

To: HONORABLE SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR AND MEMBERS
OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HONORABLE SENATOR MAILE SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR AND
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday, March 17, 2014 at 1:20 p.m., Conference Room 414

RE: HB 1551 - STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha mai, e Chairs Tokuda and Shimabukuro and members. I am **Susan Lei Mokihana Frank-Kama**, retired Lanikai Elementary School teacher(Sept., 1967 - June, 1995)...28 years. I am also **Kupuna Lei Mokihana** in the DOE Hawaiian Studies Kupuna Component at Mokapu Elementary(Oct., 1996 - present). This is my 17th year at Mokapu. I am also a charter member of **Ka Lei Pāpahi o Kākuhihewa**, a grassroots group of kūpuna and mākua who are teaching or who have taught in the Hawaiian Studies Kūpuna Component in our Department of Education K-6 schools. Nui ka mahalo for the opportunity to share my **mana'o** and my **strong support** of HB1551.

I wholeheartedly and humbly request that you support this measure even though the Board of Education in their February 18, 2014 meeting had unanimously approved Board Policies 2104 and 2105 which had established a new Office of Hawaiian Education, headed by an Assistant Superintendent who would become a member of the Superintendent's leadership team. I am hoping for definite assurances that the Office of Hawaiian Education will definitely be **established**, that the Office of Hawaiian Education will be headed by an **Assistant Superintendent**, and that the Office of Hawaiian Education will be within the **Office of the Superintendent of Education** as a member of the **Superintendent's leadership team**. Your full support of HB 1551 would take the DOE Board Policies 2104 and 2105 to a much higher level, give them more "weight", and assure implementation of highest integrity and caliber.

My understanding is this new office would oversee, provide services, and fully support all Hawaiian Education programs in our public schools. I am certainly looking forward to having our curriculums revised, with appropriate

standardized assessments, etc., with on-going teacher/kūpuna/mākua development and In-Services as we all strive toward excellence in our Hawaiian Education Programs which include the K-6 Kūpuna Component, Middle and High Schools which offer Hawaiian Language, History, Culture, Arts, and Music, the Hawaiian Language Immersion Schools, and the Hawaii-Education based Charter schools.

Hiki no...ua pau i kēia manawa. Mahalo nui for your time, your efforts, and ko 'oukou hana nui for your constituents. I am trusting that the Office of Hawaiian Studies led by an Assistant Superintendent, with said Office being within the Office of the Superintendent of Education as a member of the Superintendent's team will become a "REALITY" in SY 2014-2015. Aloha a hui hou.

Susan "Lei Mokihana" Frank-Kama



Kupuna

Mokapu Elementary School

Windward O'ahu District