



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 21, 2014 at 12:00 P.M.

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

HB 2443 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo). We support HB 2443 HD1 that appropriates funds to UH Hilo to support its memorandum of agreement with RISE 21st Century After School Program and the implementation of the agreement by the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i, a unit of UH Hilo.

The 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i has been cultivating community partnerships that targets greater engagement by Hawai'i Island youth with the resources of UH Hilo. A positive partnership has been established with the RISE 21st Century After School Program that serves as a community and cultural resource for disadvantaged Native Hawaiian youth in Keaukaha. The proposal will help to expand collaborative opportunities supported by staffing and curriculum resources to establish mentorships, initiate project-based learning activities, and offer academic and career planning. UH Hilo views our continued partnership and collaboration with RISE as a positive solution to increase access to higher education and career opportunities for Native Hawaiians on Hawai'i Island.

We support HB 2443 HD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2443 HD1. Aloha.

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
Council Member
District 3



PHONE: (808) 961-8396
FAX: (808) 961-8912
EMAIL: donishi@co.hawaii.hi.us

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 20, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance

Dear Representative Luke and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill 2443.

This bill appropriates funds for personnel at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i to build on the partnership with the RISE 21st Century After School Program and to help the children of Keaukaha and Pana'ewa.

I support the mission of RISE, which will serve as a community resource for underprivileged Native Hawaiian youth ages 12 to 17.

Funds appropriated by this bill will allow for the mentoring of participants in the after school program and help them to set academic and career goals. This mentoring will give them the support they need.

This is an important investment in our community's future and I ask that you recommend approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Onishi".

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi
Hawai'i County Council Member

Shadd Keahi Warfield
Executive Director
R.I.S.E.
REVEALING INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS FOR EXCELLENCE
21stCENTURY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
67 Keokea Ln.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Telephone: (808) 895-8666
keahi.koyd.rise@gmail.com

February 20, 2014

Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: HB2443 - February 21, 2014

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Aloha my name is Shadd Keahi Warfield. I am a child of Keaukaha Hawaiian Homestead community where I have lived for 32 years. I have been educated in western, traditional and non-traditional ways of learning and make a decent living by servicing our youth as a teacher.

I have been involved in numerous community projects and have advocated, organized and funded a variety of indigenous education opportunities as a means to offset drug and alcohol abuse, poverty, suicide and domestic abuse amongst our youth. My main goal is to *Reveal the Individual Strengths* of our youth for *Excellence*. Our collaborative relationship with the University of Hawaii at Hilo as well as Hawaii Community College through the Imiloa Astronomy Center helps us create a more fluid path to get our community youth into more Higher Educational Opportunities.

I am hopeful that when I meet you in person my story will compel you to support HB2443. The reason is simple; we must nurture and provide positive venues to enhance individual growth, self-confidence, leadership and self-discipline amongst our youth to sustain our Hawaii. An appropriation of funding in support of our collaboration will help us meet these goals.

Thank you for your consideration into this matter.

Sincerely,

Shadd Keahi Warfield

Naomi Ahu
Fiscal & Administrative Coordinator
R.I.S.E.
REVEALING INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS FOR EXCELLENCE
21stCENTURY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
67 Keokea Loop
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Telephone: (808) 756-5859
naomi.koyd.rise@gmail.com

February 20, 2014

Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: HB2443 / February 21, 2014

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Naomi Ahu, a 23-year resident of the Hilo district and a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Business and Economics Baccalaureate program and Hawaii Pacific University's Master of Arts in Organizational Change program. In addition, I am the sole fiscal and administrative support for the R.I.S.E program and was instrumental in its initial creation.

I have worked alongside R.I.S.E. Executive Director, Shadd Keahi Warfield on various community projects and programs involving youth in our community (specifically the Keaukaha and Panaewa Hawaiian Homestead areas) for the past 10 years. Through such experiences, I have recognized the challenges our local youth face such as exposure to drugs, alcohol, abuse, poverty, suicide, domestic violence, and more.

It is extremely important for these youth to have exposure to opportunities to offset such behaviors and/or circumstances and to help them recognize their true potential in becoming valuable contributors to the sustainability of our community and future generations. I have extreme confidence that the R.I.S.E. program will contribute greatly to this need, being that it is one of the only programs of its kind in the Hilo district.

Our established relationship and memorandum of agreement with the University of Hawaii at Hilo and the Imiloa Astronomy Center helps to increase the higher education and career opportunities for R.I.S.E. youth participants and the larger community; one of the main objectives R.I.S.E. is striving to achieve. An appropriation of funding to support our collaborative efforts would greatly support our goals moving forward. Therefore, I greatly support the intent of HB2443 and truly appreciate your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Naomi K. Ahu

LAW OFFICES OF
STANLEY H. ROEHRIG

ATTORNEY AT LAW
A Law Corporation
101 AUPUNI STREET, SUITE 124
HILO, HAWAII 96720
TELEPHONE: (808) 969-1441
shroehrig@hawaii.rr.com

February 19, 2014

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Aaron Ling Johanson
Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto
Members of the House Finance Committee

Re: HB2443 /FIN Hearing on February 21, 2014
Letter of Support for HB2443

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Stanley H Roehrig. I am a local boy lawyer living in Hilo. I was raised in Manoa and moved with my young wife to Hilo in 1966 to practice law. Most of our 48 years in Hilo have been in Keaukaha.

My wife and I have been involved with Keahi Warfield, Ka'iu Kimura, and many others in the development of the after school program for disadvantaged Hawaiian children in the Hilo area, called the RISE After School Program.

In the last session of this legislature, the legislature adopted both SCR132 and SR94, requesting the University of Hawaii at Hilo to implement the RISE Program. University of Hawaii at Hilo Chancellor Straney signed a Memorandum of Understanding implementing the program. See Exhibit "A" attached. The program is being administered as an outreach program of UH Hilo 'Imiloa Astronomy Center and the Division of Academic Affairs.

Through the vehicle of HB2443, the University of Hawaii at Hilo and the RISE 21st Century After School Program seek funding from the legislature for fiscal year 2014.

We believe that this program, initially based in Hilo, will be a prototype for an important statewide after school program in all areas of the state where the Hawaiian communities and their families are at risk.

Please help us with this measure.

Sincerely,



Stanley H. Roehrig

Exhibit "A"

SHR/jmm



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
HILLO

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO
AND
RISE 21st Century After School Program

The University of Hawaii at Hilo and RISE 21st Century After School Program agree to cooperate via this memorandum of understanding to provide a bridge between the University of Hawaii at Hilo campus and the communities of Keaukaha and Pana'ewa for the purpose of creating mentorship opportunities, project based learning activities, and also peer mentoring opportunities for the youth of the RISE program.

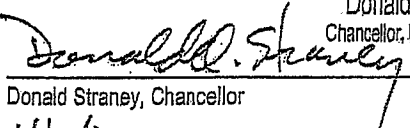
This agreement provides for a collaborative partnership in the belief that the agreement will increase mutual interest in higher education promotion and workforce development for healthy communities.

1. UH Hilo (Imiloa Astronomy Center and the division of Academic Affairs) and RISE agree to the following activities based on their respective missions and educational needs and objectives:
 - a. UHH will provide mentoring for encouragement, motivation, and self esteem and to increase knowledge of future career and academic paths;
 - b. UHH and RISE shall collaborate on funding initiatives to support collaborative goals and objectives;
 - c. UHH and RISE will collaboratively develop and offer project based activities that foster and encourage peer mentoring while addressing relevant community initiatives.
2. The implementation of this agreement shall be separately negotiated and determined by both Imiloa and RISE. Efforts shall be made by both sides to find financial sources for carrying out the objectives listed above.
3. This agreement is in force for two (2) years and is subject to revision or modification by mutual agreement. It is also understood that either party may terminate the agreement at any time.
4. This agreement is effective when the representatives of both parties have affixed their signatures and seal to the agreement.

On behalf of the University of Hawaii at Hilo

On behalf of RISE

Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.
Chancellor, University of Hawaii at Hilo


Donald Straney, Chancellor

14 Nov 13
Date


Keahi Warfield, Director

14 Nov 13
Date

In Support of HB2443/SB3093

Aloha Members of the House Finance Committee and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

My name is Dr. William H. Wilson. I am the Chair of the Academic Programs Division of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I ask your support of HB2443/SB3093.

Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College has had a close relationship with the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center since it was first conceptualized by the late Senator Daniel Inouye. The administrator has both undergraduate and graduate qualifications in Hawaiian studies and there are many others at 'Imiloa with expertise in Hawaiian areas.

The background that 'Imiloa has in Hawaiian Studies combined with its strong science base and community outreach makes it an ideal site for support of young people of Hawaiian ancestry in the community relative to life skills, academics, and career planning.

HB2443/SB3093 will provide funds to allow 'Imiloa and other partners to reach the young people who need the sort of support for which 'Imiloa was envisioned.

I strongly urge your support of HB2443/SB3093.

Dr. William H. Wilson

February 19, 2014



‘IMILOA
Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i

600 ‘Imiloa Place
Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

(808) 969-9700 tel
(808) 969-9748 fax
www.imiloahawaii.org

Chairman Sylvia Luke
Vice Chairman Scott Nishimoto
Members of the House Finance

Re: HB 2443 Relating to the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo
Letter of Support

Aloha kākou Chairman Luke, Vice Chairman Nishimoto, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of HB 2443 and the relationship between the RISE After School Program and the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center.

Since opening in 2006, the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i – University of Hawai‘i at Hilo - has emerged as a major new cultural institution serving the Island of Hawai‘i and the world beyond. ‘Imiloa is a popular success, serving over 100,000 visitors each year, as well as a major education asset for the Island.

‘Imiloa’s mission is to honor Maunakea by sharing the culture and science of the mountain to inspire generations.

Science and culture united provides a powerful and inspiring story, and it would be hard to imagine anywhere in the world better suited to tell that story than on the Island of Hawai‘i, at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo where world-class science coexists with a rich and remarkable indigenous culture. ‘Imiloa not only serves as an educational outreach to the general community, but it more importantly serves as a connector and pipeline for K-12 student and teacher engagement with higher educational resources and opportunities.

At the same time, ‘Imiloa today remains a work in progress. Recognizing that ‘Imiloa has yet to achieve its full potential, the leadership and staff are cultivating community partnerships that targets greater engagement by Hawai‘i Island youth with the resources of the University of Hawai‘i. The partnership that we’ve cultivated with the RISE program directly relates to our priority of serving as a pipeline to higher education. The ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center would serve as a bridge between the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and start with the youth of Keaukaha and Pana‘ewa through the RISE program and its efforts by creating mentorship opportunities, project based learning activities, and also peer mentoring opportunities between youth groups of the Island. We eventually would like to be able to grow this program to expand throughout the island, and potentially the state.

Therefore, we humbly ask for your support for HB2443 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Ka‘iu Kimura
Executive Director