

Date: March 18, 2008  
Committee: House Higher  
Education/Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title: H.C.R. 170, Requesting the University of Hawaii and the Department of Education to Develop, Offer, and Expand Philippine Language Courses

Purpose: That the University of Hawaii at Manoa work with other University of Hawaii campuses and the Department of Education to develop a plan to offer Philippine language courses and teacher training workshops

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) defers to the University of Hawaii as to a position on this Resolution. The Department will support the University of Hawaii in the development of a plan.

This Resolution is consistent with the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards and Board of Education policy. The Resolution would strengthen the Department's on-going efforts by increasing opportunities for students to acquire the skills and knowledge of our global society, which include the understanding of two or more world languages and cultures.

The Department concurs with the need to include and nurture Hawaii's rich communities of speakers of languages other than English. Presently, all secondary schools can choose to offer

Filipino or Ilokano as an elective course. Schools determine course offerings based on Board of Education policy, student interest, and budget allocations. However, there is a scarcity of Philippine language teachers that meet the “highly qualified” designation as part of the federal 2001 No Child Left Behind Act. Therefore, the Department welcomes the opportunity to support the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the endeavor to expand Philippine language and teacher education programs at the University of Hawaii campuses and public schools.