

**TESTIMONY**

**SB2391**

**LATE**

# LATE TESTIMONY

The Senate  
Committee on Water, Land  
Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
RE: Support for SB2391 Section 9

January 29, 2010

Dear Senator Hee and members of the committee:


I am writing this letter to express my support for the SB2391 Section 9 relating to marine science research training for local students and students of native Hawaiian ancestry at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology. As a local student born and raised in Hawai'i, I was fortunate enough to receive training in a marine biology lab under a similar research internship program at UH. The experience gave me the confidence I needed to pursue becoming a graduate student at UH, getting a Master's degree in Zoology. I then went on to complete my Ph.D. in marine population genetics at the University of California at Berkeley, and I am proud to say I now hold a faculty position with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I submit this statement as personal testimony; my statements do not represent an institutional position of the University.

I strongly believe that the internship opportunity I was fortunate to have had a significant impact on my life, both personally and professionally. Despite my lifelong interest in science, I truly believe that I would not have even pursued a scientific research career if I had not been part of such a program, being greatly influenced by the mentors I had during the internship. The experience gave me not only the hands on research experience I needed, but gave me that 'leg up' to succeed in a competitive field of study and demanding career track. More importantly, it gave me the confidence that local kids like myself so often lack, but truly need, in order to pursue careers in science and research. I often hear from high school students or recent graduate how much they would have loved to be a marine scientist, but didn't even consider it because the 'are not smart enough' or didn't think they could compete.

Today as a faculty member at UH, much of my time is dedicated to creating pathways for local students into science studies and career tracks, a pursuit that is very much modeled after my personal experience. There is still much work to be done in closing the gap for Hawai'i's students in the science and math fields, and programs such as the one proposed in SB2391 are crucial to this endeavor. I fully support the measure proposed as it would be of invaluable benefit to our island students, and the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Aloha,



Malia Rivera, Ph.D.

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SB 2391 RELATING TO STATE FINANCES

Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

January 29, 2010

2:45 pm

Room 229

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **supports** the intent of SB 2391.

We look forward to working with the Committee on reconciling the financial obligations with funding Ho'okulaiwi, Achieving the Dream, and the Institute of Marine Biology with the obligations under OHA's current budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



# LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KAULANA H. R. PARK, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

ON SB 2391 - RELATING TO STATE FINANCES

January 29, 2010

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands supports the intent of SB 2391, which provides financial support to Ho'okulāiwi: 'Aha Ho'ona'auao 'Ōiwi, a program that prepares teachers for Native Hawaiian communities.

Ho'okulāiwi: 'Aha Ho'ona'auao 'Ōiwi is planned to be housed in the Nānākuli Village Center which has been identified as a Priority Project in our Nānākuli Regional Plan. The Department has previously provided support for the Nānākuli Village Center by issuing a license for a 13.57-acre parcel and awarding a \$48,450 grant for the development of the center to the Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead Community Association in West O'ahu.

The proposed bill requires an expenditure of approximately \$1,101,000 by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and conditions a 1:1 match by a trust fund expenditure by the Department of Hawaiian Homes

Lands. While this program is consistent with the Department's mission of providing services for native Hawaiians, our expressed concern is that further passage of this bill may impact priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

# LATE TESTIMONY

## TESTIMONY

Presented to the Senate Committee of Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Friday, January 29, 2010

2:45 p.m. State Capitol Building, Conference Room 229

By: Jo-Ann Leong

SB 2391 Relating to State Finances

Aloha Chairman Hee and Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee. I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding SB 2391 which provides financial assistance for an education program that provides training in marine sciences and STEM education for local and native Hawaiian students

My Name is Jo-Ann Leong, a resident of Kaneohe, Oahu, and I offer testimony as a private citizen in support of Senate Bill 2391 as it relates to Section 9 which provides financial support to HIMB for a research and training program for Hawai'i high school students and recent graduates, including those of native Hawaiian ancestry.

Background:

The Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), situated on Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island) in Kāne'ohe Bay, is an organized research unit within the University of Hawai'i's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology. HIMB supports and facilitates research and education in tropical marine biology for the state of Hawai'i. HIMB's unique location on Moku o Lo'e provides student researchers with access to estuarine, coastal and offshore environments that are important sites for the study of marine processes important to the management of Hawai'i's resources. Thus, HIMB is developing an Education Program that promotes community ocean stewardship, increasing scientific literacy with marine science training opportunities for our island students. The central mission of the Education Program is *to recruit the next generation of ocean scientists, managers and stewards in Hawai'i to help protect the marine resources of our islands*. To do this, the Education Program has focused on students from Hawai'i schools.

One of the most successful educational initiatives at HIMB has been its intensive internships for high school students who are interested in possibly pursuing marine science at the community college or 4-year university level. With funding in the past from various government grants and foundation awards, we have been able to provide research training experiences for close to 100 students over the last several years. As funding for these types of initiatives from competitive funding sources have limited duration, HIMB has been seeking continuing financial support for the student programs that offer full-time summer training in marine science research on topics that are important both environmentally and culturally to the State of Hawai'i. The education

group at HIMB also has plans to expand these summer internships to more in-depth year long internships in actual HIMB research labs for students showing exceptional motivation and interest.

I ask to work with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to develop a new research training program at HIMB that targets local and Native Hawaiian students. The program will be designed with research modules investigating the ecosystems of Kāneʻohe Bay and will use HIMB faculty research expertise and resources on student team research projects. For highly motivated students, there will be awards of one year-internships in HIMB research laboratories.

#### Support of the Bill

Based on enrollment statistics at UH Mānoa, relatively few students from Hawai'i are pursuing degrees in marine science disciplines, an area of considerable environmental and economic importance to our islands. HIMB is committed to increasing the number of local students, particularly those of native Hawaiian ancestry, that are enrolled in marine science majors at UH and beyond, and ultimately seeing increased recruitment in the marine science research and management professional workforce. I believe that STEM programs with mentored training programs and internships would contribute to this goal and HIMB would be pleased if funding were appropriated for SB 2391 Section 9.



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**  
Legislative Testimony

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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Testimony Presented Before  
The Senate  
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
on  
Friday, January 29, 2010  
By  
John F. Morton  
Vice President of Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System  
and  
Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2391 Relating to State Finances

Aloha Chairperson Hee and Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee. We thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 2391 relating to state finances. The University of Hawaii supports the intent of Senate Bill 2391 and welcomes the opportunity to discuss this measure further relating to the financial support for initiatives impacting the University of Hawai'i.

The initiatives impacted by this measure are the Aha Ho'ona'auo 'Oiwī (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education) supported by the College of Education, and a research and training program for native Hawaiian students at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, both at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The third is the Achieving the Dream Initiative for Native Hawaiian students at the Hawaii Community College.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this measure.