



## **Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs**

P. O. Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

#### **SCR 70(SSCR3177) URGING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM 2014 AS THE YEAR OF THE WORLDWIDE VOYAGE**

Wednesday, 4/16/14; 9:00 am; Room 312

Aloha Chairman Takai, vice chair Ito and members of the Committee gathered to deliberate on Senate Concurrent Resolution 70. This measure 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 here in Hawaii destined to become the reality of many thousands from the coasts of Alaska to the shores 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 an ingenious ancient vehicle in a journey of an extraordinary modern mission. The world is small, and like the crew of the canoe, we live and work in harmony or we perish. We support this measure for the Governor to proudly proclaim 2014 the Year of the Worldwide Voyage.

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Wednesday, April 16, 2014  
9:00 AM  
Conference Room 423

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE  
ARTS

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

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and members of the Committee:

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 and teacher learning institute 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**, a resolution 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 House for its leadership in recognizing this historical voyage with this resolution and for the opportunity to testify in strong support of it.