawaiian language at the University of Hawai'i. The University of Hawai'i System supports the creation of a scholarship fund to increase the number of students who take and learn the Hawaiian language.

While we are supportive, it is not clear from the language of the bill if the intent is to fund a single year of instruction or to fund a scholarship for four years but provide that funding to the University during the 2020-2021 academic year.

The language of the bill raises several other questions regarding its implementation. First, would the scholarship be for students entering the program as declared majors or for any students taking Hawaiian language courses? Second, if students take two years of Hawaiian Language at a Community College and then transfer to UH Hilo or UH Mānoa, are they also eligible for the scholarship? We note that in addition to the two four-year programs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the University of Hawai'i Hilo mentioned in the bill, all campuses throughout the system offer Hawaiian Language courses. The Community Colleges offer two years of Hawaiian Language instruction and an AA in Hawaiian Studies. UH West O'ahu offers 4 years of Hawaiian language instruction and a concentration in Hawaiian and Pacific Studies.

We raise these questions to ensure that such a program is adequately administered. While the University is willing to find ways to undertake and overcome any challenges for the benefit of having this program, we would appreciate clarity into how the scholarship program would function.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



KE ONE O KĀKUHIIHEWA

O'ahu Council of the
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

House Committee on Lower and Higher Education House Committee on Water Land & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

BENTON KEALII PANG, PH.D.-
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB OF
HONOLULU
PELEKIKENA

JACOB KA'ŌMAKAOKALĀ AKI-
KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC
HOPE PELEKIKENA

GEORGIANA NAVARRO-
MĀKAHA HCC
HOPE PELEKIKENA 'ELUA

ALBERTA LOW-PEARL HARBOR
HCC
PU'UKŪ

ROTH PUAHALA -KING
KAMEHAMEHA HCC
PELEKIKENA IHO NEI

TERI LOO-KO'OLAUPOKO HCC
KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

CHRISTINE "CHRISSY" ANJO-
PEARL HARBOR HCC
HOLE KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

'ĀHAHUI SIWILA HAWAII' O
KĀPOLEI
LANCE HOLDEN

ALI'I PAUAI HCC
KEHAULANI LUM

'EWA-PU'ULOLO HCC
MARLEEN KAUI SERRAO

HCC OF HONOLULU
ANITA NAONE

KAILUA HCC
MAPUANA DE SILVA

KALIHI-PĀLAMA HCC
KAIMO MUHLESTEIN

KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC
LETANI PELTIER

KO'OLAULOLO HCC
RANAE "TESSIE"
FONOIMOANA

KO'OLAUPOKO HCC
ALICE P. HEWETT

LUALUALEI HCC
SHIRLINE HO

MĀKAHA HCC
LUANN LANKFORD-
FABORITO

MAUNALUA HCC
ROSE KITTY SIMONDS

NA LANI 'EHA HCC
R. KELANI RAMOS

NĀNĀIKAPONO HCC
JAYCINE HICKS

PAPAKŌLE'A HCC
KEALI'I LUM

PEARL HARBOR HCC
ANTOINETTE LEE

PRINCE KŪHIŌ HCC
A. MAKANA PARIS

PRINCESS KAI'ULANI HCC
RUSTY RODENHURST

QUEEN EMMA HCC
RAWLETTE P. KRAUT

HCC OF WĀHIWA
MARIE "MĀLIA" DOO

HCC OF WAIALUA
MAKALAPUA CASSON-
FISHER

WAI'ANAE HCC
CYNTHIA ENRIQUEZ

WAIKI'I HCC
L. PI'KEA TOMCZYK

HCC OF WAIMĀNALO
KALANI KALIMA

RE: Support for HB2010

Aloha Chair Justin Woodson, Vice chair Mark Hashem, Vice chair Sean Quinlan, Chair Ryan Yamane, Vice Chair Chris Todd, and members of the House Committees on Lower and Higher Education and Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Benton Kealii Pang and I am the president for Ke One O Kākuhihewa-O'ahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. I am writing in **strong support** of **HB2010**, which appropriates funds to provide scholarships for students pursuing a Hawaiian language degree through the University of Hawai'i's Hawaiian language Program.

Hawaiian language is recognized in the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i as an official language yet it is not taught within the same parameters which English is taught and is not made available to all students at both public and privilege schools as a core academic subject with accreditation at least at the high school level. Hawaiian language, history, and culture are the foundation of the State of Hawai'i and recognition of the value of the host culture. The adequate and sufficient funding, the development of necessary curriculum, the provision of adequate training should be provided, accomplished, and achieved to create qualified teachers in order to eliminate some of the obstacles and barriers of the host culture to losing its language, and culture. Please pass HB2010.

Ke One O Kakūhihewa is a native Hawaiian council made up of 24 civic clubs on the island of O'ahu. Our oldest member, Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu was established by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole on December 7, 1918.

Sincerely,

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.





KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Ke Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao Ha‘aha‘a, Ki‘eki‘e, a me ke Kulanui

Ke Kōmike Wai, ‘Āina, a me nā Kuleana Hawai‘i

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: February 12, 2020

Where: State Capitol Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Ka‘ano‘i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

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

E nā Luna Ho‘omalū Woodson a me Yamane, nā Hope Luna Ho‘omalū Hashem, Quinlan, a me Todd, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao Ha‘aha‘a, Ki‘eki‘e, a me ke Kulanui a me ke Kōmike Wai, ‘Āina, a me nā Kuleana Hawai‘i 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, with comments** of HB 2010, which appropriates funds to provide scholarships for students pursuing a Hawaiian language degree through the University of Hawai‘i’s Hawaiian language programs.

‘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 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 immersion teachers. A greater number of Hawaiian 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 also 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 begin their post-secondary education in one of the many UH community colleges. If the intent is to encourage and support all students

interested in securing a UH Hawaiian language degree, we urge the legislature to consider including support for students in pursuit of this goal in the community colleges as well.

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

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:38:30 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kea Kala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2010

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:57:51 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Students should have scholarships available to them especially for Hawaiian language studies and subjects. It is past time.

HB-2010

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Melamed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2010

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:13:58 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Shintani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2010

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 7:43:24 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2010

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:41:31 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leinaala Vedder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

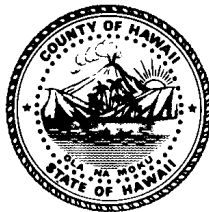
Aloha,

My name is LeinÄ• 'ala Kuloloio Vedder from Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma PÄ• 'ia. I support HB2010 Appropriating funds to provide scholarships for students pursuing a Hawaiian language degree through the University of Hawai'i's Hawaiian language programs.

Mahalo,

LeinÄ• 'ala Kuloloio Vedder

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

LATE

February 10, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 2010, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I
Committee on Lower & Higher Education
Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair Woodson, Chair Yamane, and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2010, 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.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Lower and Higher Education, the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs 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.

HB-2010

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 3:54:57 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2020 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Konia	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou e Na Lala o Na Komike,

I am Konia Freitas, the Department Chair at the Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at University of Hawaii at Manoa. I support HB 2010 and I ask that you consider extending funding support for students in Hawaiian Studies. At Kamakakuokalani for example, we require our students to take three years of Hawaiian language. As a matter of comparison, to receive a Bachelors Degree in Hawaiian Language a student must enroll in four years of Hawaiian language. I note that our students will dual major in Hawaiian Studies and Hawaiian Language. It is virtually impossible to engage in Hawaiian Studies without moderate (at a minimum) language ability. Our language is the fundamental basis to understanding ourselves, our ancestors, our land and natural resources, our economy, our 'ohana, our islands and larger Oceania. This foundation is critical to our students as they enter an increasingly global society. Today, with a vast assortment of Hawaiian language based resources available to our students, they are well poised to question, explore and answer our most pressing issues from a uniquely Hawaiian point of view. I ask that you consider extending scholarship support to Hawaiian Studies students who must meet a three year language requirement.

Me ke aloha ha'aha'a,

Konia Freitas, PhD

email contact: konia808@gmail.com

LATE

HB-2010

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 9:25:18 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Faria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I am in strong support of HB 2010, and any legislation that eases the financial burden of individuals attending college, especially those who are pursuing a degree which will help support future speakers of Hawaiian. This incentive will surely help increase the numbers of students in both these language programs which in the future will aid our state by creating informed residents that can participate in a variety of meaningful ways such as government, schools and most importantly our communities. Hawaiian language is essential to the well being of all of Hawaii, as it allows one to connect with the hopes, dreams, aspirations and knowledge of our past that can give meaning to the present and help secure a future for all of us here in Hawaii. Because of this importance I humbly ask that you seriously consider increasing the funding so as to include our students pursuing an Associate Arts degree in Hawaiian Studies that enroll in the first and second year language courses in our community college system. It has been my experience in the university system for the past twenty years that it is during those initial first years of language study that influences a student's decision to major in Hawaiian language. It is also in those first years that the foundation is set that allows them to succeed in their upper level Hawaiian courses. If we can reach out to and support these students early in their academic journey, we certainly will be able to increase the number of Hawaiian language candidates at the Bachelor's of Arts as well.

In closing, we have been working on this lofty goal of language revitalization for sometime now, and for this to truly work we need quality teachers who are proficient in the language, quality curriculum and resources, multiple language rich domains outside of a classroom, and diligent support from the community and the government. I would like to thank for your diligent support in proposing this bill and humbly ask that you seriously consider increasing the funding for this proposal and extend the reach of this support to community college students as well, and individuals in teacher training programs who will be teaching in a Hawaiian Immersion school or teaching Hawaiian language as a second language as well.

Me ka Oiaio,

Keoki Faria

LATE

HB-2010

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 9:43:39 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Yoro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairmen and members of the committee,

I strongly support HB 2010 relating to the appropriation of funds to support the preservation of the Hawai'ian language by providing scholarships to students pursuing degrees in Hawai'ian language degrees through the University of Hawai'i Hawai'ian language program. Appropriating these funds to provide these scholarships will encourage our youth to pursue Hawai'ian language degrees and encourage curiosity to further conserve and protect our Hawai'ian Islands. Additionally, providing scholarships to those pursuing Hawai'ian language degrees will help us achieve Hawai'i's goals to have 55% of adults obtain a higher degree by 2025. Doing so will encourage entering a different field of study that will diversify the skillset of our community members and positively impact our local communities.

For these reasons, I encourage you to move this bill forward.

Aloha,

Yvonne Yoro

LATE

HB-2010

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 7:50:19 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/12/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in support of House Bill 2010.

This is morally and practically the right kind of government subsidy. People from all over the world have pursued studies relating to Hawaiian language and culture, including at the University of Hawai'i. This is a 'public good' that government must support in order for it to be made available.

In some sense HB2010 is also corrective. There are still living today kama'aina whose own-Hawaiian speaking parents would not teach them Hawaiian, because of the validated fear of disadvantage and discrimination. This is one anecdote, but it speaks to a broad history in our educational system that is linguistically discriminatory, one which we must overcome. We ought to affirm our commitment to both of our official languages as a state, honoring and affirming the dignity of our Hawaiian brothers and sisters.

Thank you,
Dylan P. Armstrong