



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 1, 2009 at 9:30 am

By

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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 125/HR 103 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S PUBLIC POLICY CENTER TO MEET WITH, AND ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE KANAKA MAOLI COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO THE CENTER'S REVIEW OF THE 2050 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HCR 125 and HR 103, requesting that the University of Hawai'i's Social Sciences Public Policy Center (Center) meet with and adopt the Kanaka Maoli Committee's recommendations relating to the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan. These resolutions allow the Public Policy Center to update you on the H2050 Plan and Center's progress in accordance with Act 225 (SLH 2008).

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa appreciates your interest and concerns in this issue but we cannot support passage of these resolutions, given the likelihood that UH Mānoa must accommodate significant budget reductions over the next two fiscal years. The actions required by these resolutions would require an investment of resources, financially and in personnel time that our campus cannot afford because we must devote them to programs essential to our primary campus mission.

Thank you for your support for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



March 31,2009

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair, and Members
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Sharon Miyashiro, Associate Director, College of Social Sciences
Social Sciences Public Policy Center, University of Hāwai'i at Manoa

RE: Comments in Opposition to HCR 125 and HR 103
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 9:30am, Conference Room 308

HCR 125 and HR 103 request that the University of Hāwai'i's Social Sciences Public Policy Center (Center) meet with and adopt the Kanaka Maoli Committee's recommendations relating to the Hāwai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan (H2050 Plan).

These resolutions allow us to update you on the H2050 Plan and Center's progress in accordance with Act 225 (SLH 2008). As you may recall, you asked us to consult with leaders and organizations relevant to each of the main goals of the Plan and report back to the Legislature in 2010. We have been meeting during the interim and have conducted a survey to inventory statewide efforts in sustainability; and, more relevant to the interest of the current resolutions, are convening cross-sector dialogues to develop more specific implementing actions for the goals, objectives and priority actions under the H2050 Plan.

The Center has already conducted two cross sector dialogs: one on O'ahu (Honolulu) and one on Maui. We have another planned on April 15, 2009 for rural O'ahu (Waianae) and are planning at least two more in May: one on Kauai and another on the Big Island. The structure of these dialogs is the same. We invite representatives from nine different sectors to review the goals of the H2050 Plan and ask them to prioritize the necessary action steps and look at the way each sector can contribute to moving the plan towards implementation. Representatives from the following sectors are invited to provide specific input on implementing actions:

- ❖ Business
- ❖ Labor
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Environment
- ❖ Non-profit sector
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Youth
- ❖ Kanaka Maoli
- ❖ H2050 Task Force

One of the goals discussed by all sectors is to insure that “the Kanaka Maoli culture and Island values are thriving and perpetuated.” We have included a Kanaka Maoli representative in each of our meetings. Ms. Leimomi Khan, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and a member of the Kanaka Maoli Committee, has worked closely with the Center in identifying members who can attend the sessions and provide input and recommendations for implementing the H2050 Plan.

We are happy to meet with the Kanaka Maoli Committee and review their plans; and look forward to having members join us for the cross-sector dialogues. Thus, while the Center agrees with the intent of the resolutions to include the Kanaka Maoli principles, the recommendations will require more discussion among the various sectors. The Center therefore supports the intent of HCR 125/HR 103, but respectfully requests that they be filed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments.