



Monday, March 24, 2014
2:50 PM
Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES
ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,
TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

RE: SCR 70/SR 35 – Urging the Governor to Proclaim 2014 as the Year of the Worldwide Voyage

Chairs Shimabukuro, English, Wakai; Vice Chairs Hee, Dela Cruz, Nishihara, and members of the Committees:

My name is Robert Witt, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Educational Council (HEC) and Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) board member. In a partnership between HEC and PVS, Nainoa Thompson and I have founded the Mālama Honua Learning Center (MHLC), a public charter school located in Waimānalo committed to providing the students of Hawaii a rigorous, values-based, and place-based education. MHLC stands to provide the community with a school dedicated to indigenous cultural values that nourish goodness; in addition to helping students develop into wise, compassionate navigators of their learning, lives and the 21st century global world.

The purpose of our school is to perpetuate the legacy of the Worldwide Voyage (WWV). All of the invaluable lessons learned and knowledge gained over the course of the four-year voyage will reside at MHLC to benefit the students and teachers of Hawaii for many generations to come.

HEC is in strong support of SCR 70/SR 35, resolutions that would urge the Governor to proclaim 2014 as the Year of the Worldwide Voyage.

The WWV serves to teach us, as well as future generations, lessons of environmental justice such as sustainability and social justice issues such as learning to ‘mālama honua’ with one another.

Thank you to the Senate for its leadership in recognizing this historical voyage with these resolutions and for the opportunity to testify in strong support of them.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

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JOINT SENATE COMMITTEES OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,
TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

SCR 70 URGING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM 2014 AS THE YEAR OF THE WORLDWIDE VOYAGE

Monday, 3/24/14; 2:50 pm; Room 224

Aloha Madam Chair Shimabukuro, Chairman English and Chairman Wakai of the joint Senate committees on SCR 70. This Senate Concurrent Resolution very appropriately urges the Governor, on behalf of the citizens of this State, to honor the Hokule`a and all that it represents by proclaiming 2014 the Year of the Worldwide Voyage.

In the past four decades and 140,000 nautical miles sailed since its launching in 1975, the Hokule`a has shared re-awakenings of pride, honor and respect with peoples of the Pacific. It is the dream first envisioned by a small group destined to become the reality of many thousands from the shores of Alaska to the beaches of Aotearoa and back again.

In a few short weeks, with a committed and fearless crew of Hawaii's best, this amazing sailing vessel – sixty feet long and twenty feet wide - begins a voyage that will communicate the spirit of indigenous rejuvenation globally. Hokule`a will be teaching, learning, discovering and rediscovering – among cultures of other oceans, far-flung islands and distant continents.

It is an opportunity for Hawaii to share its goodwill and diversity through a truly extraordinary vehicle. We support this measure for the Governor to proudly proclaim 2014 the Year of the Worldwide Voyage.