



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
and  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 1:15pm  
by  
Donald O. Straney  
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### SB 1248 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Galuteria and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and I am presenting the University's testimony on SB1248.

Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language provides essential support for the revitalization of the Hawaiian language and its increased use in our bilingual state. In addition to university degree programs, the college prepares teachers to instruct in schools throughout the state, provides in-service training for practicing teachers, and other important support activities to help the language thrive.

The legislature previously created the Hawaiian language revolving fund to receive revenues from the sale of Hawaiian language materials created by the college. This bill would increase the range of revenues that could be placed in this fund to include revenue "generated by the Hawaiian language college, Hawaiian language support center, and indigenous outreach program through fees for service, training, and the sale of all products." There are existing ways by which the university currently receives revenues from fee for service, training and outreach programs of the college. The university believes this bill would duplicate these existing mechanisms. We are concerned that including revenue "from the sale of all products" is overly broad.

The bill would permit expenditures from the revolving fund "at the discretion of the Hawaiian language college." This would create a unique situation where a University program could make expenditures outside the regular fiscal and procurement processes of the university or the state. This is neither consistent with University governance fiscal policy nor statutorily provided budget authority for the University in Section 304A-2004 to 2005, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The University believes the objective of this bill can already be accomplished through existing accounts and management structures. For these reasons, the university would request the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Higher Education and the Arts defer further action on this bill.



KULANUI O  
HAWAII MA HILO

Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani  
College of Hawaiian Language

<http://www.olelo.hawaii.edu/khuok/>

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Undergraduate Program

Mulipuka  
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Kula Maui Ola  
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Hawaiian Language Center Division

Ho'oiikaika Kumu  
Hawaiian Medium Teacher Development

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Lawelawe Pāpaho & Keleka'a'ike  
Curriculum Development,  
Media and Telecommunication Services

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Administrative Office

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17 February 2015

RE: SB1248  
Support

Chairs Taniguchi and Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts and Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Aloha. I am Associate Professor April Alohalani Housman, Director of Hale Kuamo'o Center for Hawaiian Language and Culture. I ask that you pass SB 1248.

The Hale Kuamo'o is the support and research division of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language. It was established in 1989 by the Hawai'i State Legislature to provide educational support in the development of materials in Hawaiian. The Center encourages and supports the expansion of the Hawaiian language as a medium of communication in education, business, government, and other contexts of social life in the public and private sectors of Hawai'i and beyond. The programs of the Hale Kuamo'o include:

- Development, production, and distribution of instructional materials for implementation in Hawaiian medium/immersion schools
- Hawaiian medium inservice training for teachers of the Papahana Kaiapuni Hawai'i
- Creation of assessment tools to evaluate the proficiency levels of Hawaiian language students
- Family workshops and the dissemination of books and materials to support the use of Hawaiian in homes
- Hawaiian language research and development, including *Māmaka Kaiao: A Modern Hawaiian Vocabulary*
- Media and telecommunications, including *Ulukau: the Hawaiian Electronic Library*
- An excellent training ground and valuable job experience for University students
- Collaboration with other organizations, including such projects as *Nā Honua Maui Ola Guidelines for Healthy and Responsive Learning Environments*
- Outreach, which includes work with the Hawaiian community, locally and abroad, as well as with other Native peoples, especially of North America and the Pacific

Notable achievements of the Center include:

- Over 664 different books and support materials have been published in the Hawaiian language. Between 2007-2012, over 132, 850 books were

sent out to HLIP schools, families, and community organizations. The Hale Kuamo‘o is the only organization that has actively and consistently produced materials in Hawaiian each year to support Hawaiian language revitalization efforts since 1989.

- Over 200,000 copies of the *Nā Maka o Kana* Hawaiian language newspaper have been distributed to over 7,500 readers in Hawai‘i and various places throughout the world.
- Over 347 Hawaiian Language Immersion Program teachers participated in various inservice workshops conducted in the Hawaiian language between 2003-2012.
- Over 691 parents, grandparents, and children participated in family literacy and language workshops between 2010-2013.
- Over 7,828 new Hawaiian words have been created by the Lexicon Committee of the Hale Kuamo‘o. These new words are published in the *Māmaka Kaiāo Hawaiian Dictionary* and are also part of the electronic dictionary found at [wehewehe.org](http://wehewehe.org).
- The *Ulukau Hawaiian Electronic Library* managed by the Center receives over 1,000,000 hits each month

Although the Hale Kuamo‘o has been able to achieve remarkable feats since 1989, the Center currently has no permanent employees paid through the University of Hawai‘i to carry out the important work of language revitalization. Projects are completed through employees who have been in temporary positions for over 15 years and paid with grant money or through the Revolving Account of the College. Each year, new constraints are placed upon the College budget and the Revolving account, which will have detrimental effects on the service that can be provided to the Hawaiian speaking community in the future.

It is for these reasons that we support SB1248. The Center has been providing services (translations, teacher inservice training, assessment development, indigenous outreach, Ulukau hosting and licensing, curriculum development, conference fees, facility rental, summer programs, internships, and cultural items) free of charge to the public, since the categories of these services do not currently fit within the guidelines of the Revolving Account as it now stands. SB1248 will make it possible to broaden the scope of services to other organizations and at the same time help the Hale Kuamo‘o continue to be sustainable in fulfilling the enormous needs of the Hawaiian speaking community.

Mahalo for supporting the unique work of the Hawaiian Language Center,



April Alohani Housman  
Associate Professor of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani  
Director of the Hale Kuamo‘o



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17 February 2015

RE: SB1248 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE  
Support

Date of Hearing: 2-18-2015

Time: 1:15 PM

Location: Conference Room 224

*Testimony of Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a in support of SB1248 Hawaiian Language  
College, Revolving Fund*

Chairs Taniguchi and Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on  
Higher Education and the Arts and Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Aloha. I am Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a, Director of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani  
College of Hawaiian Language. I ask that you pass SB 1248.

Our Hawaiian language research, service, and development Center, the Hale  
Kuamo'o was established with support from the state legislature in 1989. In  
1997, the state legislature mandated the establishment of a Hawaiian language  
college at UH Hilo and incorporated the Hale Kuamo'o into the college. Our  
college is the only government entity within the state of Hawai'i that is  
internally administered and operated through the Hawaiian language.

Its Hale Kuamo'o Center is a crucial entity for Hawaiian medium education in  
our state. It is the primary source of curriculum and instructional materials for  
the Hawaiian language immersion schools P-12 including the Papahana  
Kaiapuni schools, Hawaiian immersion/medium charter schools and the Pūnana  
Leo preschools. It is also the entity responsible for teacher in-service training,  
the developing and disseminating of Hawaiian contemporary vocabulary  
through its Māmaka Kaiāo dictionary, the Nā Maka o Kana Hawaiian language  
newspaper, Hawaiian language research and culture revitalization outreach and  
technology and telecommunications.

With over 60 community partners, the Ulukau Hawaiian digital library houses  
multiple collections in the Hawaiian language including land, genealogy and  
Hawaiian knowledge resources which are accessible online to the public. Its  
Hawaiian dictionary collection directly accessible through "wehewehe.org" is a  
standard portable resource for speakers and learners of the Hawaiian language.

Monthly Ulukau averages over 1 million hits per month and has received over 116 million hits to date since its inception in 2003. Many other impactful projects such as the standard Hawaiian keyboard on the Apple computer have been made possible through the hard work of the Hale Kuamo‘o.

Every year we have numerous visitors from American Indian tribes and international indigenous peoples come to see our exemplary P-20 Hawaiian medium model which includes Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u laboratory school, the baccalaureate degree, the Kahuawaiola Indigenous teacher education program and graduate M.A. and Ph.D. programs taught through Hawaiian. As part of their visit we share with them our campus partner the ‘Imiloa Hawaiian/English bilingual astronomy museum and our community non-profit partner the Hilo headquarters of the statewide Pūnana Leo.

We are the only full preschool to the doctorate program of this sort in the United States or in the North Pacific Basin. Data on our college and P-12 model laboratory site and its 15 straight years of 100% high school graduation and 80% college attendance are used nation-wide to support the development of education through Native American languages.

The Hale Kuamo‘o Center, survives primarily through grants and its limited ability to charge for its products. As grant funding has become more difficult to obtain, self-sufficiency measures has become increasingly important for the Center to address its mandate. The revolving fund provides a vehicle to outreach to the broader community in its language revitalization efforts by making its books and materials available to the public.

There are many opportunities to increase self-sufficiency of the Hale Kuamo‘o Center. Among such opportunities are consulting to Indian Tribes and territorial governments, provisions of workshop trainings outside Hawai‘i, translation services into Hawaiian, and in-service workshops on teaching Hawaiian. We also have the ability to print books in languages other than Hawaiian.

As numbers of students wishing to attend Hawaiian immersion schools increase, so does the need for curriculum, support materials and teacher training support. The current wording that established the revolving account precludes us from charging for any such work other than for materials we publish in the Hawaiian language. We wish to broaden the current language of the revolving fund authority to include fees for services, training and other products which in turn would also support our ability to expand public support and services.

Thanks to the bold "out-of-the box" move of the 1997 legislature to created our college, we have been able to provide many benefits to the state that were constrained when we were a department in the UH Hilo College of Arts and Sciences. Yet, many frustrating constraints remain that were designed for English medium education, rather than an endangered indigenous language for which there are no external sources of support.

We ask that you pass SB1248 that will increase our ability to serve the larger Hawaiian language medium education needs of our state. Mahalo for your support in the revitalization of the Hawaiian language, our official state language.



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 www.ahapunanaleo.org

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**Niuolahiki**

*Hawaiian Language Online*

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
 Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair  
 Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
 Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
 Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Date of Hearing: 2-18-2015

Time: 1:15 PM

Location: Conference Room 224

*Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Non-Profit Educational  
 Organization  
 Dedicated to the Revitalization of the Hawaiian Language*

**SB1248 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE: SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Galuteria and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs;  
 Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts,

My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is in **SUPPORT of SB1248.**

SB1248 expands the scope of the Hawaiian language college revolving fund at the University of Hawaii at Hilo to allow any funds generated by the Hawaiian language college, Hawaiian language support center, and indigenous outreach program through fees for services, training, and the sale of all products to be deposited into the revolving fund. SB1248 allows these funds to be expended at the discretion of the Hawaiian language college enhancing timely and efficient services.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo respectfully asks for your support of SB1248.

Mahalo nui,

M. 'Ekekela Aiona  
 Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo  
 96 Pu'uhonu Place  
 Hilo, HI 96720  
 (808) 935-4304

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015 8:55:48 AM

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**SB1248**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HWN/HEA on Feb 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Anything that helps the host culture sustain and proceed forward should always be supported.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 17, 2015

TO: Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

FROM: Danielle O'Sullivan  
E-mail: [dosulliv@hawaii.edu](mailto:dosulliv@hawaii.edu)

HEARING DATE: February 18, 2015 at 1:15pm

RE: Testimony in Support of SB1248

Aloha, Senator Shumabukuro, Senator Galuteria, Senator Taniguchi, and Senator Inouye. My name is Danielle O'Sullivan and I am a graduate from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. During my continuing education, I focused on Hawaiian language.

I support SB1248 because the Hawaiian language needs to be preserved and taught for future generations. From my studies, I am aware that the language is slowly becoming less and less prevalent. There have been revivals of `Olelo Hawai`i, much to the credit of the University of Hawaii systems. Because it is our language, we need to do our absolute best to insure that it is passed along and able to be studied, if one so desires. The Hawaiian language college revolving fund at the University of Hawaii at Hilo is crucial to this language perseverance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB1248.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HWNTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mkhan@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:mkhan@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1248 on Feb 18, 2015 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, February 14, 2015 8:55:10 AM

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**SB1248**

Submitted on: 2/14/2015

Testimony for HWN/HEA on Feb 18, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<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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