

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 12, 2010

RE: H.B. No. 1796
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2010
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
H.B. No. 1796 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO KUPUNA HONORARY DEGREE
PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to establish the kupuna honorary
degree program, which will award the pohaku degree to eligible
Hawaiian kupuna. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will
develop and administer the program, intended to be Hawaii's
equivalent to the Nobel Prize.

OHA provided comments.

Your Committee notes a concern that too many awards given too
frequently will dilute the value of the awards themselves.

Your Committee has amended this bill by changing "shall" to
"may" to give OHA the flexibility to implement the program as
financial resources become available.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report,
your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B.
No. 1796, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second
Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1796, H.D. 1, and
be referred to the Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Mele Carroll

MELE CARROLL, Chair



