



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education and
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing**
April 14, 2008 at 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
Presented by
Jon K. Matsuoka
Dean, School of Social Work
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 276, HD1 – REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DEDICATE ITS SCHOOL IN HONOR OF MYRON “PINKY” THOMPSON, BY CHANGING ITS NAME TO THE “MYRON THOMPSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK”.

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Chun Oakland, and Members of the Committees:

Myron Thompson was a leader of tremendous importance in our island community. He helped create the Hawaiian Health Care System, refocused the efforts of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, served as a Bishop Estate trustee, and helped create Alu Like and Papa Ola Lokahi. He received a master's degree from UH Mānoa's School of Social Work in 1952.

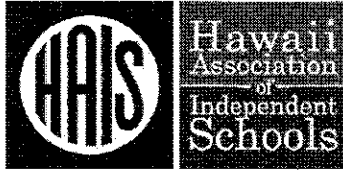
The University has recognized his legacy, particularly to health care, through the establishment of the Myron B. Thompson endowed chair for research in Native Hawaiian health which was established through a grant from the National Institutes of Health. The endowed position enables Dr. Marjorie Mau, the chair of the Native Hawaiian Health Department, to further her research into health disparities that disproportionately affect Native Hawaiians, particularly in areas such as diabetes and obesity.

By Board of Regents Policy, all naming nominations are considered by the campus, and with campus support moves to the chancellor, with her support to the president, and with his support, to the Board of Regents. The policy also states "...academic programs normally shall be named for distinguished faculty members, administrators, Regents, or other public servants and others who have been directly involved with the University for a substantial period of time or who have made a significant contribution to its academic and cultural life."

We wish to provide further clarification, in that our Board of Regents policy permits the naming of buildings or programs for an exceptionally distinguished individual, without regard to contribution. In 2005 policy was broadened to allow consideration of naming in recognition of a monetary gift.

We appreciate the tremendous respect for the legacy of “Pinky” Thompson. However, our School has not yet had the opportunity to discuss with our constituents – students, faculty, staff and alumni – the possibility of renaming the School and whether this is the most appropriate way in which to honor him.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that adoption of this resolution be held in abeyance pending these discussions.



April 14, 2008
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND
HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

RE: HCR 276, HD1 – REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DEDICATE ITS SCHOOL IN HONOR OF
MYRON “PINKY” THOMPSON, BY CHANGING ITS NAME TO
THE “MYRON THOMPSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK”

Dear Chairs Sakamoto and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Tokuda and Ihara, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Robert Witt, and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents approximately 100 private and independent schools and educates over 30,000 elementary and secondary school students across our state.

HAIS strongly supports House Concurrent Resolution 276, House Draft 1, which requests that the University of Hawaii Board of Regents dedicate the University of Hawaii School of Social Work in honor of Myron “Pinky” Thompson.

Pinky Thompson was a great friend of and advocate for both HAIS and the state’s greater education community. During his distinguished twenty-year term as a trustee of one of our member institutions, Kamehameha Schools, he brought attention to the importance of early learning and played a pivotal role in the school’s development of educational programs for young children.

Throughout his life, he worked tirelessly to improve conditions for both the Hawaiian community and the people of this state. Through his leadership roles with such organizations as Kamehameha Schools, the Queen Liliuokalani Children’s Center and the Polynesian Voyaging Society, as well as his involvement in the social services sector through his work with the state Department of Social Services and Housing, Alu Like

and Papa Ola Lokahi, Pinky Thompson helped to improve the lives of countless children and adults across both the state and the Pacific.

Pinky Thompson has long been recognized as a highly influential and much beloved figure in the community. Changing the name of the University of Hawaii School of Social Work to the "Myron Thompson School of Social Work" would be a fitting tribute to this great man and his life of service to our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



EDU/HSP Committee
For hearing on Monday, Apr 14, 2008
2:45 pm
Deliver 1 copy to Rm 230

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

April 11, 2008

TO: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Senate Education and Senate Human Services and Public Housing
Committees

FROM: Jeanette Matsumoto, President
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

RE: HCR 276 HD1 Requesting that the University of Hawai'i School of Social Work
Dedicate its School in Honor of Myron "Pinky" Thompson, by Changing its Name to the
"Myron Thompson School of Social Work"- **SUPPORT**

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Education and Human Services and Public Housing Committee, I am Jeanette Matsumoto, President of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter. NASW supports HCR 276 HD1 Requesting that the University of Hawai'i School of Social Work Dedicate its School in Honor of Myron "Pinky" Thompson, by Changing its Name to the "Myron Thompson School of Social Work".

NASW is the largest professional organization of social workers with over 150,000 members nationwide. In Hawai'i, there are over 950 members. We are proud to say that Myron "Pinky" Thompson was one of our members. As a social worker, he felt a personal responsibility to make a difference in Hawai'i and make life better for many of our families.

Social workers help people overcome some of life's most difficult challenges: poverty, discrimination, abuse, addiction, physical illness, divorce, loss, unemployment, educational problems, disability, and mental illness. We help prevent crises and counsel individuals, families, and communities to cope more effectively with the stresses of everyday life and advocate for social justice.

Pinky Thompson was a model of social work practice and did all of the above for the people of Hawai'i. His list of accomplishments is a reflection of the many lives he touched. He was the executive director of the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, state administrator for Gov. John A. Burns, executive director of the Dept of Social Services and Housing, chairman of the State Land Use Commission, trustee for the Bishop Estate, founder of Alu Like and Papa Ola Lokahi, and the Polynesian Voyaging Society.

What better way to honor one of our finest social workers than by placing his name on the school that provided him with the education to make a difference in peoples' lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HCR 276 HD1.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
HAWAII STATE SENATE
APRIL 14, 2008, 2:45 P.M.

HCR 276, H.D.1

Requesting that the University of Hawaii School of Social Work dedicate its school in honor of Myron "Pinky" Thompson, by changing its name to "The Myron Thompson School of Social Work."

Testimony in Support

Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committees, my name is Linda Chu Takayama and at the request of the offices of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye and U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka, the attached letter is provided for your information in support of HCR 276.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 3, 2008

David McClain, Ph.D.
President
University of Hawaii
Office of the President
2444 Dole St. Bachman Hall Rm. 202
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear President McClain:

We are writing to you today to encourage you and the Board of Regents to name the School of Social Work after our dear friend Myron Pinky Thompson. We have spoken to Laura who has given her blessing and is truly excited about this idea. Dr. Jon Matsuoka, Dean of the School of Social Work is also supportive of naming the School after the late Pinky Thompson.

Pinky was a visionary; he helped to create a legacy that continues to live on today. He played a vital role in the establishment of the Native Hawaiian Health Care system, Alu Like, Inc., and the Polynesian Voyaging Society. But long before he created all of these programs, he earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Colby College, as well as a master's degree in Social work from the University of Hawaii. Pinky was the State Administrator for Governor John A. Burns. He also served as the executive director of the Hawaii Department of Social Services and Housing. During his time there he gained a national reputation fighting for welfare money and benefits for Hawaii.

Pinky also served as a trustee for the Bishop Estate, Kamehameha Schools, where he helped to develop early childhood education programs. He also made numerous contributions to the Native Hawaiian community in many areas, and was truly extraordinary. He was always a leader and role model, and his memory continues to inspire generations of our youth.

Pinky was a close friend and we would be so proud to have the School of Social Work named after him so that his legacy will live forever.

Aloha,



DANIEL K. INOUE
United States Senator



DANIEL K. AKAKA
United States Senator

**D. Noelani Kalipi
1155 Waialeale Place
Hilo, HI 96720**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR276, HD1
REQUESTING THAT THE UNVIERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DEDICATE ITS SCHOOL IN
HONOR OF MYRON "PINKY" THOMPSON, BY CHANGING ITS NAME TO "THE MYRON THOMPSON
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK"

BEFORE THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION,
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,
and
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2004
CONFERENCE ROOM 225
2:45 P.M.

My name is Noelani Kalipi and I am writing to respectfully request your support for HCR 276, HD1, requesting that the University of Hawaii School of Social Work dedicate its school in honor of Myron "Pinky" Thompson, by changing its name to "The Myron Thompson School of Social Work." I am not writing on behalf of any organization, but rather as a Native Hawaiian who greatly appreciates the few opportunities I had to witness Mr. Thompson's actions as one of Hawaii's greatest public servants.

Through his actions, Mr. Thompson worked to help Hawaii's residents through the establishment of numerous programs and services which are not only successful, but have become positive institutions on each of our islands. In the few times I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Thompson, I was inspired by his humbleness. I was awed by his continued ability to bring individuals with diverse views together to focus on moving forward in a unified fashion.

While many Native Hawaiian leaders have known how to inspire, few have known how to unite and how to lead through action. Mr. Thompson was one of those unique leaders. He was a true role model for Hawaii's residents and his family continues in his tradition of public service.