



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 71 – Urging the State and State Entities to support the Hokule`a and Her Crew as they journey around the world

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 71, a resolution that would urge the state and state entities to support the Hokule`a and her crew as they journey around the world.

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 this resolution and for the opportunity to testify in strong support of it.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

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SENATE JOINT COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS,
TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNAIONAL AFFAIRS,
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

SCR 71 URGING THE STATE AND STATE ENTITIES TO SUPPORT THE HOKULE`A AND HER CREWAS THEY JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD

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

Aloha Madam Chair Shimabukuro, Chairman English and Chairman Wakai and members of the Senate Joint Committees. I am Soulee Stroud president of the Association of Hawaiian here to testify in support of this measure.

Nainoa Thompson, Captain of the voyaging canoe Hokule`a, appeared at our convention in October, 2013 and spoke movingly of the history and future of the Hokule`a. Upon completion of his remarks the assembled delegates gave him a standing ovation, sending him off with pule, aloha and best wishes for fair winds and calm seas.

As Native Hawaiians our members recognized that in addition to the cultural renewal and respect that the Hokule`a has brought to the peoples of the Pacific, the courage of the crew and strength of the wa`a will now reach out globally. We proudly applauded Nainoa, realizing that the world will now know of the Great Pacific Voyaging Canoes and the fearless voyagers who sailed beyond the horizon to find the high mountain islands of Hawaii.

We urge the passage of this resolution.

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