

STATEMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF
HCR 140/HR80 PROCLAIMING 2010 AS THE YEAR OF ETHNIC STUDIES IN
HAWAI'I

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Higher Education Committee. Aloha, my name is Tamra Probst and I am an officer of the Ethnic Studies Student Association (ESSA).

Initiated in 1970, Ethnic Studies combines traditional and contemporary methodologies with new perspectives on issues of race, ethnicity, and class. The focus is on Hawai'i, with its rich legacy of multiethnic heritages. The research, teaching, and service components, however, also involve the United States and comparative studies of societies around the globe.

ESSA is an eclectic group of interactive students who want to speak out, get involved in the ethnically and culturally diverse community here in Hawaii. ESSA is a forum for students to express ideas and concerns and transform them into action.

ESSA will be working with the Ethnic Studies Department faculty, staff and alumni to organize events to educate UH students and the broader community about issues of social justice impacting the multi-ethnic communities of Hawai'i as part of the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

We urge passage of HCR 140/HR 80 Proclaiming 2010 as the year of Ethnic Studies in Hawai'i. mahalo.