

HCR167 HD1

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Committee: Senate Committee on Education and
Housing

Board: Education

Person Testifying: Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson, Board of Education

Title of Resolution: H.C.R. No. 167, H.D. 1, Requesting the Board of Education to Adopt a Policy for the Integration of a Pedagogy of Aloha in Public Schools for Improved Learning in the 21st Century

Purpose of Resolution: Requests the Board of Education (Board) to adopt a policy for the integration of a pedagogy of aloha in public schools for improved learning in the 21st Century.

Board's Position: Chairperson Sakamoto, Vice Chairperson Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Housing, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.C.R. No. 167, H.D. 1.

The Board encourages and supports the integration of Hawaiian language, culture, and history into the public education system. We recognize that culturally-responsive teaching focuses on the importance of including students' cultural references in student learning. While culture is important to student learning, there is not a single cultural identity in our State. Our public schools comprise students of many diverse cultures and identities, which are reflected in curricula and pedagogy that reflect this cultural diversity and are shared among students.

There is ongoing effort by the Board and the Department of Education (Department) to look into ways to incorporate Hawaiian cultural perspectives and strategies in the public school system. There are two Board policies in particular that emphasize and support a Hawaiian education program that consists of language, culture, and history in the public schools through implementation of appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness of native Hawaiian culture. These policies are:

- (1) Board Policy 2104, "Hawaiian Education Programs Policy," which supports perpetuation of the native Hawaiian culture, history, and language as an integral part of the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards. This policy directs the Department to establish organizational structures and allocate resources to create and coordinate appropriate curricula, develop performance assessment tools, and advise all Department divisions on programs related to the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language; and
- (2) Board Policy 2105, "Hawaiian Language Immersion Program Policy," which acknowledges the importance of the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program and the education of Hawaii's youth through the Hawaiian language and through a challenging curriculum that follows the Hawaii Content and

Performance Standards.

However, besides Hawaiian culture and perspectives, our public schools comprise students of many cultural backgrounds and ethnicities. Board Policy 2000, "Philosophy of Education Hawaii's Public Schools Policy," recognizes our pluralistic and multi-cultural society that students are part of, and that curricular, instructional, and assessment programs are to derive from a standards-based curriculum and research-based best practices.

The many different ethnic groups who reside in our State suggest that there are many different approaches to learning, Hawaiian culture being one of them. A "pedagogy of aloha," the term coined by Kanu o ka `Aina Public Charter School school staff to describe an approach to education based on Hawaiian traditions, is one approach.

The Board appreciates the positive educational results, as cited in H.C.R. No. 167, H.D. 1, that are attributed to the implementation of a pedagogy of aloha by Nā Lei Na`auao (the Native Hawaiian Charter School Alliance) schools. The Board and the Department will continue to review policies and practices to support areas that promote awareness of the native Hawaiian culture within the spectrum of other

cultures and best practices for instruction, learning, and teaching.

As such, we believe that this measure is not necessary at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HCR 167 HD 1
REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A POLICY FOR THE
INTEGRATION OF PEDAGOGY OF ALOHA IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR IMPROVED
LEARNING IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

Senate Committee on Education and Housing

April 20, 2010

1:20 p.m.

Room: 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HCR 167 HD1, which requests the Board of Education to adopt a policy for the integration of a pedagogy of aloha in public schools for improved learning in the 21st Century. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs has supported Nā Lei Na‘auao (Native Hawaiian Charter School Alliance) over the past years and seen the positive effects of this pedagogy of aloha on the learning of Native Hawaiian students. Moreover, results of a recent study, *Hawaiian Cultural Influences in Education* (Ledward, B., Takayama, B., & Elia, K. 2009), indicate that Native Hawaiian culture-based educational strategies hold promise for increasing student outcomes. In contrast, the Department of Education has been challenged in remedying the growing achievement gap of Native Hawaiian students in non-charter public schools. The pedagogy of aloha offers promising solutions.

Furthermore, President Barack Obama’s “A Blueprint for Reform” in education emphasizes environments that help youth be safe and healthy, while also supporting students in their classrooms, schools and communities. The pedagogy of aloha has been demonstrated as a viable and effective strategy in achieving this goal. As cited in the resolution, “the implementation of a pedagogy of aloha by Nā Lei Na‘auao schools has resulted in increased student attendance and graduation rates, and reduced dropout rates, which is in stark contrast to other Department of Education schools.” It would benefit our public schools if such a pedagogy was adopted.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS HCR 167 HD 1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

April 19, 2010

To: House Committees on Education and Finance

RE: Strong Support of HCR '167

Aloha Chair Takumi, Chair Oshiro and members of the Committees on Education and Finance.

My name is Vera Ward and I am a staff member at Kanu o ka `Aina Learning Ohana the nonprofit that supports Kanu o ka 'Aina New Century Public Charter School, Hawai'i's first culturally-driven charter, celebrating our 10th anniversary of ongoing growth and progress. This testimony is in **strong support** of HCR 167 requesting the Board of Education to adopt a policy for the integration of Pedagogy of Aloha in public schools for improved learning in the 21st century.

Since our start-up in 2000, Kanu o ka 'Aina New Century Public Charter School, as well as other Hawaiian-focused charter schools belonging to Na Lei Na'auao Native Hawaiian Charter School Alliance have successfully incubated and implemented Pedagogy of Aloha. Internal research, as well as external research by the Kamehameha Schools, clearly indicates that our Pedagogy of Aloha is working and that it is resulting in student success among a population until now at the bottom of the educational ladder in Hawai'i.

Pedagogy of Aloha is grounded in Hawaiian ways of knowing and the aptitudes and values passed down to us from our Hawaiian kupuna. As a values-based methodology, Pedagogy of Aloha focuses particularly on the value of aloha, as explicated in countless Hawaiian proverbs. This inclusive pedagogy blends cultural values and ideals, 21st century academic rigor, experiential, and place-based learning and state-of-the-art technology, generating a deep sense of connection, relevance and meaning for students of all ethnic backgrounds.

The key to the success of Pedagogy of Aloha is our focus on relations, relevance and rigor - in that order. Familial relations among all learning 'ohana members, strong school to home connections, dedicated staff who know the students both in and outside of school and small learning communities build strong relations. In effect, how students are treated and taught makes them feel loved and valued.

Based on our experiences over the past decade, we strongly believe that the entire education system in Hawai'i will benefit from the integration of Pedagogy with Aloha, which is both ancient and modern blending traditional Hawaiian knowledge and values with 21st century educational paradigms while being intricately connected to island sustainability.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of HCR 167** and your ongoing efforts to improve education in Hawai'i.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Vera Ward

April 19, 2010

To: House Committees on Education and Finance

RE: Strong Support of HCR '167

Aloha Chair Takumi, Chair Oshiro and members of the Committees on Education and Finance.

My name is `Ekela Kahuanui and I am the project assistant at Kanu o ka `Aina Learning Ohana the nonprofit that supports Kanu o ka `Aina New Century Public Charter School. This testimony is in **strong support** of HCR 167 requesting the Board of Education to adopt a policy for the integration of Pedagogy of Aloha in public schools for improved learning in the 21st century.


Pedagogy of Aloha is grounded in Hawaiian ways of knowing and the aptitudes and values passed down to us from our Hawaiian kupuna. As a values-based methodology, Pedagogy of Aloha focuses particularly on the value of aloha, as explicated in countless Hawaiian proverbs. This inclusive pedagogy blends cultural values and ideals, 21st century academic rigor, experiential, and place-based learning and state-of-the-art technology, generating a deep sense of connection, relevance and meaning for students of all ethnic backgrounds.

The key to the success of Pedagogy of Aloha is our focus on relations, relevance and rigor - in that order. Familial relations among all learning 'ohana members, strong school to home connections, dedicated staff who know the students both in and outside of school and small learning communities build strong relations. In effect, how students are treated and taught makes them feel loved and valued.

Based on our experiences over the past decade, we strongly believe that the entire education system in Hawai'i will benefit from the integration of Pedagogy with Aloha, which is both ancient and modern blending traditional Hawaiian knowledge and values with 21st century educational paradigms while being intricately connected to island sustainability.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of HCR 167** and your ongoing efforts to improve education in Hawai'i.

Me ke aloha pumehana,



`Ekela Kahuanui
Project Assistant

WAIMAKALANI IONA
P.O. Box 44483
Kamuela, HI 96743
waimakalani@yahoo.com

19 April 2010

Education and Housing Committee
Attention Chair Senator Norman Sakamoto

Subject: In support of HCR167: Requesting the Board of Education to adopt a policy for the integration of a pedagogy of aloha in public schools for improved learning in the 21st century.

Dear Senator Sakamoto:

I am writing in support of HCR 167 to adopt a policy of the integration of a pedagogy of aloha in the public schools.

I am a parent of a 14 year daughter who has been fortunate to have this pedagogy of aloha in her daily learning at school. As a young Hawaiian teenager this has helped her in the balancing and grounding of who she is. Our children need balance between their cultural knowledge and that of the western world.

I encourage you to support this bill.

Mahalo,
Waimakalani Iona

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 9:53 AM
To: EDH Testimony
Cc: erinann815@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR167 on 4/20/2010 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for EDH 4/20/2010 1:20:00 PM HCR167

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: erin rutherford
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: erinann815@aol.com
Submitted on: 4/19/2010

Comments:

If creating a pedagogy will increase student attendance and decrease truancy and drop-out rates, then it only makes sense to establish a hawaiian-based learning program in our communities' schools. the education system in hawaii is failing and we need to begin taking action using different strategies to help with this issue.

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 12:30 PM
To: EDH Testimony
Cc: katie@kalo.org
Subject: Testimony for HCR167 on 4/20/2010 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for EDH 4/20/2010 1:20:00 PM HCR167

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katie Benioni
Organization: Individual
Address: Kamulea, HI
Phone: 808-887-1117
E-mail: katie@kalo.org
Submitted on: 4/19/2010

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takumi, Chair Oshiro and members of the Committees on Education and Finance.

My name is Katie Benioni and I am the CFO at Kanu o ka `Aina Learning Ohana the nonprofit that supports Kanu o ka 'Aina New Century Public Charter School, Hawai'i's first culturally-driven charter, celebrating our 10th anniversary of ongoing growth and progress. This testimony is in strong support of HCR 167 requesting the Board of Education to adopt a policy for the integration of Pedagogy of Aloha in public schools for improved learning in the 21st century. Based on our experiences over the past decade, we strongly believe that the entire education system in Hawai'i will benefit from the integration of Pedagogy with Aloha, which is both ancient and modern blending traditional Hawaiian knowledge and values with 21st century educational paradigms while being intricately connected to island sustainability.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HCR 167 and your ongoing efforts to improve education in Hawai'i.

From: Leslie Hall [hallsfarm@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 1:09 PM
To: EDH Testimony
Subject: RE: strong support for HCR 167

RE: HCR 167

Hearing date: Tuesday, 20 April, 2010 @ 1:20PM

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol.

Aloha Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee on Education and Housing.

This testimony is in **strong support of HCR 167** requesting the Board of Education to adopt a policy for the integration of Pedagogy of Aloha in public schools for improved learning in the 21st century. This inclusive pedagogy blends cultural values and ideals, 21st century academic rigor, experiential, and place-based learning and state-of-the-art technology, generating a deep sense of connection, relevance and meaning for students of all ethnic backgrounds. By frameworking students, teachers, administrators, parents, staff and community supporters as one learning 'ohana, all participants in the learning process feel cared for, validated and needed for collective success. Familial relations among all learning 'ohana members, strong school to home connections, dedicated staff who know the students both in and outside of school and small learning communities build strong relations. In effect, how students are treated and taught makes them feel loved and valued.

As a non-Hawaiian in a culturally-driven Hawaiian-focused charter school, our son, and truly our entire 'ohana, has benefited enormously. From a prestigious private school where he was being cast aside by peers, teachers and staff our son moved to the 'ohana based environment - a major factor in the pedagogy of aloha - where he is absolutely thriving. At his previous school, which is based on mainstream education paradigm, his academic abilities were unable to flourish because he was not accepted, respected and valued for who he was with weaknesses as well as strengths. At his current school, Kanu o ka 'Aina, he was immediately accepted without question as a member of a family where all are valued, all are encouraged and none are outcast for any reason. He is now more than one grade level ahead of his age in multiple academic subjects, is supported tremendously in the areas in which he struggles and his self-confidence steadily continues to grow.

The environment created with the pedagogy of aloha is one in which all students, all families and all educators will thrive as individuals and most importantly as educated and compassionate citizens of the world. We are unquestionably in strong support of making this type of

environment widely available to all public schools.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 167 and your ongoing efforts to improve education in Hawai'i.

Leslie and John Hall
Kamuela, HI 96743

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: Steve Coffee [stevecoffee09@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 3:39 PM
To: EDH Testimony
Subject: HCR 167

HCR 167

Date: Tuesday, 20 April, 2010 @ 1:20PM

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol.

please vote yes on HCR 167. pedagogy of aloha works! I am a highly qualified DOE certified science teacher with first hand experience of the positive impacts of this pedagogy of aloha. learning is a social process and aloha is one of, if not the most important feature of positive social interaction. mahalo, Steve Coffee

Stephen Coffee
Educational Solutions Inc.
64-5119 Kalake St
Kamuela, HI 96743
640-0079

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 9:30 PM
To: EDH Testimony
Cc: pinky@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR167 on 4/20/2010 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for EDH 4/20/2010 1:20:00 PM HCR167

Conference room: 329

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Laura Thompson

Organization: Individual

Address: 440 A Puamamane St. Honolulu 96821

Phone: 373-9387

E-mail: pinky@lava.net

Submitted on: 4/19/2010

Comments:

Aloha is trusly basic to out culture, to Hawaii.