



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 329

**Re: HB1658 Relating to Education**

*Kalei Kailihiwa, Director, Ho'olako Like*  
Kamehameha Schools

Good morning Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. My name is Kalei Kailihiwa, Director of Ho'olako Like of Kamehameha Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the intent of HB1658.

Kamehameha Schools supports the efforts of the legislature to establish and administer educational pilot programs that aim to preserve, perpetuate and share Native Hawaiian culture and arts, such as traditional voyaging techniques.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian children through education. We serve 5,400 K-12 students through campus programs on O'ahu, Hawai'i and Maui, and 1,317 three-and-four-year-olds at 31 preschool sites statewide. We also provide scholarships to keiki attending other pre-schools.

We look forward to working more closely with the legislature, the Department of Education and other public and private stakeholders in the community for the benefit of the children of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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*Founded and Endowed by the Legacy of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop*

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2009

Committee: House Hawaiian Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.B. No. 1658, Relating to Education

Purpose: Establishes and funds a traditional Hawaiian navigation pilot program in the public schools.

Departments Position: The Department supports H.B. No. 1658 with concerns as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. It is recommended that the initial implementation of the pilot project occur in school year 2010-2011. This timeline for implementation will allow for the planning, research, and development of a comprehensive program that will include identifying the specific schools and grade levels that will participate in the pilot implementation.

## Rep. Maile Shimabukuro

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**From:** carloslawrenceandrade@gmail.com on behalf of Carlos Andrade [carloso@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 3:14 PM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** awana3-Elenoa; Maenette Benham; Rep. Mele Carroll  
**Subject:** Testimony re: HB 1658 – Traditional Hawaiian navigation pilot program.

Testimony re: HB 1658 – Traditional Hawaiian navigation pilot program.

Aloha kākou,

Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies located in Hawaiʻi inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge supports, with reservations, the establishment and administration by the Dept. of Education of a two year traditional Hawaiian navigation pilot program.

The first reservation has to do with funding as there is no clear funding support for this effort written into the bill (amount??).

The second reservation has to do with articulation with other programs involving traditional navigation. As a former crew member on board Hōkūleʻa in 1985 (Aotearoa, Tonga and Samoa) and 1993 (Rarotonga, Tahiti and Hawaiʻi), I do know that the Polynesian Voyaging Society has an informal training program. In addition, there are two university level classes focused on aspects of traditional navigation, that have been taught for half a dozen years at KCHS and are presently being taught at Honolulu Community College as well as at KCHS.

Is there or has there been any consultation done with either of these programs in order that there not be any conceptual or other kind of conflict or disconnect that would arise out of the pilot program with these already established programs?

The last reservation has to do with the safety and appropriateness of the program. There is really no background information regarding the actual activities involved in the program or any information about who (what kind of credentials) will be developing the program?

Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies recognizes the value of learning the wisdom and practical knowledge of the ancestors and applauds efforts to bring this to the youth of Hawaiʻi. We, however, caution legislators in supporting this bill to assess fully the importance of good logistical support for safety, practicality and the genuine nature of the content that will be taught in this program.

Mahalo,

Carlos Andrade  
Director, KCHS, HSHK, UHM.