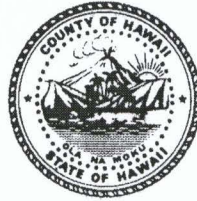


DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720



February 19, 2014

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 3093.

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 Hilo.

I support the mission of RISE, which Senate Concurrent Resolution 132 SD1 (2013) stated is to serve as a community resource for underprivileged Native Hawaiian youth ages 12 to 17 in Hilo.

Funds appropriated by this bill will allow University of Hawai'i at Hilo personnel to mentor 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,

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi
Hawai'i County Council Member