



HCR243
URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM TO PROVIDE HIGHER
EDUCATION TUITION WAIVERS FOR ALL ENROLLED NATIVE HAWAIIAN
STUDENTS

House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 30, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly **SUPPORTS** HCR243, which urges the University of Hawai'i system to grant a waiver of all tuition to each native Hawaiian or Hawaiian student enrolled at any of the University of Hawai'i's system's 10 campuses. OHA notes that two bills in our 2011 Legislative Package would have *required* UH to provide tuition waivers to Native Hawaiian students enrolled in the UH system. Unfortunately, both of these bills died.

Native Hawaiians currently represent just 11 percent of the total UH student population, despite the fact that Native Hawaiians constitute about 25 percent of the state population. UH's efforts to raise Native Hawaiian enrollment within the university system are appreciated but still not sufficient. The University's Strategic Plan 2002-2020 seeks to increase Native Hawaiian enrollment to 15 percent of the student population, a proportion still deficient considering the representation of Native Hawaiians in the State.

The University of Hawai'i was established as a land grant university in 1907 on the former lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. The 1890 land grant that established the historically black colleges and universities and the 1994 land grant that established Native American colleges both sought to provide access to higher education for the disenfranchised groups of people within in the United States. Although in a very similar situation, UH has been slow to provide the same type of higher education access to Native Hawaiians that other land grant universities have afforded Native Americans and African Americans.

Further, according to the *University of Hawai'i's Annual Report to the 2010 Legislature on Student Scholarship and Assistance Special Fund 2008-2009*, more tuition waivers were granted to employee spouses (\$369,734), and graduate assistants (\$11,504,233) than Native Hawaiians (\$299,057). The current UH Board of Regents policy allows for only 250 tuition waivers for Native Hawaiians in financial need.

Tuition waivers for all Native Hawaiian students in the UH system would have far-reaching impacts on improving the educational achievement of the Native Hawaiian community.

OHA therefore urges the committee to PASS HCR243. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
March 30, 2011 at 8:30 am

by

Rockne Freitas

Vice President for Student Affairs and University/Community Relations, University of Hawai'i

HR206/HCR243 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO PROVIDE HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION WAIVERS FOR ALL ENROLLED NATIVE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS

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

The purpose of HR205/HCR243 is to urge the University of Hawai'i to grant full tuition waivers to all native Hawaiian or Hawaiian students in the University of Hawai'i system.

The University appreciates the Legislature's concern for improving the academic success of native Hawaiians and Hawaiians in higher education. However, we are opposed to this measure, as written.

The University strives to improve the access to state higher education and the success of our native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students. In its Mission Statement, the University states its unique commitment as an indigenous-serving institution, and "ensures active support for the participation of Native Hawaiians at the University and supports vigorous programs of study and support for the Hawaiian language, history, and culture."

In 2008, we placed Native Hawaiian Educational Attainment as our very first strategic outcome for the years 2008 to 2015. It is our goal to increase degree attainment of native Hawaiians or Hawaiians by 6 to 9 percent per year.

The data show that our efforts are working. Contrary to the data cited by HR206/HCR243, I would like to update the committee to the following corrections in the PDF version of HR206:

1. **Page 1, Line 30:** Represent [only 14] 22.4 percent of the total University of Hawaii student population, a figure that includes all native Hawaiians attending the System's three four-year and seven [two-year campuses] community colleges;

2. **Page 2, Lines 4 – 10:** Return for a second year of college at a slightly lower percentage compared to non-native-Hawaiian students. Approximately [More than] 76.7 percent of the University of Hawaii System's non-native-Hawaiian students return for a second year of college, whereas [but] the percentage of native Hawaiian students returning is 76.1 percent [nearly ten percent lower];

3. **Page 2, Lines 22 – 25:** Represent [only 3.6] 9.5 percent of the current doctoral candidates at the University of Hawaii, and nearly [70] 38 percent of native-Hawaiian candidates do not receive any type of financial aid or tuition waivers; and,

4. **Page 2, Lines 27 – 30:** Represent just [four] five percent of all faculty positions at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and [less than one] 3.1 percent of permanently tenured positions are held by native Hawaiians.

Furthermore, to help us succeed in our goal, we are encouraging students who have financial need to apply for financial aid so that we can maximize federal aid, such as the Federal Pell Grant, to students. In academic year 2009-10, we gave over \$26 million in UH institutional aid to students with financial need, meritorious achievement, and service. We also already award the equivalent of 250 Native Hawaiian tuition exemptions to native Hawaiian or Hawaiian students with financial need, per UH Board of Regents policy. These are given in whole or partial amounts, depending on a student's financial need. Furthermore, we exempt non-resident native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students from paying the non-resident tuition differential; they are only charged the in-state rates for tuition. Finally, we currently award a scholarship called the Second Century Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,650,000 to Hawaiian students with financial need.

We are pleased to report that our enrollment of Hawaiians has nearly doubled across our ten UH campuses, growing from 6,631 students in Fall 2006 to 12,630 in Fall 2010. We believe this is due, in large part, to our commitment to financial aid for students who need funds to gain access to the University.

Awarding more tuition waivers for native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students would be very costly to the University without the opportunity to recoup federal, state, and private aid that is freely awarded to students with financial need. We respectfully request that the resolution be amended to create a state financial grant program with funding that would apply to all native Hawaiian and Hawaiian students *with financial need*, as determined by the federal financial aid guidelines. We also invite the State of Hawai'i to become a partner in funding the Second Century Scholarship (mentioned above). This way, the University can continue to apply a variety of federal, state, private, and institutional grants and scholarships that can target our Hawaiian students who experience financial hardship.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

Jennifer Wilbur

From: Hardy Spoehr [HSpoehr@papaolalokahi.org]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 8:39 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Subject: Testimony: HR 206/HCR 243

Testimony: HCR 206/HCR 243, Urging the University of Hawai'i system to provide higher education tuition waivers for all enrolled Native Hawaiian students

House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

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

Aloha. Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, strongly supports this measure. Education is still one of the keys to success in life. Native Hawaiians are still greatly under-represented in university degrees and educational achievement. Other Indigenous Peoples of the US have tuition waivers to their respective educational institutions. There is also the fact that the University utilizes lands which were formerly ceded to the United States when Hawai'i became a US territory and Native Hawaiians are beneficiaries to the resources stemming from that action. Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony.

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director
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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
808-597-6550

Jennifer Wilbur

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 2:05 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR206 on 3/30/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 3/30/2011 8:30:00 AM HR206

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Olinda Aiwohi
Organization: Paukukalo Hawaiian Homes Community Assoc.
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

Please support this bill which would help so many of our Hawaiian children to further their education. With these waivers and scholarships our people can advance in society by gaining a higher education. If the students know these tuition waivers are available they will set goals to attain a college degree, without the knowledge of help they choose other paths. Please support HR 206.
Mahalo Nui

Jennifer Wilbur

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 4:59 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR243 on 3/30/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 3/30/2011 8:30:00 AM HCR243

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

Tuition waivers based on race? This proposal keeps popping up in the Legislature every year. Sort of like the Akaka bill in Congress.

Here's an idea. How about helping needy people based on need alone without regard to race? If those statistics in this resolution are correct, purporting to show that ethnic Hawaiians are the most poor, downtrodden group, then surely you can see the logic -- the lion's share of the help will go to ethnic Hawaiians, not because of their race, but because they are the most needy. You can achieve your goal, to help needy ethnic Hawaiians, by helping all students who are needy, without getting into racism. Don't worry -- your favorite racial group will get nearly all the help because those statistics show this group is the neediest, right? You might be troubled because a few dollars will be left over to help some needy people who lack a drop of the magic blood. But that's the price you must pay to avoid having a court rule the tuition waivers unconstitutional because they are based on race.

Which race is the favored one? Why, of course, it's the race which has been so highly favored in more than 160 federally funded programs racially exclusionary to benefit only them, plus a couple branches of the State government racially exclusionary to benefit only them, plus a bill in Congress and several bills in this legislature to create a racially exclusionary government solely for them. We have a state bird, a state fish, a state flower, etc. So you might as well declare ethnic Hawaiians our state race.

It might be reasonable to give tuition waivers to students whose families are in poverty. There are people of all races who would qualify. Why should only ethnic Hawaiians get these waivers when there are so many other equally needy and deserving individuals who would be excluded by race from getting the waivers? If someone doesn't have a drop of the magic blood this resolution says just go ahead and kick him to the curb.

It might be reasonable to give tuition waivers to students from families where no other family member has ever graduated from college (or perhaps never even attended college). There are people of all races who would qualify. Why should only ethnic Hawaiians get these waivers when there are so many other similarly situated individuals who would be excluded by race from getting the waivers? If someone doesn't have a drop of the magic blood, this resolution says just go ahead and kick him to the curb.

I'm asking you to vote against HR206 and HCR243. I'm asking you not only to vote "no", I'm asking you to stand up, rip up a copy of the resolution in plain view of everyone, and shout out loud and clear "HELL NO." But based on previous years' performance, I'm guessing the committee will pass it unanimously, without even any reservations, because you're afraid to stand up for what's right. This resolution is so ridiculously racist it should never have even been scheduled for a hearing. But you'll kick this can down the road until the very end of session, when the Finance committee will mercifully allow it to die, not because the resolution is morally obscene, but only because there's not enough money in the budget to pay for it.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

HR206/HCR 243

**URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO PROVIDE
HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION WAIVERS FOR ALL ENROLLED
NATIVE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS**

Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday; March 30, 2011; 8:30 am; Rm. 329

Aloha Madam Chair Hanohano, Vice chair Chris Lee and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I am Soulee Stroud, president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs here to speak in support of HR206/HCR243 Urging the University of Hawaii System to Provide Higher Education Tuition Waivers For All Enrolled Native Hawaiian Students.

One of the most fundamental goals of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is to assist in the education of Native Hawaiian students, whether it is through Exploration programs held at Kamehameha Schools or on through higher education. Over the years our clubs have raised and distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in financial aide to thousands of students. Today, we are confident that within Hawaii's communities civic club assistance has helped Native Hawaiians who are now contributing to the well-being of the entire population.

The University of Hawaii would do well to provide tuition waivers to Native Hawaiian students as its share in providing for the betterment of conditions of future Native Hawaiians who will also be capable of making positive contributions to the community.

Mahalo. We urge the passage of this measure.

AHCC contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net