



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs
February 1, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

by
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB1446 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

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

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. We support the intent of HB1446. To meet the goals of the University of Hawai'i Graduation Initiative, the UH Hilo Strategic Plan, and the Hawai'i Papa O Ke Ao initiative to become a model indigenous-serving institution and maintain our status as a federally-designated Native Hawaiian-serving institution, permanent funding is needed to improve and expand our capacity to serve Native Hawaiians and Native Hawaiian programs at UH Hilo. This request is consistent with and expands upon the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents approved budget.

We support HB1446 provided it does not adversely impact other programs, priorities or our operating budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1446. Aloha.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs
February 1, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

by
Keiki Kawai'ae'a, Ph.D
Director, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB1446 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Aloha e ka Lunamaka'āinana Hanohano a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Kumuwaiwai Moana Kai A Me Nā Kuleana Hawai'i, 'o wau 'o Keiki Kawai'ae'a, ka Lunaho'okele o Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, ke koleke ho'okahi o Hawai'i nei e ho'okele piha 'ia ma loko o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

Aloha Representative Hanohano and Members of the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources And Hawaiian Affairs, I am Keiki Kawai'ae'a, the Director of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani college. Ours is the state Hawaiian language college - distinguished by its use of Hawaiian as the language of internal operations and administration.

On behalf of our college, we want to thank you for this opportunity to express support for this bill HB 1446 which addresses the growth of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani and the Native Hawaiian student population at UH-Hilo.

East Hawai'i is known for having an especially large Native Hawaiian population. We have several Hawaiian Homesteads and also other strongly Native Hawaiian communities, such as Lower Puna. UH-Hilo recognizes its responsibility to the Native Hawaiian population in its long-range plan. Funds are needed to support those students served by the Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center for the entire campus.

My own college, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, is a second area of unique need and one also designated for attention in the UH-Hilo strategic plan. In 1997, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed legislation mandating that there be a college at UH-Hilo conducted through Hawaiian. The mandate was to addressing unique needs of students educated in Hawaiian in the public schools. The mandate was an ambitious one - to provide a full P-20 system of education through Hawaiian.

I am happy to report that we have met your mandate and continue to impact the increasing numbers of Hawaiian language speakers, students and families through our infant-toddler through Ph.D. efforts. For example our statewide laboratory school program is serves nearly 900 students preschool to grade twelve. Our campus major count at UH-Hilo is approximately 200 students.

Our growth has been extremely rapid. Before we became a college, there were no graduate programs at UH-Hilo. Our Hawaiian programs were the first masters and also the first doctorate at UH-Hilo. We have grown from one B.A. to two B.A. programs and in addition, offer two

M.A. programs, plus a Ph.D., and a graduate teaching certificate. Our Hale Kuamo‘o Center serves the twenty-two Hawaiian language immersion schools both public and charter and eleven Pūnana Leo schools through its laboratory school agreement.

All of this growth has been positive and allows us to serve the schools across the state and our own East Hawai‘i area very well. East Hawai‘i has the largest percentage of students in Hawaiian immersion of any area in Hawai‘i. 26.8% of the state enrollment is in East Hawai‘i. Again, this year the highest percentage of growth for immersion was - the 12.5% growth at our laboratory school Nāwahī in Puna. Nāwahī is also known for the very strong high school graduation and college attendance rates of its students in Hawaiian medium education.

The resources in this bill will allow us to serve the growth our East Hawai‘i district.

The resources in this bill will allow us to reach out better to other areas of the state its students and families.

The resources in this bill will allow us to serve the growing numbers of Native American and other indigenous students and communities who are seeking to revitalize their precious and endangered language as we have done and continue to do here in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui loa i ka ho‘okomo ‘ana i kēia pila a me ka ho‘olohe ‘ana mai ia‘u!

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs
February 1, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.
by
Dr. Hiapo Perreira, Senate Chair Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani

H.B. 1446 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

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

Ke 'a'a aku nei au i ko'u aloha nui i mua ou e ka Lunaho'omalua Kōmike Hanohano a me nā Lālā a pau o kēia kōmike e 'imi ana i ka pono o ke kai a me ke kanaka 'ōiwi, he mea nui kā 'oukou hana.

Aloha. I write to you in support of HB 1446 as the elected Chair of the Faculty Senate of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language, at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

I personally express my strong support for this bill that is so important to the Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center, our College, and the Hanakahi Council. In speaking with members of our Faculty Senate, they have indicated full support and a formal vote of support for this bill will be called at the next Senate meeting - scheduled for a few hours after your hearing.

The faculty of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani remains a strong united group as the College continuously grows through diversification of subject areas and responsibilities in early childhood education through graduate level programs. Maintaining Hawaiian language as the language of operations, instruction, and communication strengthens our collective bond and resilience to continue this important work.

We are united with our new College Director Dr Keiki Kawai'ae'a who shared this bill with us. We look forward to assisting with information regarding any aspect of the College that legislators may request relating to this important piece of legislation.

Me ka 'oia'i'o piha,
Dr. Hiapo Perreira
Luna Ho'omalua o ka 'Aha Kenekoa
Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani
Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i ma Hilo



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Hawaiian Voyaging Science

Niuoiahihi

Hawaiian Language Online

Pāpaho

Hawaiian Media

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 1446
Committee of Ocean, Marine & Hawaiian Affairs
8:00a Friday 2/1/2013.
Conference Rm. 325

Ms. Myrna 'Ekekelā Aiona, ED 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc.

Aloha e ka Lunamaka'āinana Hanohano a me nā Lālā Kōmike. 'O ko'u inoa 'o 'Ekekelā Aiona. 'O wau ka Lunaho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo. He leo kāko'o ko'u i kēia pila HB 1446.

Aloha Representative Hanohano and Committee Members. My name is 'Ekekelā Aiona Executive Director for the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is a statewide Hawaiian language education non-profit organization that provides early childhood education through the Hawaiian language.

Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to support HB 1446. Over the years, 'Aha Pūnana Leo has developed a consortium with Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani and 'Imiloa Astronomy Center. This consortium has allowed us to further support our mission to revitalize the Hawaiian language in addition to assisting other indigenous communities beyond Hawai'i, such as a conference being conducted in cooperation with the UH Mānoa Linguistic Department in March of this year that brings together participants from other indigenous communities interested in native language revitalization.

Many have benefitted greatly by Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani's work in preparing the work force that is needed to support our growing Hawaiian language communities. The College continues to train teachers and develop programs for Hawaiian speaking children and parents that impacts the 'Aha Pūnana Leo and builds the capacity for Hawai'i to truly emerge as a bilingual state.

Funding UH-Hilo, and specifically Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani, is important for our community and the benefits are felt throughout the state, especially in communities with large Hawaiian populations where the Pūnana Leo are located.

Mahalo nui loa.

M. 'Ekekelā Aiona
Executive Director
'Aha Pūnana Leo