



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs  
February 10, 2016 at 9:00am

by  
Don Straney  
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 1224 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

Chair Ing, Vice Chair Lowen and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1224. This bill addresses the need for college-level instruction through the medium of the Hawaiian language for high school students. It would create a pilot program to be offered by Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'eliōlani, College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. This bill would also create a mechanism to enroll students, permit a fee to be charged, and permit students on federal aid to be charged full tuition costs.

The University currently has programs to enroll high school students in its college level courses on each of its campuses. The Running Start program, Hawai'i P-20's Early College Programs and ongoing collaborations with Kamehameha Schools are providing Hawai'i's high school students direct instruction at the college level. There are no barriers to offering programs under these initiatives through the medium of the Hawaiian language.

While the University strongly supports the intent of this bill, we believe its goals could be accomplished through existing programs.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

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**HB1224**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**HB1224**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. William H. Wilson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**HB1224**  
**RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE**

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

February 10, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Room 325

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1224, which establishes a pilot program to provide classes at the University of Hawai‘i Hawaiian Language College to high school students, to be designed, implemented, and operated by the Hawaiian Language College and initially implemented in the laboratory school at this College.

This measure relates to efforts to provide parity to high school students in Hawai‘i Department of Education (“DOE”) schools and public charter schools who are being instructed in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, the ability to attend college level courses comparable to their high-school counterparts who are being instructed in the English language. Currently, there are ten high school Hawaiian language immersion programs in the DOE and public charter schools where instruction is delivered in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. OHA envisions that this measure will serve as a pilot to help lay the foundation for students in our Hawaiian language immersion schools to take college level courses in a variety of subjects.

Further, at present, the national Advanced Placement Program is offered and examined solely through English in the United States. There are currently no advanced placement courses or examinations through ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in public high schools. Therefore, whereas high school students in DOE and public charter schools who receive instruction in English have the ability to take advanced placement courses in English, advanced placement courses are currently not available in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i at the high school level. Accordingly, this measure will establish a pilot program to help lay the foundation to provide high school students in our Hawaiian language immersion programs an alternative to the absence of advanced placement courses and examinations.

Finally, Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution declares English and Hawaiian as the official languages of Hawai‘i, and this measure will help provide ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i the status it deserves as a co-official language of the State.

For the foregoing reasons, OHA urges your Committee to **PASS** HB1224. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**HB1224**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kehaulani Shintani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB1224**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

House Committee on  
Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Date: February 10, 2016  
Where: State Capitol Room 325

TESTIMONY  
By Ka'ano'i Walk  
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Ing, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 1224 Relating to Hawaiian Language**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Ing, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Lowen a me nā Lālā o nā Kōmike, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

House Bill 1224 relating to Hawaiian language establishes a pilot program to provide tuition free classes at the Hawaiian language college to high school students. This bill requires the pilot program to be designed, implemented, and operated by the Hawaiian language college and initiated at a laboratory school program within reasonable proximity to the Hawaiian language college.

Driven by the third goal of our strategic plan for 2015-2020, which guides our educational institution to cultivate a strong Native Hawaiian identity to instill confidence and resiliency in learners, Kamehameha Schools stands in **support** of HB 1224.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian learners. We believe that by continuing to engage in dialog around Hawaiian language policies and proposals, we can contribute in a positive and meaningful way.

**Please advance this measure.**

Mahalo nui.

Aloha Representative Ing and members of the House Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

My name is Dr. Tricia Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters. I am a high school teacher at Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Laboratory School Program of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I am responsible for college entrance support for the students at Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u laboratory school.

I am testifying in strong support for HB 1222, 1223, and 1224. My testimony will concentrate on HB1224.

HB 1224 relates to creating parity for high school students taught through Hawaiian relative to access to college level course work provided through their language medium of high school instruction. HB 1224 references advance placement courses, which are available through the medium English nationwide, but not available through the medium of Hawaiian.

A similar situation exists with other early college experience programs such as Running Start. These other early college experience programs are also built around an assumption that high school students in our state are all instructed through the medium of English and that they will be taking college courses through the medium of English.

We have had high school students taught through Hawaiian since the late 1990s. Hawaiian is an official language of our state and one which is constitutionally single out for promotion. A distinctive program of early college education support through the medium of Hawaiian would address the need for parity in providing college education opportunities through the medium of Hawaiian. It would also fulfill the state requirement that Hawaiian language education be promoted.

I ask your strong support for HB 1224.

**LATE**