

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



House HED Committee
For hearing on Thurs, March 27
2:15 pm
Deliver 5 copies to Rm 311

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

March 25, 2008

TO: Rep. Jerry Chang, Chair
And members of the House Higher Education Committee

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

RE: HCR 276/HR 234 -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"- **SUPPORT**

Chair Chang and members of the House Higher Education Committee, I am Jeanette Matsumoto, President of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter. NASW supports HCR 276/HR234 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".

NASW is the largest professional organization of social workers with over 150,000 members nationwide. In Hawaii, 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 Hawaii 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 the model of social work and did all of that for the people of Hawaii. 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 people's lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HCR 276/HR 234.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT
IN SUPPORT OF

**HCR 276 and HR 234 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"**

Hearing date and time: Thursday, March 27, 2008

Good afternoon Chairperson Chang, Vice-Chair Bertram, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education.

The Association is a growing national confederation of fifty-three Hawaiian Civic Clubs, located throughout the State of Hawai`i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia and Washington State. It initiates and works to support actions that enhance the civic, economic, educational, health and social welfare of our communities, and in particular, the culture and welfare of the Native Hawaiian community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution 276 and House Resolution 234, which would change the name of the University of Hawai`i School of Social Work to "The Myron Thompson School of Social Work".

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is in strong support of these resolutions. On November 15, 2002, the Association passed a Resolution commemorating the life of Myron "Pinky" Thompson, a member of both the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu and the Prince Kuhio Hawaiian Civic Club. It is altogether fitting that this outstanding humanitarian, who dedicated his life to the people of Hawai`i and significantly improved conditions for Native Hawaiians, should be so honored, as he earned his Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa.

Among his many accomplishments, the Association noted that he served his country in World War II, where he was shot by a German sniper during military action in France; that he served as Director of the State Department of Human Services as well as on the Governor's cabinet and commissions.

From 1962 to 1967, Pinky Thompson served as the executive director of the Queen Lili`uokalani Children's Center during the years that it reached out through community development activities to better serve Native Hawaiian orphans.

In 1976, he was co-founder of Alu Like, Inc., and served on its board of directors. He was largely responsible for programs that promoted job training, health, housing, education and native rights -- efforts which have resulted in a variety of services toward self-sufficiency to untold Native Hawaiian children, youth, adults and elderly.

He served as President and board member of Papa Ola Lokahi, impacting the health care system, resulting in health and well-being for Native Hawaiians throughout the state.

Pinky Thompson was also trustee of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate and the Kamehameha Schools from 1974 to 1994, during which his focus on early education programs through Kamehameha Schools was revolutionary for the time and left an enduring legacy. He improved the Kamehameha Schools outreach programs in the Department of Education and the community.

He served as President of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, during which time the art of Polynesian Navigation by the sun, stars, the wind, the wave was revived; and voyages retracing the migration patterns of Hawaiians was made possible. He also assisted the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, directly and indirectly, in many ways over the years, including as a member of the Board's Strategic Planning Core Group for developing OHA's Master Plan.

The Association is honored to testify in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 276 and House Resolution 234 and thanks this Committee for that opportunity.

March 26, 2008

The House Committee on Higher Education

The Honorable Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 276 / HR 234 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".

Hearing: Thursday / March 27, 2008
2:15p.m.
Conference Room 309

Aloha Chairman Chang,

I would urge you and your committee members to pass HCR 276 and its companion HR 234.

The state of Hawai'i and the Hawaiian community were blessed by the vision and work of Myron "Pinky" Thompson. His understanding of the needs of children and families and his compassionate leadership combined to richly bless our community with programs that continue to care, educate, and enable people throughout our islands. He is an inspiration to many of us who are privileged to serve and assist the needy. Pinky is a tremendous model of a servant leader and the School of Social Work would be honored if it carried his name.

Mahalo,

Jan E. Dill
President
Partners in Development Foundation
808-595-2752
<http://pidfoundation.org>

March 26, 2008

The House Committee on Higher Education

The Honorable Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 276 / HR 234 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".

Hearing: Thursday / March 27, 2008
2:15p.m.
Conference Room 309

Aloha Chairman Chang,

I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of the aforementioned Resolutions, HCR 276 & HR 234.

Pinky Thompson was a man who understood the needs of our community, and worked hard with our Congressional delegation in Washington to found and develop programs that have been instrumental in raising the bar of opportunity for Native-Hawaiians, and for our State as a whole. Many of those programs continue to this day, as in Alu Like and Papa Ola Lokahi.

Pinky helped to put Hawai'i, as a State, a people, and a culture in the fore of contemporary anthropological science by guiding the Polynesian Voyaging Society as its President, through the most inspiring challenges of modern Hawaiian history, and connecting us with every corner of the Polynesian triangle through the voyages of Hokule'a. This brought the State of Hawai'i positive notoriety throughout the Pacific, and a tremendous sense of pride and accomplishment to Native-Hawaiians.

The state of Hawai'i and the Hawaiian community have benefited greatly from the works of Pinky Thompson. To name the UH School of Social Work after him would be the greatest honor to the school, and to the Man.

‘O Wau No Me Ka Ha‘aha‘a,

‘O Billy Richards
Director of Communications
Partners in Development Foundation
808-595-2752
<http://pidfoundation.org>

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
REGARDING

HRC 276/HR 274, 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"

Thursday, March 27, 2008
2:15 pm, Conference Room 309

Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Dr. Jon Matsuoka, I am the Dean of the UHM School of Social Work and I am testifying today in relation to HCR 276 and HR 274, which requests 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'd like to first acknowledge the sponsors of HRC 276 and HR 274 for recognizing Myron "Pinky" Thompson as a legend in social work community in the state of Hawaii. The accomplishments cited in those resolutions speak to the extraordinary leader and visionary that he was.

The UHM School of Social Work, has long recognized Myron "Pinky" Thompson as a pioneer and an icon in the field of social work in Hawaii. We have attempted to honor his memory and legacy through the years in different ways – the most recent tribute being "the Myron 'Pinky' Thompson Memorial Lecture" delivered by his son, Nainoa, at the inauguration of the International Indigenous Social Work Conference hosted by the UHM School of Social Work last summer.

The naming of the School in honor of "Pinky" Thompson would certainly be another fitting tribute to him. It is a possibility that we have already begun to explore with our different constituencies and we intend to continue pursuing the matter with all relevant parties, including the University of Hawaii administration. We are cognizant of the fact that there are established policies and procedures within the university system for the naming of academic units and we are committed to abiding by them.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MARCH 27, 2008, 2:15 P.M.

HCR 276 and HR 234

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 Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee, 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 and H.R. 234.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 275 & HR 234

By Winona Ellis Rubin

Chairman Jerry Chang, Vice-Chairman Joe Bertram, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education... aloha kākou.

I am Winona Kealamapuana Ellis Rubin, a long time friend, colleague and admirer of Myron "Pinky" Thompson. Although unable to be present for the hearing, I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HCR 276 and HR 234 which will enable the School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii to be named for Myron Thompson, an extraordinary public servant..

The "Pinky" I knew was all the things stated in both resolutions and very much more. He was a soft spoken visionary whose words and ideas spoke volumes louder than his voice. He was an astute communicator, listener and problem solver. A caring people person; Pinky was the consummate social worker in the broadest possible meaning of the word and profession. He was a lifetime advocate for a "hand up, not hand out" approach to helping the socially, emotionally and physically challenged of this world; and he was a patient mentor who was impatient for measurable sustainable outcomes. There was no challenge leading to addressing identified needs which he could not and would not accept to subsequently arrive at a win-win result.

Myron "Pinky" Thompson understood that in order to facilitate positive change in the statewide community one must intervene in and impact upon the circles or systems of influence. His presence in each system resulted in improving our Hawai'i. For example:

In government, as State Administrator he was instrumental in the down-sizing of the Executive Branch departments during Governor Burns' administration; and revitalized the Department of Social Services and Housing through increasing federal government recognition and support for needy children and families.

In education, he insisted on early education programs at The Kamehameha Schools; initiated the Native Hawaiian Social Work program at the University of Hawai'i to increase the number of professionals assisting the large number of Native Hawaiian families in the public welfare system; and nurtured community pride and the educational and cultural impact of the Polynesian Voyaging Society on generations to come.

In integrative services, he facilitated the establishment of a Native Hawaiian health care system which is making a difference in the community; and co-founded the non-profit ALU LIKE, Inc. to address identified needs in education, employment training and job placement, kūpuna services, programs which significantly reduces recidivism for the incarcerated; fisheries training programs; Native Hawaiian library services; and many other programs and services.

In economic development, he collaborated with private and public sector leaders to positively impact housing options for families, employment and training opportunities for individuals prepared and motivated to enter the workforce; and explored opportunities to bring appropriate economic ventures to Hawai'i.

I see students and graduates of the Myron Thompson School of Social Work using the example of his life to positively impact the people of Hawai'i through their active involvement in education, social/integrative , economic and government systems.

Myron Thompson's legacy is embodied in the committed and focused leaders and potential leaders in Hawaii nei, influenced by his life's work, who bring renewed hope for a better Hawai'i.

I urge passage and implementation of HCR 276 and HR 234; and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Mahalo.