



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
March 23, 2011 at 8:30am
by
Donald Straney
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HCR 180 - URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION ACT

Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i System, and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo in particular, have benefited from the Native Hawaiian Education Act. Under this program, our faculty have developed programs that benefit Native Hawaiian students throughout the state. Programs such as Na Pua No'eau and the indigenous teacher preparation programs have been very effective.

There remains, however, considerable work to do to ensure that Native Hawaiian children have access to an effective and responsive educational system. Continuation of the native Hawaiian Education Act will ensure that we are able to develop and provide the education that our citizens require.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

clee2 - Matt

From: Hardy Spoehr [HSpoehr@papaolalokahi.org]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 7:51 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Paul Richards
Subject: Testimony: HCR 180

TESTIMONY: HCR 180, Urging Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation to support the reauthorization of the Native Hawaiian Education Act.

Wednesday, March 23, 2011
8:30am
Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, strongly supports this legislation. Even though our Congressional delegation is in strong support of this, we believe it's also important for the legislature to come forward to take a strong position of this as well. Native Hawaiian education funds are critical to improving the education, health, and wellbeing of hundreds of our children throughout the state.

Thank you

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Native Hawaiian Education Council

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 180

URGING HAWAII CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION ACT

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Hawaii State Capitol Building
415 South Beretania Street
Wednesday, March 23, 2011
8:30 a.m. – Conference Room 329

Honorable Chairwoman Faye Hanohano, and Vice Chairman, Chris Lee and Committee Members on
Hawaiian Affairs, and

Honorable Chairwoman Jessica Wooley, and Vice Chairwoman, Della Au Belatti and Committee Members
on Culture and the Arts,

Aloha Kakou! O Paul P. Richards, kou inoa,

As the Executive Director for the Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC) I would like to submit this testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 180 urging our Hawaii Congressional Delegation to support the Reauthorization of the Native Hawaiian Education Act (NHEA) in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Title VII, Part B. The NHEA has provided numerous grant opportunities to our Native Hawaiian population in addressing their community educational needs throughout the State of Hawai'i.

Since the first NHEA authorization its staunch supporter Mr. Myron "Pinky" Thompson and those who had succeeded him recognized the educational disparities and challenges Native Hawaiians encountered. These barriers and the improvement of educational achievement by Native Hawaiians has progressed during the past decades; however, the continued need for Federal financial support to meet and assist programs addressing children, youth, young adults and adults needs require the passage of NHEA. Additionally, a few members of the NHEC and staff have met with, received counsel and guidance from our Hawaii Congressional Delegation during a recent Legislative Summit Conference concerning the reauthorization and appreciate their support and advocacy.

We humbly ask the committees, its members and the House of Representatives and Senate of the Hawaii Legislature for your support of HCR 180. Malama pono.

