



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

**Nainoa Thompson
Trustee Kamehameha Schools**

Testimony in Strong Support of HCR 113 and HR 96

Committee on International Affairs

Chair: Representative Rida T.R. Cabanilla

Vice Chair: Karen Leinani Awana

Aloha Chair and Vice Chair and the Committee on International Affairs. I am Nainoa Thompson trustee for Kamehameha Schools. For the last 20 years, I have been a navigator and sail master of the Polynesian Voyaging Society's double-hulled canoe Hokule`a. It has inspired and led a revival of traditional arts associated with long-distance ocean voyaging in Hawai'i and throughout Polynesia. My accomplishments throughout the past 20 years have developed multi-disciplined, culturally relevant educational programs in partnership with other educational institutions, organizations and agencies throughout Polynesian.

I have developed a system of wayfinding, or non-instrument navigation, synthesizing traditional principles of ancient Pacific navigation and modern scientific knowledge. I am the first Hawaiian and the first Polynesian to practice the art of wayfinding on long distance ocean voyages since such voyaging ended in Hawai'i around the 14th century.

We strongly support this resolution, which would request the establishment of a relationship between the state of Hawaii and the islands of Polynesia. Hawaii would benefit historical precedents exemplifying the common desire to maintain a close cultural, educational, commercial, and financial bridge between Polynesians living in Hawaii with their relatives, friends, and business counterparts in the islands of Polynesia.

Thank you for hearing my testimony and for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Trustee Nainoa Thompson Kamehameha Schools



COUNCIL FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVANCEMENT

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Honorable Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair
Honorable Representative Karen Leinani Awana, Vice Chair
International Affairs Committee

Testimony of Robin Puanani Danner, President & CEO
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

Hearing on Monday, March 17, 2008, at 9:30 am, Room 329

Support for HCR 113, Requesting the establishment of a relationship between the State of Hawaii and the islands of Polynesia.

Chair Cabanilla and Vice Chair Awana, Members of the Committee:

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) is a community development nonprofit with a mission of enhancing the well being of Hawaii through the cultural, economic and community development of Native Hawaiians. We achieve our mission through capacity building of community based organizations, training and technical assistance, leadership development and convening our community around topical and important policy issues.

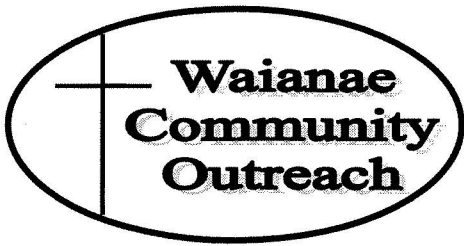
The Council is on record with strong support with regard to HCR 113. Our organization has experienced firsthand the benefits of developing relationships that extend beyond the borders of our island home. CNHA programs that incorporate elements of intercultural communication and programs that partner with Polynesian or Native American groups are often the most rewarding relationships and most successful. While we have carved out a unique niche for ourselves in cross-cultural business and community ventures, State led efforts to foster extended relationships throughout Polynesia would bring added value to the many organizations like CNHA already promoting such interaction.

Historically, proactive measures that foster the commercial and cultural interface between the people of Hawaii and their Polynesian counterparts have generated positive social and economic results for Hawaiians and for Hawaii. The most recognized example of this is the famed Hokule'a project, which has been considered one of the cornerstones of the Hawaiian renaissance, reinvigorating an interest in classic Hawaiian practices. The Hokule'a is said to be responsible for garnering invaluable global media coverage for Hawaii.

A hands-on State led effort to identify and facilitate methods of communication and means of commerce between the people of Hawaii and our Polynesian neighbors will produce meaningful and profitable relationships. In addition, an understanding of how our Pacific Island partners are managing the challenges of finite resources, the pressures of rapid development, and the rights of Aboriginal Peoples will assist in our efforts to develop a sustainable future for all Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important Resolution.

Please take positive action on HCR 113. Mahalo.



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Partnerships in Building Community

Hope for a New Beginning Shelter

Barber's Pt. Bldg 50, Belleau Woods, Kapolei 96707
Ph: (808) 682-HOPE (4673) * Fax: (808) 682-4670

March 17, 2008

Rep. R. Cabanilla, Chair
Rep. K. Awana, Vice-Chair
International Affairs

Laura Pitolo,
Program Director of Waianae Community Outreach

March 17, 2008 Time: 9:30am Rm 329

FULL SUPPORT OF HCR113 Establishing a relationship between Hawaii and Polynesia

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Laura Pitolo, I'm the Program Director of Waianae Community Outreach, a provider of services to the homeless and needy of the Waianae Coast. It is with great support that I stand on the passing of HCR 113 relating to the establishment of a relationship between the state of Hawaii and the Polynesia. This measure will allow for the "sister-sister" relationship within our pacific region.

Thank you for allowing me this time to submit my testimony and request your favor to support this measure. For more information I can be contacted at 779-1261

Mahalo,

Waianae Community Outreach
P.O. Box 1912 Waianae, HI 96792
Ph: (808) 696-5667

From the desk of
Sophina Placencia, Executive Director

March 17, 2008

Rep. R. Cabanilla, Chair
Rep. K. Awana, Vice-Chair
International Affairs

Sophina Placencia,
Executive Director of Waianae Community Outreach

March 17, 2008 Time: 9:30am

FULL SUPPORT OF HCR113 Establishing a relationship between Hawaii and Polynesia

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the committee

My name is Sophina Placencia, the Executive Director of Waianae Community Outreach, a provider of services to the homeless and needy of the Waianae Coast. It is with great support that I stand on the side of HCR113 relating to the establishment of a relationship between the state of Hawaii and Polynesia. This measure will allow for the "sister-sister" relationship within our community.

I am therefore allowing me this time to submit my testimony and request your favor to support this measure. For more information I can be contacted at 779-1261



TESTIMONY OF
Daniel Paul de Gracia, II
Concerned Citizen

BEFORE THE
House Committee on International Affairs
Chair, Rida Cabanilla-Arakawa
Vice Chair, Karen Awana

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MEASURE
HCR113 / HR96 "REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE ISLANDS OF POLYNESIA."
Monday, March 17, 2008
Conference Room 329, 9:30 am

Single copy transmitted electronically to INTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Awana, Honorable Members of the Committee:

The purpose of these measures is to request the Governor to take action to establish a sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and the islands of Polynesia.

It is my pleasure to testify in strong support of HCR114 and HR96, and I thank Representative Awana for her forward thinking in introducing these resolutions.

While these two resolutions are directed specifically establishing a sister state relationship with the islands of Polynesia, as a person born on the small South Pacific island of Guam, I can completely understand and appreciate the intent and scope of these measures. The islands of the Pacific Ocean are at present some of the most unique, diverse, and isolated communities and microstates on Planet Earth, many of which have been neglected in terms of engagement by the rest of the world.

Polynesia consists of approximately one thousand or more islands of various land masses and populations, ranging from our very own State of Hawaii to the lesser known monarchy of Niue, a tiny 100-square mile rock which was originally named "Savage Island" by Captain Cook. Many of these islands are extremely limited in terms of higher education, career diversity, access to specialized healthcare, and in the instances of smaller islands, access to drinking water apart from aging desalinization plants. To many people born on such islands as these, their isolated corner of the world is the entire Universe to them, due to their limited options available for travel and interconnectivity

with the rest of the world. I would very much like to see some form of agreement, either formal or informal, to proliferate modernization of these islands and expand opportunities for their people.

I would like to recommend a few friendly amendments, if the Committee is willing to entertain them, which may possibly increase the effectiveness of these resolutions. On page 1, lines 11-27, I suggest amending and revising the current language to state:

WHEREAS, historical precedent exists which exemplify a common desire to maintain a close cultural, commercial, and financial bridge between Polynesians living in Hawaii with their relatives, friends and business counterparts in the islands of Polynesia, and the establishment of sister-state relations between the State of Hawaii and Polynesia would help reinforce and cement this common bridge; and

WHEREAS, the geographic location of Hawaii presents an outstanding opportunity to promote global connectivity among the islands of Polynesia for the purposes of proliferating meaningful and mutually rewarding international friendships, understanding between cultures, economic and social vitality, scientific and technological advancement, as well as enhanced regional security; and

I thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify, and look forward to the establishment of enhanced relations with the islands of Polynesia.

Rep. R. Cabanilla, Chair
Rep. K. Awana, Vice-Chair
International Affairs

Kau'i Kapu
Kanaka Maoli, Part Hawaiian and a Private Citizen

March 17, 2008 Time: 9:30am Rm 329

**FULL SUPPORT OF HCR113 Establishing a relationship between Hawaii and
Polynesia**

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Kau'i Kapu, a Kanaka Maoli, Part-Hawaiian and a private citizen of Hawaii. I'm testifying in Full Support of HCR 113 relating to the establishment of a relationship between the state of Hawaii and the Polynesia. This measure will allow for the "sister-sister" relationship within our pacific region.

Thank you for allowing me this time to submit my testimony and request your favor to support this measure. For more information I can be contacted at 696-1654

Mahalo,