

SCR 87

Date: 03/21/2012

Committee: Senate Hawaiian Affairs/Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 87/SR 43 REQUESTING A REVIEW OF THE STATE'S FUNDING FOR EXISTING ESL PROGRAMS AND HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS OFFERED IN HAWAII AND ANY DISPARITIES IN FUNDING FOR THE STATE'S TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Purpose of Resolution: Requests a review of the State's funding for existing ESL programs and Hawaiian language programs offered in Hawaii and any disparities in funding for the State's two official languages.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 87/SR 43 and will assist the University of Hawaii in a review of the State's funding for existing English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and Hawaiian language programs offered in Hawaii. As the Hawaiian language is recognized as one of the State's two official languages, the Department will also assist in the review of funding disparities for the two official languages. Currently, although Hawaiian is an official state language, the Department's ESL program provides ESL services to students whose first language is Hawaiian.



SCR87

**REQUESTING A REVIEW OF THE STATE'S FUNDING FOR EXISTING ESL PROGRAMS AND
HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS OFFERED IN HAWAII AND ANY DISPARITIES IN
FUNDING FOR THE STATE'S TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.**

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Education

March 21, 2012

1:15 p.m.

Room 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) appreciates the intent of SCR87, which requests the University of Hawai'i to review the state's funding for existing English as a Second Language (ESL) programs offered in Hawai'i and any disparities in funding for the state's two official languages.

OHA has long advocated for increased funding for the state's Hawaiian Language Immersion Program (HLIP) and other Hawaiian language programs. However, we want to ensure that, if HLIP receives funding reserved specifically for ESL programs, the Hawaiian language's special legal status as both an indigenous language and an official language of the state is recognized and reaffirmed. Unlike ESL, HLIP is intended to perpetuate and preserve a non-English language--the native language of our ancestors, which was on the verge of extinction 20 years ago. We ask that the University of Hawaii carefully consider important factor this when writing the report requested by this resolution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

galuteria1 - Davis

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 12:28 PM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: onthego.travis@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR87 on 3/21/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDU 3/21/2012 1:15:00 PM SCR87

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Corrina Travis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: onthego.travis@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments: