

Date of Hearing: March 24, 2008

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.C.R. 202/H.R. 172, Urging the Department of Education to Adopt the “Na Honua Maui Ola: Hawai’i Guidelines for Culturally Healthy and Responsive Learning Environments” to Enable Schools and Communities to Examine and Attend to the Educational and Cultural Well-Being of their Learners.

Purpose: Urging the Department of Education to adopt the “Na Honua Maui Ola: Hawaii Guidelines for culturally healthy and responsive learning environments” to enable schools and communities to examine and attend to the educational and cultural well-being of their learners.

Department's Position: Although the Department encourages the use of Na Honua Maui Ola as a guide or framework for building holistic learning environments based on Hawaiian language and culture, the Department does not support this resolution as currently written because of the following:

1. Na Honua Maui Ola is included as a guiding document in the Department of Education Hawaiian Language Immersion Program Guide (2004).
2. Na Honua Maui Ola is incorporated in the Hawaiian Studies Program Guide (draft 2005; draft 2008) as Chapter 3 in guiding Instruction, Student Learning, and Assessment. The chapter

provides the “big ideas” and the overarching goals along with the General Learner Outcomes for all students in public schools.

3. Na Honua Maui Ola has been and is currently being used as a resource in the Department’s Hawaiian Studies and Language Programs Section’s training and workshops for Hawaiian Studies Program Cultural Personnel Resource (kupuna component) as well as public school teachers.
4. The last Education Summit for Na Honua Maui Ola was held a little more than 10 years ago. Another summit must be held to consider and collect feedback on this document from the larger Hawaiian education community, including the University of Hawaii at Manoa Hawaiian Studies Department and the Kamehameha Schools Public Education Division. Collective support of the document is key to implement its guidelines.

LATE TESTIMONY



HCR 202 / HR172 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT  
THE "NĀ HONU MAOLI OLA: HAWAI'I GUIDELINES FOR CULTURALLY  
HEALTHY AND RESPONSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS" TO ENABLE  
SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TO EXAMINE AND ATTEND TO THE  
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING OF THEIR LEARNERS.

House Committee on Education

Date: March 24, 2008

Time: 2:00pm

Room: 309

Aloha, Chairman Takumi and members of the House committee on education, my name is Hauoli Akaka, Director of Education at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

OHA **strongly supports** HCR 202 and HR 172. We have been beset upon and emotionally traumatized this past year by an increase in violence - in our streets, on our freeways, in our backyards, and even in our schools. If we do not attend to this escalating problem, we will see our beloved Hawai'i turn into a monstrosity. Yet, if we attend to this by creating culturally healthy and responsive learning environments, we can turn back this negative and brutalizing tide. "Nā Honua Maoli Ola" offers guidelines to enable schools and communities to examine and attend to the educational and cultural well-being of their learners. This important document is not solely for schools but for other institutions where learning takes place like in our prisons. "Nā Honua Maoli Ola" also provides guidelines for families, communities, educators, as well as learners. It enhances the Department of Education's Hawai'i Content and Performance Standards III (HCPS) and is being used by curriculum developers and teachers in shaping their curriculum and lessons for students. "Nā Honua Maoli Ola" can be used for reviewing school or district-level goals, policies, and practices with regard to the curriculum, pedagogy, and as well as in programs being implemented in the community such as those for the homeless, the abused, the disabled, and the elderly. Lastly, "Nā Honua Maoli Ola" contains an action plan. The first action is to distribute these guidelines statewide, through public and private agencies, and make the Guidelines easily available to all groups and individuals. OHA will assist in this action should this resolution be passed.

We respectfully ask passage of HCR 202 and HR 172, Mahalo.

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 202/HR 172

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Dr. William H. Wilson. I am chair of the academic programs division of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Ka Haka 'Ula O Keelikōlani includes a teacher certification program, three K-12 laboratory schools on three islands, two M.A. programs, and a Ph.D.. The focus of our College is programming provided through the Hawaiian language, rather than through the English language.

I wish to support HCR 202/HR 172 urging the State Department of Education to adopt the "Nā Honua Maui Ola Hawai'i Guidelines for Culturally Healthy and Responsive Learning Environments" to further strengthen Hawai'i's national leadership in indigenous education and in state cultural distinctiveness.

Nā Honua Maui Ola is a remarkable product of cooperation throughout the Native Hawaiian and larger educational community of Hawaii. It is based on the Hawaiian tradition of inclusiveness and thus provides useful perspectives for providing very specific place and community based education while also providing for the full range of immigrant cultures within the context living in Hawai'i.

Nā Honua Maui Ola has been well received both nationally and internationally. I believe, official legislative action such as this, and official adoption by the State Department of Education will further demonstrate Hawaii's seriousness about its distinctiveness.



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the House Education Committee  
Hearing Date: Monday, March 24, 2008  
2:00 p.m. – Conference Room 309

By Shawn Kana'iaupuni  
Director, Public Education Support (PEdS) Division  
Kamehameha Schools

March 24, 2008

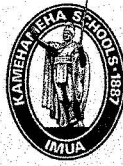
Re: HCR 202 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT THE "NA HONUA MAULI  
OLA: HAWAI'I GUIDELINES FOR CULTURALLY HEALTHY AND RESPONSIVE LEARNING  
ENVIRONMENTS" TO ENABLE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TO EXAMINE AND ATTEND TO THE  
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING OF THEIR LEARNERS.

Good afternoon Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg and members of the Education Committee. My name is Shawn Kana'iaupuni and I am Director, Public Education Support (PEdS) Division for Kamehameha Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 202.

Kamehameha Schools applauds the legislature for its interest in supporting Hawaiian language instruction for teachers and culturally healthy and responsive learning environments. We look forward to participating in on going dialog on this critically important matter and ask you to support advancing these important matters and ask that you advance this resolution.

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. Last year, we provided \$4.4 million in scholarships to 850 keiki attending community preschools. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawaii's children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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Testimony to the House Education Committee  
Hearing Date: Monday, March 24, 2008  
2:00 p.m. – Conference Room 309

By Shawn Kana'iaupuni  
Director, Public Education Support (PEdS) Division  
Kamehameha Schools

March 24, 2008

Re: HR 172 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT THE "NA HONUA MAULI OLA: HAWAII GUIDELINES FOR CULTURALLY HEALTHY AND RESPONSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS" TO ENABLE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TO EXAMINE AND ATTEND TO THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING OF THEIR LEARNERS.

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**berg1-Liz**

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**From:** Pua Case [puacase@hawaiiintel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2008 6:05 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony HCR 202

Aloha Mai Kaua,

I am the 'Ike Hawai'i Resource Teacher for Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter school on the island of Hawai'i and I join my voice in the following; "TO URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT THE "NA HONUA MAULI OLA:

>HAWAI`I GUIDELINES FOR CULTURALLY HEALTHY AND RESPONSIVE LEARNING  
>ENVIRONMENTS" TO ENABLE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TO EXAMINE AND ATTEND  
>TO THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING OF THEIR LEARNERS."

Waimea Middle School has had significant success with the implementation of a program entitled, 'Ike Hawai'i whose concept was introduced by Kamehameha Schools. The 'Ike Hawaii Work Group, Staff Members and Teachers have adopted guidelines and objectives from Na Honua Maui Ola to assist in administering the 'Ike Hawai'i professional development cultural learning opportunities presented throughout area schools, our community and students. Na Honua Maui Ola is the one concise document at this point that provides guidance to all teachers who are instructing either Hawaiian content or Hawaiian/local students.

I strongly support HCR202 because I use it. It has been an invaluable asset to Waimea Middle School's 'Ike Hawai'i foundation of implementing Hawaiian curriculum and values for place based cultural learning. For this bill, I add my voice and testimony.

Mahalo,  
Pua Case

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair, Committee on Education  
From: Keiki Kawai'ae'a, Chair, Nā Honua Maui Ola Writing Committee  
Date: March 22, 2008

**RE: Testimony for HCR 202**—Urging the Department of Education to adopt the "Nā Honua Maui Ola: Hawai'i Guidelines for Culturally Healthy and Responsive Learning Environments" to enable schools and communities to examine and attend to the educational and cultural well-being of their learners.

In 2001, a group of educators representing a cross-section of the education community including early childhood to kupuna education, lower to higher education and public to private schools met over a period of a year and half to develop a set of Hawaiian cultural guidelines and support strategies that would assist in improving the cultural well-being and educational success of Hawai'i's learners while perpetuating the unique Native Hawaiian cultural heritage. Amongst its members, the committee included representatives from the Department of Education at the state and school levels. The process also offered a vehicle for response and input through eight meetings held on each island. The end result, was the publication of a living document called, *Nā Honua Maui Ola: Hawai'i Guidelines for Culturally Healthy and Responsive Learning Environments*.

The Nā Honua Maui Ola guidelines have served as a vehicle for curriculum and program development across the state including new cultural curricula, state and professional standards including one of the special emphasis areas for the Hawai'i Teachers Standards Board State accreditation for teacher education requirements and Hawaiian immersion education. Many other programs, organizations and schools have embraced the document



and are utilizing it to build programs, curriculum, assessment tools and teacher preparation and in-service programs. Over forty organizations statewide have endorsed the document prior to printing. The document has also served as a model for cultural standard development of several Native American Indian tribes nationally and other indigenous groups internationally.

As the chairperson of the writing committee of the Nā Honua Maui Ola document, I am so pleased with the process that helped to develop the guidelines, and in the response of so many schools, programs, communities and families who have embraced the importance and usefulness of the document. Please provide your support by passing HCR 202.

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair, Committee on Education  
From: Keiki Kawai'ae'a, Chair, Nā Honua Mauli Ola Writing Committee  
Date: March 22, 2008

**RE: Testimony for HCR 202**—Urging the Department of Education to adopt the "Nā Honua Mauli Ola: Hawai'i Guidelines for Culturally Healthy and Responsive Learning Environments" to enable schools and communities to examine and attend to the educational and cultural well-being of their learners.

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Kū Ha'aheo



Kū Haÿaheo

Paula De Morales

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 24, 2008

TIME: 2:00 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

HCR 202

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT THE "NA HONUA MAULI OLA: HAWAII GUIDELINES FOR CULTURALLY HEALTHY AND RESPONSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS" TO ENABLE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TO EXAMINE AND ATTEND TO THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING OF THEIR LEARNERS.

# Kū Ha'aheo



## Kū Ha'äaheo

Aloha,

I would like you to consider the positive impact Nā Honua Maui Ola will have on all the children of Hawai'i when you pass this resolution.

As a member of the book's writing committee and a member of the Native Hawaiian Education Council, I have trained educators in the use of these guidelines in their daily work.

As a member of the Kahua Project team (a collaboration among the DOE, Kamehameha Schools and UH Hilo), I have seen the impact of the use of these guidelines in the training of new teachers in the Kea'au, Ka'ū, Puna complex in the 2007-2008 school year.

As an educator in the public schools on the island of Hawai'i since 1969, I can verify that all children, especially Hawaiian children, learn best when they learn in a caring, safe environment and learn about the place where they live and the culture that they live in. I have over the past 39 years taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade history of Hawai'i, Hawaiian Language, Hawaiian Studies, and Modern History of Hawai'i, among other subjects. Since 2000, I have coordinated Kū Ha'aheo in East Hawai'i. This is a program that is currently part of comprehensive student support services (CSSS) at Waiākea High School and supports at-risk/at-promise students in making up credits, being promoted, and graduating from high school. Culturally healthy and responsive learning environments are essential to learner well-being and success.

The dissemination and use of Nā Honua Maui Ola has already had a profound impact on the lives of all who have used it and lived it. The guidelines offer the way for all educators, schools, families and communities to help learners reach the standards and goals set by the Department of Education, and live fruitful, successful lives.

I urge you to pass this resolution and empower the educators and learners of the Hawai'i State DOE and the families in our communities.