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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

1           WHEREAS, volleyball is one of the most popular sports in  
2 the State; and

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4           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Hilo women's  
5 volleyball team is a source of pride to the Hilo community,  
6 winning the Pacific West Conference Championships in the 2010,  
7 2009, and 2007 seasons; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, individual members of the University of Hawaii at  
10 Hilo women's volleyball program have been recognized as national  
11 player of the year, conference player of the year, members of  
12 the conference first-team, and conference coach of the year; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, six men's and seven women's athletic teams  
15 represent the University of Hawaii at Hilo at the National  
16 Collegiate Athletic Association Division II level; and

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18           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Hilo is not  
19 represented by a men's volleyball team; and

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21           WHEREAS, local schools have produced outstanding volleyball  
22 players who may not have the athletic attributes to play at the  
23 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I level but  
24 who could certainly develop and thrive at the Division II level;  
25 and

26  
27           WHEREAS, local male volleyball players who might not be  
28 able to secure an athletic scholarship at the University of  
29 Hawaii at Hilo even if a volleyball program is established would  
30 still be more likely to enroll in college if the prospect of  
31 walking on to the volleyball team was available; and

32



1           WHEREAS, every year that passes without a men's volleyball  
2 program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo denies some of these  
3 young men an opportunity to pursue not just athletic, but  
4 concomitant educational opportunities and development; and  
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6           WHEREAS, a University of Hawaii at Hilo men's volleyball  
7 team has the potential to be a source of pride for the  
8 University of Hawaii at Hilo, the Hilo community, and the State;  
9 now, therefore,  
10

11           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
13 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the University of  
14 Hawaii at Hilo Director of Intercollegiate Athletics is  
15 requested to establish a University of Hawaii at Hilo men's  
16 volleyball task force to study the feasibility of establishing a  
17 University of Hawaii at Hilo men's volleyball team; and  
18

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Intercollegiate  
20 Athletics is requested to invite the initial members of the task  
21 force to participate, including at least one member from each of  
22 the following:  
23

- 24           (1) The Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo or  
25 the Chancellor's designee;
- 26
- 27           (2) The Director of the County of Hawaii Department of  
28 Research and Development or the Director's designee;
- 29
- 30           (3) One volleyball community advocate to be appointed by  
31 the Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on  
32 Higher Education;
- 33
- 34           (4) One volleyball community advocate to be appointed by  
35 the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education; and  
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- 37           (5) One member of the travel industry to be invited by the  
38 Director of Intercollegiate Athletics; and  
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40           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force  
41 are requested to serve without compensation; and  
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43           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at  
44 Hilo men's volleyball task force is requested to submit a report



# H.C.R. NO. 48

1 of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later  
2 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
3 of 2014; and

4  
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force cease to exist  
6 on June 30, 2014; and

7  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chancellor of the  
10 University of Hawaii at Hilo, the University of Hawaii at Hilo  
11 Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the Director of the  
12 County of Hawaii Department of Research and Development.  
13  
14  
15

OFFERED BY:

*Stephan Hanstad*

*[Signature]*  
*Linda Ichizawa*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*Cindy Evans*  
*Michelle L...*  
*Denny Coffin*

FEB 19 2013





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

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

### HCR48/HR30 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF FORMING A UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo supports the intent of HCR48/HR30 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/HR30. Aloha.

**Note:** The attached was a "Petition" in support of a Men's Volleyball Program for the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Prior to and during the Haili Volleyball Tournament held during the last week of March 2012, we were able to receive over 3,000 supporting signatures. We did not continue obtaining more supporting signatures, as we were advised to contact a Senator and Representative from the Big Island asking them for their Legislative support. With this in mind, we are thankful for the efforts coming from Senator Gilbert Kahele, and Representative Clifton Tsuji.

Mahalo,

Elroy Osorio  
Chairman, Special Committee for Men's VB at UHHilo

Elroy Osorio  
348 Haili St.  
Hilo, HI 96720  
February 15, 2012

**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 6 individuals.

Elroy Osorio, Ass't Regional Comm Moku O Keawe Region 348 Haili St. Hilo, HI 96720 <a href="mailto:elroyo@hawaii.rr.com">elroyo@hawaii.rr.com</a> ;	Angie-Andrade Morioka Regional Commisioner Moku O Keawe Region 179 Pohai St. Hilo, H, 96720 <a href="mailto:mokuregion@yahoo.com">mokuregion@yahoo.com</a> ;	Chris Leonard Treasurer Moku O Keawe Region KWXX 1145 Kilauea Ave Hilo, HI, 96720 <a href="mailto:Chris@KWXX.com">Chris@KWXX.com</a> ;	Timothy Waugh Member Moku O Keawe Region 127 Alapaki Place Hilo, HI 96720 <a href="mailto:cityofjioyhilo@gmail.com">cityofjioyhilo@gmail.com</a> ;
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Emil Osorio, Director Moku O Keawe Region Trophy Case 474 Kalanikoa St. Rm 103 Hilo, HI 96720 <a href="mailto:Osorio96720@aol.com">Osorio96720@aol.com</a>	Hoku Haliniak Director, Moku O Keawe Region <b>Athletic Director</b> Laupahoehoe High & Elementary School PO Box 189, Laupahoehoe, HI 96720 <a href="mailto:hkd47@yahoo.com">hkd47@yahoo.com</a> ; Phone: 808-962-2224 ext 255
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Mahalo and Aloha,

Elroy Osorio, Chairman  
Committee for a Men's VB Program at UHHilo

Submitted: March 12, 2013

**Committee on Higher Education**

Hearing date: March 14, 2013, 2pm Room 309

Regarding: In support of HCR 48 / HR 30

Submitted by:

Christopher Leonard

Coach-Pilipa'a Volleyball

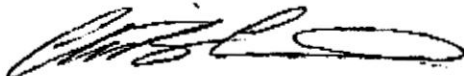
Director - Moku O Keawe Region of USA Volleyball

My name is Christopher Leonard and I am testifying in support of HCR 48 and HR 30 "Requesting the establishment of a task force to examine the feasibility of forming a University of Hawaii at Hilo Men's Volleyball team." I have been coaching boy's and girl's High School and top-level boy's and girl's club volleyball teams for the past 16 years. We have produced some fantastic student athletes on Hawai'i Island and across the entire state of Hawai'i. Many of these kids have gone on to play collegiate volleyball at programs around the country. Some of them have left Hawai'i to play at top collegiate programs in the country, but many who would rather stay home, have left to play at small schools around the country because there wasn't an opportunity to stay at home. Worse yet, many didn't go on to college at all because of the lack of opportunities available to them.

A men's volleyball program will provide opportunities for Hawai'i kids. It will encourage local kids to stay home and enroll in the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. It will also encourage out-of-state students (paying out of state tuition) to pursue opportunities at UHH. The program would receive wide-spread support in the community including support from the Moku O Keawe Region of USA Volleyball. Volleyball is less-expensive to run than many other collegiate athletic programs and would be very popular in the community providing for ticket revenue opportunities not seen by many other sports.

I believe the time is now to consider Men's Volleyball and provide more opportunities for our kids. I strongly encourage you to take the first step by forming a task force to further examine the feasibility of a program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

Mahalo for your consideration!



Christopher S. Leonard