



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
and the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, April 19, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.  
by  
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HCR48 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE  
THE FEASIBILITY OF FORMING A UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO  
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Chairs Taniguchi and Ige, Vice Chairs Kahele and Kidani and Members of the  
Committees:

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo supports the intent of HCR48 to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of forming a UH Hilo Men's Volleyball Team. Our Office of Intercollegiate Athletics provides sound educational and athletic opportunities for the students of Hawai'i and beyond. As a campus, we are uniquely positioned to offer additional opportunities for students and their families to participate in collegiate athletics. Men's volleyball has strong sport offerings for high school students in the State of Hawai'i. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo already has a strong NCAA Division II women's volleyball program, in a competitive 14-member conference. The addition of men's volleyball would not only provide educational and athletic opportunities for young men in the state, but also enhance and grow our relationship with the community.

This program offers significant educational opportunities for students and would significantly strengthen our ties with our community and our state. Additional funding resources would be necessary to develop a high quality men's volleyball program.

We support the intent of HCR48. Aloha.

## Micah Alameda

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**From:** chereen kalawaia [hoku2501@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013 9:20 PM  
**To:** Micah Alameda  
**Subject:** HCR48

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Aloha,

I am writing to you in support of HCR48. I am a alumni of the Wahine Vulcan's volleyball program and it has given me the opportunity to play a sport that I love and get my education at home here in the islands. It was one of my fondness memories of my youth and greatest experience of Independence and growth. I support any young woman or man who is seeking the same opportunities as I once had. With the economy struggling it is almost impossible for our youth to experience college and further their education. Options are limited for most local families and we have one of or if not The most affordable colleges right in our backyard that can provide these experiences through education as well as athletics. Athletics is not just about competing in different sports, but about teaching a young adult independence, courage, time management, compassion and many more positive characteristics that mold a young adult.

Mahalo,  
Chereen Kalawai'a  
UH-Hilo Alumni



## Micah Alameda

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**From:** Linda Menda  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2013 9:18 AM  
**To:** Micah Alameda; kahele1 - Elizabeth  
**Subject:** FW: HCR 48 (HSCR 1642)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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**From:** Elroy Osorio [mailto:elroyo@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2013 12:40 PM  
**To:** Sen. Gilbert Kahele; Senige@capitol.hawaii.gov; Sen. Brian Taniguchi; 'gov'@smtp6.pauspam.net  
**Cc:** Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Richard Onishi  
**Subject:** HCR 48 (HSCR 1642)

Re: HCR 48 (HSCR 1642)

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF FORMING  
A UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO MENS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chairman Senate Higher Education Committee &  
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chairman Senate Higher Education Committee

TO: Senator David Ige, Chairman, Senate Ways and Means Committee &  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Aloha Senators Taniguchi, Kahele, Ige and Kidani.

In requesting your support of your Resolution stated above, I have attached two documents to indicate our **most recent** efforts relating to our views and our support for this program.

Since I am not able to appear before your committee to attend the hearings pertaining to our efforts, I am submitting two "informational" documents that brings us current to our requests in a brief, as possible manner, matters that have taken place in recent months. They are listed as **(1)**, A brief report on our present and recent efforts, and **(2)**, A copy of our "Supporting Statement used to obtain public support for our Petition as follows:

From our latest efforts, and up until today, we have done our very best in trying to provide for a Men's NCAA Division II Volleyball program at UH Hilo.

**(1)**

I can personally point out my individual efforts in meeting with, and trying to convince every **previous** Athletic Director **over so many years** our reasons for having such a program. For any number of reasons none of them were able to bring

us up to a point where we are today, finally however, we have been able to meet with and discuss our plight, A.D., Dexter Irvin. His support has been outstanding. As a result, I took it upon myself to form a special Volleyball committee from our Volleyball Region, all of whom are members of our United States Volleyball Association's Moku O Keawe Region, to pursue our "dreams" in working directly with Hilo's Athletic Director.

Besides myself, having the "on hands" experience of over 45 years of every aspect of Volleyball here on the Big Island, and more recently the original Volleyball Commissioner for 30 years (now retired), I was able to form this "special committee" by including the following Big Island residents, Chris Leonard (Owner-Manager of Radio Station KWXX and other Big Island Radio Stations, Tim Waugh, Pastor, City of Joy Church, my son Ecko Osorio, Head Coach for 12 years for the Waiakea High School Boys Teams, and the Head Coach of the Big Islands Premier "Pilipa'a Volleyball Club (Organization) in age groups for the 16's, 17's and 18's, for the past 15 plus years, Angie Andrade-Morioka, current Moku O Keawe's Regional Commissioner, as well as a Staff Member of the Athletic Department of UH Hilo, and Hoku Halianiak. She has recently moved to Molokai to become their Athletic Director, however, we have kept her active on all of our email messages.

I don't believe one could find a better make-up of individuals to serve on a Committee such as this one, for its purposes. Each of these individuals have been consistent in our efforts to support this program, and have met several times with our A.D., Dexter Irvin, developing new ideas on how to move successfully, and I believe we have. We now need your help.

Some of these areas have been:

(1)

1. Obtaining the full support of our parent Organization, the U.S. Volley Ball Association. (42 Regions scattered throughout the U.S., Samoa and Puerto Rico, with recent annual memberships totaling over 275,000 coaches and players.
2. Obtaining the full support of the U.S. Volleyball Associations' Moku O Keawe Region, whose 1,000 plus members, includes membership teams from our Island, plus sharing membership opportunities with the Aloha Region of Oahu, as well as teams from Maui, Molokai, and Kauai. Presently, Angie-Andrade-Morioka serves as our Regional Commissioner and I as its Assistant Regional Commissioner. (I retired after serving as its original Regional commissioner for 30 years).
3. With the approval of UH Hilo's AD, we created a "Petition" in support of an NCAA Division II Men's Program, for our University, and circulated the Petition just **prior to and during last years' Annual Haili Volley tournament**, and obtained over 3,000 supporters. . (Please review the attached "Supporting Statement" for our Petition.
4. We did not pursue the continuation for further Petition support, because we felt it was sufficient to convince our Volleyball supporters for a Mens' program.
5. I met with Senator Gilbert Kahele, and Representative Cliff Tsuji together with Mr. Gerald De Mello, from UHHilo, and it was decided that Senator Kahele and Representative Tsuji, would introduce Concurrent Resolutions for the Senate and House of Representatives, in support of a Men's VB program for UHHilo. Those Resolutions have been created and circulated throughout the Senate and House at the present Legislative Sessions.

I also received a phone call from our recently elected Representative Richard Onishi, who is presently serving as a member of the **House Finance Committee**. I understand that they have recently approved of our efforts. \_

(2)

Elroy Osorio

348 Haili St.

Hilo, HI 96720

**Re:** Supporting a Division II Mens Volleyball Program at UHHilo.

**Aloha, Every Supporter for an NCAA Division II Mens Volleyball Program at UHHilo:**

I'm certain that you are aware that in terms of **winning records and national recognition**, perhaps the most successful sports program in the history of UH Hilo Athletics has been the **women's volleyball program**. This is largely because the NAIA and NCAA Division II competition allowed us to **recruit locally** to establish the program, and then **nationally** and even **internationally** to perpetuate it.

But the key to the success and support of the program has always been substantial local interest in competitive volleyball.

While UH Hilo has to a certain extent capitalized on that success, the University has failed to follow through with the logical extension of that success; that is, to establish a **Men's** Division II Volleyball program. The imperative to do so now should not be ignored.

We cannot dismiss the relationship between recognized athletic and academic competence at the university level; the more courses of study offered, the greater likelihood of increasing and sustaining student enrollment.

Similarly, increased opportunity for athletic participation not only appeals to the student athletes themselves, but to the larger student body. With few exceptions, students appreciate being part of a nationally recognized program, if only as fans and spectators.

And obviously, the appeal to Alumni (especially those who contribute to the financial support of the athletics component) cannot be overlooked.

But the real imperative for establishing such a program is the University's responsibility to the larger community. Each year, we see an increased interest in boys high school volleyball competition, not only on this island, but statewide.

Our local schools have produced outstanding players who may not be ready or proficient enough for **NCAA I** competition, but who could certainly thrive and develop at the **Division II** level.

And it is not just a matter of physical competence, more often it's a matter of simple economics.

Our local boys who might not be able to secure an athletic scholarship for volleyball at UH Hilo would still be more likely to enroll if the prospects of participating, **even as a walk on**, were available.

Every year that passes without such a program denies some of these young men an opportunity to pursue not just athletic, but concomitant academic development.

We implore you to support this initiative.

I have attached our Petition in Support of Men's Division II Volleyball at UH Hilo, and if you feel as strongly as we do, would you please make copies of the attached Petition and **actively seek Signatures and Addresses** for our combined efforts. **Please feel free to make additional copies for you and others.**

We have set a deadline to receive these "**signed Petitions**" no later than the end of this years' Haili Invitational Tournament, March 31, 2012, and ask that you **kindly mail or email**, or "**hand deliver**" your petitions to **anyone** of the following 5 individuals.

Ass't Regional Comm	Regional Commisioner	Treasurer	Member
Moku O Keawe Region	Moku O Keawe Region	Moku O Keawe Region	Moku O Keawe Region
348 Haili St.	179 Pohai St.	KWXX 1145 Kilauea Ave	127 Alapaki Place
Hilo, HI 96720	Hilo, H, 96720	Hilo, HI, 96720	Hilo, HI 96720
<a href="mailto:elroyo@hawaii.rr.com">elroyo@hawaii.rr.com</a> ;	<a href="mailto:mokuregion@yahoo.com">mokuregion@yahoo.com</a> ;	<a href="mailto:Chris@KWXX.com">Chris@KWXX.com</a> ;	<a href="mailto:cityofjoyhilo@gmail.com">cityofjoyhilo@gmail.com</a> ;

Emil Osorio  
Hilo 96720  
Member  
2078 Kilauea Ave,  
[Osorio96720@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Osorio96720@hawaii.rr.com)

After receiving your "signed petitions", we will set an appointment to meet with the Chancellor and Athletic Director of UH Hilo in support of our combined efforts.

Mahalo

## Micah Alameda

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**From:** hamana ventura [hamana50@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013 8:43 PM  
**To:** Micah Alameda  
**Subject:** UH Hilo Men's Volleyball

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please give consideration to creating a men's volleyball team at UHH. It's time for the guys to shine!

Hamana Ventura



## Micah Alameda

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**From:** Scott Zucco [info@alohavolleyball.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013 9:44 PM  
**To:** Micah Alameda  
**Subject:** UH Hilo Mens VB

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I'm from Maui, but totally support the mens vb at UH-hilo. The reason is b/c it can lay the foundation for a UH-Maui team!

Kudos to whomever is pushing this thru!

Scott Zucco  
808 298 9623  
Head Coach Girls VB - Seabury Hall