

**SCR 82**

Date: 03/30/2011

Committee: Senate Hawaiian Affairs

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 082 URGING ALL HAWAII HIGH SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

**Purpose of Resolution:** Urges all Hawaii high schools to provide Hawaiian language classes.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (Department) does not support SCR 82 as currently drafted. The Department already provides high schools with the opportunity to offer Hawaiian language ('olelo Hawai'i) courses as specified in the World Languages section of the *Authorized Courses and Code Numbers (ACCN) Catalog*. "All high schools must offer at least a two-year sequence of one or more languages in order to be sure that students have sufficient opportunities to meet graduation requirements, should they choose the option of completing two credits of World Languages to meet the graduation requirements." (p. WL.HS.1)

For students who wish to pursue an intensive Hawaiian language experience, the Hawaiian Immersion Program is an option.

In addition, the Reinventing Education Act of 2004 (Act 51, SLH 2004) provides schools and their respective School Community Councils the authority to determine academic and financial decision-making. Each high school determines through its Academic and Financial Plan, school goals and actions based on relevant data. Schools determine course offerings through careful data analysis, student pre-registration results, availability of highly qualified personnel and alignment with funding resources.

Furthermore, the Department strongly encourages schools to meet college

and career-ready goals. The Hawaiian language is not applicable as a language requirement for admission to many colleges and universities. The Department already encourages schools to offer Hawaiian language opportunities and to require schools to offer a specific course is not in accordance with Act 51 which provides schools the authority for school-level decision-making.



**SCR82**  
**URGING ALL HAWAII HIGH SCHOOLS TO**  
**PROVIDE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES**  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 30, 2011

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR82, which urges all Hawai'i high schools, both private and public, to provide Hawaiian language courses.

Hawaiian language is an integral aspect of our culture and identity, and its protection and perpetuation is vital to Native Hawaiians as a people. Every private and public school in Hawai'i that offers foreign language courses should also offer courses in Hawaiian, which is not only the native language of Hawai'i but also an official language of the State of Hawai'i.

Hawai'i's schools have played a key role in both the decline and revival of Hawaiian language. In 1896, a law was passed that prohibited Hawaiian from being spoken in schools. The impact of this law was devastating. By the early 1980s, Hawaiian language teetered on the brink of extinction, with only a handful of native speakers under the age of 18. To save the language, advocates repealed the 1896 ban and established Hawaiian language immersion schools to create new generations of native speakers. More than 25 years later, these schools remain at the center of the thriving Hawaiian language movement.

In 1978, the Hawai'i Constitution was amended to require the state to "provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture and history in the public schools." We believe that passage of this resolution would help the state fulfill this mandate.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS HCR113. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to present this testimony.

## **galuteria1 - Ikaika**

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**From:** Hardy Spoehr [HSpoehr@papaolalokahi.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 8:51 AM  
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Testimony: SCR 82, urging all Hawai'i High schools to provide Hawaiian language classes

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, March 30, 2011  
2:45 pm  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

Aloha. Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, strongly supports this measure. Hawaiian language is one of the state's official languages and more and more people – particularly the younger generation – are speaking Hawaiian. It continues to be one of the more popular, if not the most popular, area of course study at the University of Hawai'i both at Manoa and in Hilo. All Hawai'i residents need to have some familiarity with the Hawaiian language. Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony.

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*ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS*

Testimony of President Soulee Stroud

SCR 82 URGING ALL HAWAII HIGH SCHOOLS  
TO PROVIDE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Heard before the  
COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Wednesday; March 30, 2011; 2:45 p.m.; Rm. 224

Aloha Chairman Galuteria, madam vice chair Ryan and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I am Soulee Stroud, President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs here to testify in support of SCR82 Urging All Hawai`i High Schools To Provide Hawaiian Language Classes.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is comprised of sixty affiliate clubs in eleven states of the continent who participate in a convention held annually to conduct Association business. Among other things, we submit resolutions on issues relating to Native Hawaiian issues. The resolutions are assigned to committees where they are discussed and debated before being voted upon then going to the House of Delegates for a final vote.

In 2010, a resolution similar to this issue was adopted as: #10-26 Urging that the State of Hawai`i Recognize Its Responsibility to Abide By article 15, Section 4 of the Hawai`i State Constitution As Created and Enacted In the 1978 Hawai`i State Constitutional Convention.

We have several clubs who are strong advocates for Hawaiian language on Oahu as well as on neighbor islands. We have alerted them to the fact that SCR 82 is up for a hearing and they are also expected to submit testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we urge passage of SCR82.

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