

LATE

SB 380

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: bjbleonard@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB380 on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM

SB380

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for HRE on Feb 12, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Leonard, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Members of the Legislature, Puna is one of the nine districts in Hawai'i County, Big Island, Hawaii. The District of Puna is located on the easternmost portion of the island and shares borders to the north with the District of South Hilo and a border to the west with the District of Ka'u. With its size of just under 320,000 acres (1,300 km²), Puna is slightly smaller than the island of Kaua'i. The U.S. Census population count in 2000 for Puna was 27,232. The 2010 U.S. Census results shows the population in Puna to now be 45,326, an increase of 66% in 10 years. By 2030, the population is projected to grow to approximately 75,000. Puna's educational infrastructure is in great need of support and needs to grow to accommodate this growing population. Presently there are no higher educational opportunities in Puna, which is almost the size of the Island of Kaua'i. Puna has the lowest per capita income of any region in the State, and needs more educational opportunities to help stimulate the economy and personal household income of the residents of Puna. Please support this bill to explore higher education options in Puna. Sincerely, Barbara Leonard, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Accounting, University of Hawaii at Hilo

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