

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2179 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:05:04 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2179

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hardy Spoehr
Organization: Papa Ola Lokahi
E-mail: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:
Aloha. Papa Ola Lokahi supports this measure. Mahalo.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

SENATE BILL 2179(SSCR2313)
RELATING TO THE FEDERAL EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, February 29, 2012; 9:15am; Rm00m 211

Aloha Chairman Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports Senate Bill 2179 (SSCR2313), Relating to the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit. My organization is comprised of sixty affiliate clubs throughout all counties of Hawaii and eleven states on the continent. We were founded in 1918 and have, for all these many years, been an advocate for Native Hawaiians. We proudly carry on that legacy here in 2012.

Senate Bill 2179 was requested by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and while it has been used widely at a national level, the use of tax credits is not too widely known here. Hopefully, this bill will turn that issue around and broadly provide the kind of information needed to increase awareness of the benefits to be gained. The Department of Taxation is charged with the responsibility of creating an outreach program by contracting with a non-profit agency for coordination.

We look forward to participating in and learning more about federal earned tax credits that would serve to ease an average family's economic burden as well as all the members of our Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we urge passage of this bill.
Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net



February 29, 2012

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jeanne Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: SB 2179 Relating to the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit
Hearing: Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 a.m., Room 211

Position: Support

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of SB 2179 Relating to the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) which requires the Hawai'i State Department of Taxation to coordinate an outreach initiative to increase awareness and use of the federal EITC.

The EITC is a federal tax credit for moderate and low income working families. In the late 1980s and early 1990s increases in the program turned the EITC into the largest federal aid program targeted to the working poor. In tax year 2009, the EITC was expanded by Congress as part of measures passed to encourage economic recovery; that year, 6.6 million Americans were lifted above the poverty line due to the EITC.¹

It is estimated that 20%-25% of families nation-wide fail to claim the EITC they have earned. Those not claiming the credit generally fall into two categories: (1) those that file and do not claim the credit since they were not aware of the credit and (2) those that don't file at all, either because they are afraid to file or because they have no tax liability and are not aware that EITC is refundable even if they have no tax liability.

This large gap between who is eligible and who actually files is the reason this measure is needed. It is important to note that poor families spend the money they receive in the communities in which they live. These funds will help stimulate Hawaii's economy and provide additional tax revenue to the state.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawai'i's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Women's Caucus supports this measure. We respectfully ask the committee to pass it out.

¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities