



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
House Committee on Culture and the Arts  
Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 3:30 a.m.

By  
Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor  
And  
Richard Dubanoski, PhD., Dean  
College of Social Sciences  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 120/HR 104 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO ESTABLISH A  
MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN ETHNIC STUDIES IN THE ETHNIC STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA.

Chairs Nishimoto and Wooley, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Belatti and Members of the  
Committees, my name is Richard Dubanoski and I am the Dean of the College of Social  
Sciences at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Thank you for the opportunity to  
provide written testimony opposing HCR 120 and HR 104.

In July 2009, the Ethnic Studies Department submitted a proposal for a Master's of Arts  
in Ethnic Studies to the UH Mānoa administration. This proposal was given a thorough  
review by both college and university administration. While there are a number of  
positive aspects to the proposal, it was determined that the Ethnic Studies Department  
needs to more fully develop its B.A. degree program before proposing an M.A. degree.  
At present, the number of undergraduate majors in Ethnic Studies is small, so faculty  
attention and effort are needed, at this time, to strengthen the undergraduate program.  
Also, in the face of limited resources, expansion of high demand areas have to be the  
focus for the campus. Once the Ethnic Studies undergraduate program reaches its full  
potential, it will be appropriate to consider a graduate program. Therefore, we cannot  
currently support the establishment of a master's degree program in Ethnic Studies.

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
House Committee on Culture and The Arts  
Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 3:30 pm

By

Ibrahim Aoudè, Ph. D., Chair  
Ethnic Studies Department  
College of Social Sciences  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

IN SUPPORT OF HCR 120/HR 104 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO ESTABLISH A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN ETHNIC STUDIES IN THE ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA.

Chairs Nishimoto and Wooley, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Belatti and Members of the Committees, my name is Dr. Ibrahim Aoudè and I am the Chair of the Ethnic Studies Department of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

In July 2009, the Ethnic Studies Department submitted a proposal for a Master's of Arts in Ethnic Studies to the UH Mānoa administration.

The primary objective of the proposed MA degree program is to provide students with specialized interdisciplinary training on contemporary and historical theories, social problems, issues and policies that have an impact on racial and ethnic and indigenous communities in national, transnational and global contexts, with a particular emphasis on Hawai'i, the Pacific and the U.S. continent.

The proposed MA program in Ethnic Studies will provide students seeking academic and professional jobs in the islands with an understanding of the dynamics of ethnic and racial diversity that influence Hawai'i's island society.

Faculty in the Ethnic Studies Department are actively engaged in research in their respective areas of specialization and have published award winning books as well as book chapters, articles in scholarly journals, technical reports and contributed to documentary films.

Insofar as Hawai'i is one of the primary geographic sites of the proposed program, students will be encouraged to conduct public policy oriented and applied research for their master's degrees that can be of direct economic, political or social benefit to the people of our islands.

Graduate internships will place students in government and community-based agencies and service learning programs with guidance by Ethnic Studies faculty. Such sites may include public housing complexes, homeless shelters, public schools, ahupua'a stewardship programs, residential community centers, ethnic community centers and immigrant service programs as well the state legislature and state agencies. Practica will engage students in research that enhances the quality of life of the local community.

The learning objective is to develop scholars and professionals who are culturally competent educators, researchers, providers of social services or public policy analysts and decision makers. Our graduates should be able to understand and function within the ethnically diverse dynamics of the Hawai'i workplace. They should understand and respect unique cultural learning styles and participate in the formation of culturally meaningful and responsive public policies.

The MA program is intended to attract two primary groups of students: (1) those for whom the program will provide theory-oriented academic training, including those seeking advanced degrees such as a doctorate or juris doctor; and (2) those for whom the program will enhance their professional development in fields such as education (including community college instruction), social work, counseling, public administration, politics, and social research. Some of our BA graduates already have obtained M.A. or PhD degrees elsewhere and many of our graduates are employed in these fields and with community-based organizations.

No new faculty are required for the MA program because the department has a critical mass of distinguished and renowned graduate level faculty who are specialists in the sociocultural processes of indigeneity, transnationalism, race and ethnicity in global contexts, with a particular emphasis on Hawai'i, the Pacific and the U.S. continent.

The Ethnic Studies Department currently has seven full-time positions and three half-time joint positions shared with the Departments of Anthropology, Women's Studies and Sociology. The latter faculty all have graduate faculty status in their respective departments. The full-time faculty have cooperating graduate faculty status in departments and programs such as Anthropology, Philippine Studies, Hawaiian Studies, Pacific Islands Studies, Urban and Regional Planning, School of Social Work, History International Cultural Studies and the College of Education at UH Mānoa.

On behalf of the Ethnic Studies Department at UH Manoa, I support HCR 120/HR 104 as a statement of recognition and support from the people of Hawai'i through the Hawai'i State Legislature for the establishment of a master's degree program in ethnic studies, in this forty-first year of its existence at UH Manoa. Mahalo and aloha.

Testimony Presented Before  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair  
Committee on Higher Education

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture and the Arts

By

Ty P. Kāwika Tengan, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies and Anthropology, UHM

Thursday, March 31, 2011, 3:30 pm, Conference Room 309

### **Strong Support for HCR 120/HR 104, Requesting an Ethnic Studies MA Degree**

Aloha. My name is Ty P. Kāwika Tengan and I am an Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies and Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I strongly support HCR 120/HR 104 requesting the establishment of a Master's Degree Program in Ethnic Studies in our Ethnic Studies Department at UH Mānoa. I have taught as a faculty member in the Department since 2003, and based on my experience as a joint appointment in the Department of Anthropology and an affiliate of Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, the Center for Pacific Islands Studies, the Departments of Political Science and Women's Studies, and the International Cultural Studies Program, I can truly say that no other unit on campus is as uniquely focused all of Hawai'i's people as Ethnic Studies is. We teach, write, and provide service in the areas of government, education, social welfare, environmental stewardship, Native Hawaiian self-determination, and local community development. We do all this with a focus on the ways that race, ethnicity, class, and gender create differences and commonalities within our island population. We frame these dynamics globally, especially in relation to the broader Pacific, Asia, and the U.S., but even beyond that. Our graduates and those of other colleges frequently inquire about the possibilities of carrying out graduate work here, and our community partners are constantly looking for new scholarship and graduate assistance. We have come a long way since our establishment as an experimental program in 1970 and a department in 1995, and we are now ready and eager to enter our next phase by offering a Master's Degree. At this time of economic uncertainty, shifting demographics, and patterns of brain and culture drain, one of the best investments the State can make is to establish a program that will train Hawai'i's own (and those that will come to call the islands home) to be skilled, responsible, and committed leaders. When Ethnic Studies first started, our motto was (and continues to be) "Our History, Our Way," a recognition that Native Hawaiian and local communities needed to produce a meaningful and relevant college education for its youth. With a new MA program, we will now be able to envision "Our Future, Our Way." Mahalo.

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
House Committee on Culture and The Arts  
Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 3:30 p.m.

By

Dr. Ulla Hasager  
(at least 22 copies needed)

**IN SUPPORT OF HCR 120/HR 104 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO  
ESTABLISH A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN ETHNIC STUDIES IN THE ETHNIC  
STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.**

***Chairs Nishimoto and Wooley, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Belatti and Members of the  
Committees,***

My name is Ulla Hasager, PhD in Anthropology, lecturer of graduate standing at the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (since 1996), and coordinator of community engagement and research, and service learning for the UHM College of Social Sciences.

This testimony is to express my strong support to establishing a Master's of Arts in Ethnic Studies at the UHM, for which the ESD submitted a proposal in 2009.

Establishment of the proposed MA program will put the Ethnic Studies Department, the CSS and UHM at the forefront of the current paradigm shift in academia regarding the understandings of research, scholarship, accountability and the role of the institutions of higher education in the community (with implications for funding and accreditation). Through my long-time and close engagement with racial, ethnic and indigenous communities in Hawai'i, it has become clear that students seeking academic and professional jobs in the islands need a thorough understanding of the dynamics of ethnic and racial diversity that influence Hawai'i. We need scholars and professionals who are culturally competent educators, researchers, providers of social services or public policy analysts and decision makers. An Ethnic Studies MA degree program will provide students with the needed specialized interdisciplinary training in contemporary and historical theories, social problems, issues and policies that have an impact on local communities in national, transnational and global contexts, with a particular emphasis on Hawai'i, the Pacific and the U.S. Numerous undergraduate students from ES and other disciplines have requested such an MA over my fifteen years at ESD. Students will be encouraged to conduct public-policy oriented and applied research for their master's degrees that can be of direct economic, political or social benefit to the people of our islands.

We have the qualifications and resources at ES to run the MA program. We are graduate-level faculty and specialists in the socio-cultural processes of indigeneity, trans-nationalism, race and ethnicity in global contexts - and are actively engaged in research and publishing on academic as well as public-policy levels. We are ready to do the work. Please support HCR 120/HR 104.

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
House Committee on Culture and The Arts  
Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 3:30 a.m.

By

Camille Cabalo

IN SUPPORT OF HCR 120/HR 104 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO ESTABLISH A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN ETHNIC STUDIES IN THE ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.

Chairs Nishimoto and Wooley, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Belatti and Members of the Committees, my name is Camille Cabalo and I am a student majoring in Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

**As a board member of the Ethnic Studies Student Association, we drafted and put forth a student-run petition to evaluate student and community interest in an Ethnic Studies Master's Program. At our recent social event "Voices of Color" – a fundraiser showcase for artists whose work centers around themes of identity, culture, and socio-political issues – we had the petition available for all patrons, artists, and volunteers. That night, we collected 117 signatures on our hard copy petition. The crowd ranged from University of Hawai'i students, Leeward Community College students, Hawai'i Community College, former Ethnic Studies alumni, and various other community members. Since the event, I have collected 4 signatures on our hard copy petition and 60 signatures on our online version of the petition. The signatures are still coming.**

**As a graduating senior this year who applied to graduate schools on the Continental U.S., I have seen what accolades are needed in order to bring forth a resourceful and strong graduate program. As an undergrad, I declared Ethnic Studies two years ago and have never regretted the decision. Not only are the professors knowledgeable and engaging on issues of race, class, ethnicity, gender, and their intersections, they are also nurturing and challenge me to be a more culturally aware and astute person.**

**Under the two years with Ethnic Studies I have had Masters and PhD candidates sit in on the upper level classes, garnering information and knowledge on diverse subjects which contain issues of race, ethnicity, gender and class but within the broader perspective of Hawai'i, the U.S. Continent, and the world.**

**Even just as an undergraduate, the Ethnic Studies Department provided me with two wonderful opportunities that allowed me to travel to both North Carolina and Washington D.C. to do research on the Asian American population in those respective areas. I took the tools and knowledge with me and wrote two 20-page research**

**papers, both of which were selected to present at our Ethnic Studies Undergraduate Colloquium; an opportunity only given to three students every year.**

**As I graduate this May, I look back on my time with Ethnic Studies and am dismayed at the idea that such an overlooked program has not extended into a Master's program. I have watched fellow undergrads have to apply to the Ethnic Studies graduate programs on the Continental U.S., as I myself have also done, and I am sad to see such wonderful potential scholars and wells of knowledge leave Hawai'i. These exiting scholars and the Ethnic Studies department provide such diversity and talent to the campus and we as a University can only improve if we wish to incorporate them.**

**Thus I humbly submit my name in support of HCR 120/HR 104.**

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Higher Education

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair

Committee on Culture & the Arts

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Thursday, March 31, 2011; 3:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.R. 104 / H.C.R. 120**  
**Requesting the Board of Regents to Establish a**  
**Master's Degree Program in Ethnic Studies in the**  
**Ethnic Studies Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.R. 104 / H.C.R. 120, which requests the Board of Regents to establish a Master's Degree program in Ethnic Studies at UH Manoa.

The Ethnic Studies Department at UH Manoa recently celebrated 40 years of providing instruction about Hawaii's diverse cultures and their role in shaping our home to students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. For many students, Ethnic Studies was their first experience in understanding other cultures and experiencing a world outside their own comfort zone.

As important as this education of the individual student has been, the Ethnic Studies Department has, through the past 40 years, developed into a well-established academic program, with credible research and published professors and instructors. Many Ethnic Studies students pursue education and careers in a variety of disciplines but, because of Ethnic Studies, will be culturally competent and able to provide services and make public policy with a better understanding of our diversity. As Governor Abercrombie likes to say, "our diversity defines us rather than divides us."

A Master's Degree program in Ethnic Studies will provide the Department with further acknowledgement of its significant role in educating students about cultural and socio-economic diversity and will allow the Department to achieve greater academic acceptance.

The ILWU urges adoption of H.R. 104 and H.C.R. 120. Thank you for considering our testimony.



Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
House Committee on Culture and The Arts  
Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 3:30 a.m.

By

Ruben Enrique Campos III

IN SUPPORT OF HCR 120/HR 104 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
TO ESTABLISH A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN ETHNIC STUDIES IN THE  
ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT  
MANOA.

Chairs Nishimoto and Wooley, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Belatti and  
Members of the Committees, my name is Ruben Campos and I am a  
graduate student majoring in Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at  
Mānoa.

I wholly support the establishment of a Master's Degree Program in  
Ethnic Studies. I am currently obtaining my MA in anthropology. Had I  
the choice, I would have sought my graduate degree in Ethnic Studies.  
The ethnic studies department coalesces the most important aspects of  
fields like anthropology, sociology, political science, and education. It  
stream lines these fields methods and focuses on the important issues  
most relevant to minorities, and social justice. The ethnic studies  
department contributes more to my field of research than any other  
department. In fact, the faculty of the ethnic studies department has  
been absolutely integral to my education here at the University of Hawaii  
at Manoa. Please consider expanding their role at the university, and give  
future students like me the opportunity to hone their academic careers as  
they best see fit

Thank you for your consideration

Ruben Enrique Campos III

I, Erinn Abragar, am in support of the creation of a master's degree program in Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa (UHM). I have been a resident of Hawaii since the day I was born. When I was younger, I was naïve in thinking that because Hawaii is such a diverse place that everyone looked past ethnicity and color of skin. In fact, I do not remember identifying with my ethnic group, Filipino, because so many cultures have intertwined to form local identity. However, my perspective changed when I studied English at UHM. I studied literature that dealt with ethnic identity, colonialism, and racism, topics rarely addressed in high school. I suddenly felt lost, as though I did not know myself because I never bothered to know my culture. I did not know much about the cultures of those who lived in Hawaii. I was fortunate to have English professors who educated me about these topics. These classes made me look at how I treated people and how I was being treated. My educational experience changed my life. It made a better person, and I am able to work with others, despite our cultural differences.

If there were an Ethnic Studies master's program when I graduated from UHM, I would have certainly enrolled, as I wanted to continue my "cultural" education. I feel that ethnic studies would benefit everyone because the program would make others aware of the beliefs and issues of different cultures. People would learn how to work with difference and tolerate difference. Perhaps, even this tiny step would be one step closer to truly understanding each other.

UHM is in need of a master's program in Ethnic Studies. I am sure that there are many students in Hawaii who would like to stay home to study Ethnic Studies. However, because of the lack of master's program, they opt to go away to study at a college in the mainland that does offer an Ethnic Studies master's program. I hope to see this program added to UHM's program offerings.

Thank you,  
Erinn Abragar '04  
BA in English

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
House Committee on Culture and the Arts  
Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 3:30 a.m.  
By

Justine M. Takamoto

IN SUPPORT OF HCR 120/HR 104 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO ESTABLISH A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN ETHNIC STUDIES IN THE ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.

Chairs Nishimoto and Wooley, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Belatti and Members of the Committees, my name is Justine M. Takamoto and I am a student majoring in both Political Science and Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

During my sophomore year of high school, I was selected to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Conference, which brings together the "best and brightest" of Hawai'i's students from both public and private schools. One of the guest speakers was former Governor Linda Lingle and she spoke to us about the importance of having the best and brightest of the State stay home, get an education in Hawai'i, and implementing what we learned to help our State. She was basically talking about the "brain-drain" problem our State has- the top students from all schools normally chose to leave Hawai'i because of the inadequate (or felt inadequacy) of the university systems throughout the State.

The current status of the economy has allowed an opportunity for many to go back to school or to continue their education seeking some sort of graduate level degree. For many like me, we want to continue on with our education in the field of Ethnic Studies, but are forced to either leave the islands to colleges on the continent that offer a MA program in Ethnic Studies or must compromise our interest and enter into other fields within the social sciences or American Studies.

Currently, many graduate students in the social sciences and American Studies regularly enroll in upper division Ethnic Studies courses because of their interest in them and in our faculty teaching those courses. A MA program will allow professors to teach graduate students in graduate level courses and thus freeing those seats to other undergraduates who may need to take the course. ES faculty also serve on numerous MA and PhD thesis committees for students who are researching and writing on topics that have an ethnic studies concern or focus.

A MA program will not only keep more graduate students home, but will most likely attract a large number of students from the continent and around the world. The State of Hawai'i promotes this notion of our State being a place of racial harmony and tolerance. Scholars and politicians alike have constantly insisted that Hawai'i should be an example

to the rest of the US, or world, for racial harmony.

Since the 1920s, sociologists such as Romanzo Adams, Robert Park, and Andrew Lind have come to the islands to study this so-called racial paradise. A MA program will allow people to analyze these notions for themselves- no matter what side of the multiculturalism debate you sit on, actually studying in Hawai'i will enable a valuable firsthand experience. This engagement with the community is not only essential to learning, but will also help or enhance the local community. Actually working within the community will also help in the professional development of those who will work in communities with diverse backgrounds; which is basically anyone who works in any field.

Finally, I would love to see an Ethnic Studies MA program established at UH Mānoa because my particular interest of study does not fit into any other program and it makes no sense to study issues important to Hawai'i on the continent.

## Testimony for HR104 on 3/31/2011 3:30:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2011 2:48 PM

**To:** HEDtestimony

**Cc:** witeckj001@hawaii.rr.com

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Testimony for HED/CUA 3/31/2011 3:30:00 PM HR104

Conference room: 309

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: John and Lucy Witeck

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: witeckj001@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/30/2011

**Comments:**

We strongly support inclusion of a Master's degree program for U.H. Ethnic Studies. The Ethnic Studies Department plays such an important role in the education of college students about the history and culture of the peoples of our islands. It is time that a Master's degree program be included to enhance the department's capability to serve and to research and share vital information. We can't really know where we are going if we don't know where we've been. Ethnic Studies is an important conduit and provider of that information.

**Testimony for HCR120 on 3/31/2011 3:30:00 PM**

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2011 2:54 PM

**To:** HEDtestimony

**Cc:** witeckj001@hawaii.rr.com

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Testimony for HED/CUA 3/31/2011 3:30:00 PM HCR120

Conference room: 309

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: John Witeck

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: witeckj001@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/30/2011

**Comments:**

The Philippine Workers Support Committee strongly supports this concurrent resolution urging the U.H. to make possible the establishment of a Master's Degree program within the U.H. Ethnic Studies Department. Ethnic Studies plays a vital role in the development of students and in our appreciation of our heritages, histories and cultures. For a group like PWSC, Ethnic Studies tells the history of working people, including the struggles of immigrant workers who came to Hawaii to work on the plantations and now in the hotels. It is a great program and department and would be enhanced by the addition of a Master's degree program. We urge your support for this measure.

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
House Committee on Culture and The Arts  
Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 3:30 p.m.

By  
Roderick Labrador

IN SUPPORT OF HCR 120/HR 104 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO ESTABLISH A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN ETHNIC STUDIES IN THE ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.

Chairs Nishimoto and Wooley, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Belatti and Members of the Committees, my name is Roderick Labrador and I am an Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I support HCR 120/HR 104 requesting the establishment of a Master's degree program in the Ethnic Studies Department at UH-Manoa.

HCR 120/HR 104 need to be passed for many reasons, but I will focus primarily on student demand for a graduate program in Ethnic Studies at UHM and the positive societal impacts of such a program. Since my hire in January 2009, I have received dozens of inquiries from undergraduate and graduate students (here in Hawai'i and in the continental U.S.) about pursuing a graduate education in Ethnic Studies at UHM. These students are often shocked and surprised that no such program exists, especially since Ethnic Studies at UHM is one of the oldest ethnic studies-related programs in the country – we recently celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with last year marked as “The Year of Ethnic Studies” by the Hawai'i State Legislature – and one of the more prominent, with our faculty being some of the most distinguished experts in the social, political, economic, and cultural processes of indigeneity, transnationalism, race and ethnicity in global contexts as well as in Hawai'i, the Pacific and the U.S. continent. In recent years, there has been steady increase in student interest in our courses and our students have been actively involved in organizing events and activities around issues related to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, culture, labor, migration, and social justice. A graduate program will help to meet the educational and professional demands of our students.

The establishment of a Master's degree program in the Ethnic Studies Department at UH-Manoa will also have long-term community benefits. In line with the Ethnic Studies philosophy of engaged scholarship, the proposed program will have students who are encouraged to conduct public policy-oriented and applied research for their master's degrees which will directly benefit the people of Hawai'i in economic, political or social ways. The graduate program will provide opportunities for students to conduct research that enhances the quality of life in the islands.

I urge the legislature to support HCR 120/HR 104; it is a smart long-term investment in the University of Hawai'i, our students, and our communities. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.