

testimony

From: Adam Johnson [adam.m.johnson@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 6:17 AM
To: testimony
Subject: testimony in support of SB2469

L A T E

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair of the Committee on Education

From: Adam Johnson, Archeologist
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Hearing: Friday, February 8, 2008, 1:15 Conference Room 225, State Capitol
Subject: Testimony in support of SB2469, appropriation for the establishment of a Master's Degree Program in Cultural Resource Management at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2469

Aloha,

My name is Adam Johnson and I am an archaeologist with the National Park Service at Pu'u Kohola Heiau National Historic Site. I am providing written testimony as a private individual in support of SB2469, for the creation of a Master's Degree program in Cultural Resource Management at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. I am a local archaeologist, born and raised in Hilo. I attended both UH Hilo and Manoa to obtain my B.A. in Anthropology. I have also earned a Master's in Maritime Archaeology from the University of Southampton, United Kingdom and have worked at various levels in the field of archaeology for the past seven years.

I was fortunate to be able to travel a great distance to obtain a graduate degree in my chosen academic field. However, there are many students and working professionals based on Hawaii Island who may not be able to afford (economically or personally) to travel away from home to continue their education. The creation of a Master's in Cultural Resource Management at the University of Hawaii at Hilo would provide an avenue for individuals unable to leave Hawaii Island to continue their education.

Additionally, federal and state historic preservation laws require that cultural resource management projects be supervised by someone with at least a Master's degree in an appropriate field of study. There is currently a shortage of qualified cultural resources professionals within the State of Hawaii. Private sector consulting firms often fill positions with archaeologists from the continental U.S., and with individuals that may be unfamiliar with Hawaiian cultural resources.

The University of Hawaii at Hilo Anthropology Department has established relationships with the Hawaiian Language program and members of the Hawaiian community; as well as, with federal agencies with large land holdings on Hawaii Island and private sector companies operating on the Hawaii Island. A Master's degree program at UH Hilo in Cultural Resource Management would be of great benefit to the federal, state, and county agencies mandated to carry out Historic Preservation

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compliance and private sector consulting firms by providing a local cadre of qualified professionals able to build upon relationships developed through the Master's program in Cultural Resources Management.

Support of the proposed Master's program in Cultural Resource Management will contribute to historic preservation programs in all sectors, and will enhance the management and protection of Hawaii's valuable cultural resources.

Sincerely,

Adam Johnson
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