



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.