

LATE

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.C.R. 119  
URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO FUND AND FILL THE  
VACANT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE POSITION  
AT THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.**

SUBMITTED BY: FAYE KENNEDY AND AMY AGBAYANI,  
CO-CHAIRS, HAWAI'I FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS  
3432 B-1 Kalihi St., Honolulu, Hi 96819

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights strongly SUPPORT S.C.R. 119 which urges U.H. Manoa to fill the African American Ethnic Studies faculty position. HFCR supports programs and policies that promote social justice, non-discrimination and equal access. We believe that the Manoa campus has a special and important obligation to provide academic courses on the history and contributions of African Americans in Hawai'i and the US. Manoa students and the state of Hawaii deserve to have a full time faculty member teach these courses for the benefit of our multicultural student body and our state. Please accept our appreciation for this resolution that expresses support for the values of diversity, equality, historical accuracy and scholarship.

HFCR respectfully request you approve SCR 119.

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 2:11 PM  
**To:** HEA Testimony  
**Cc:** noegoodyearkaopua@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR119 on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM

**SCR119**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Noelani Goodyear-Kaopua	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The University must have an African American studies specialist on its faculty. Please support this bill. Mahalo.

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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**LATE**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Grandinetti. I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa studying Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies. I would like to express my strong support of SCR 119.

Ethnic Studies has played an integral role in creating spaces both in curriculum and on campus for students of color, including myself. It is so important for just knowledge production and student morale/success to have people of color in faculty positions, and tenured positions at that.

Especially because the movement to establish the discipline and department of Ethnic Studies came out of the Civil Rights Movement, it is rather disgraceful to not have an African American expert faculty position at UH Mānoa. Furthermore, as the African American community faces issues such as mass incarceration and police brutality, filling this position becomes even more necessary.

Students, faculty, and community members realize this and that is why we have been organizing ourselves to put pressure on the UH administration, particularly Dean Konan and Chancellor Bley-Vroman. Unfortunately, they have not committed to filling the position. That is why we need your help by passing SCR 119.

Getting this position filled will also represent a commitment to prioritizing Ethnic Studies, which is increasingly necessary in the current atmosphere of threats to departments across the country. The issue presents an opportunity for Hawaii to lead the nation in moving forward in studying and theorizing about racial dynamics, rather than moving backwards with more budget cuts diminishing the efficacy of Ethnic Studies departments departments.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote yes on SCR 119, and support students and faculty in their efforts to protect Ethnic Studies and fill our African American position.

Mahalo,  
Lisa

LATE

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**From:** April Kamilah Bautista <bautista.aprilk@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 12:58 PM  
**To:** HEA Testimony  
**Subject:** SCR 119 - Support

Good afternoon Chair and Members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for SCR 119. I ask that you and the HEA Committee pass this resolution.

Cheers,

April Bautista  
*[Pardon my briefness]*  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 11:43 AM  
**To:** HEA Testimony  
**Cc:** paulqm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR119 on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM  
**Attachments:** SCR119.docx

**LATE**

**SCR119**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please see attached file.

To State Legislators,

The historical and present day inequalities African Americans endure are not unrelated. The vestiges of an immoral time in American history still permeates modern U.S. society. We must not lose sight of the significance of our nation's past because doing so will dampen our efforts at improving our society.

I am one of the last students at the University of Hawaii who was privileged and fortunate enough to take an African American Studies class in the Department of Ethnic Studies. At present, there are no African American Studies courses in my department. The heart and soul of my department is to teach ethnic and race relations in the United States, and to highlight the socio-economic and political histories of minorities in the United States. As you can imagine, Ethnic Studies majors cannot get the adequate education they desire and need without the African American Studies position.

Honorable legislators, I urge you to call upon the University of Hawaii at Manoa to fund and fill the vacant African American Studies faculty tenure line position at the College of Social Sciences. Taking an African American Studies class opened up my consciousness to the multi-dimensional aspect of race relations. As a result, I have developed an ever growing compassion, and a commitment to civic engagement. I hope ES students can experience similar transformations in the future by taking the class.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 10:48 AM  
**To:** HEA Testimony  
**Cc:** naneaclo@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR119 on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM

**LATE**

**SCR119**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I support scr119 in the Ethnic Studies' resolution urging the UH admin. to fill our African American specialist position at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. It is important not only for the campus but for social sciences to have this position open to its students. I am currently a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and I find it shocking that they have not filled this position yet when it was promised to be filled as soon as the pay freeze was over. Please pass this. Mahalo, Nanea Lo

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March 29, 2016

**LATE**

Re: Testimony to **SUPPORT** SCR 119

Aloha, Members of the Senate's Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

My name is Paola Rodelas and I am an Organizer for the AiKea Movement. I **strongly support** SCR 119.

I am a proud alumnus of the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of California, San Diego. Back in 2010, my university made national news because a fraternity hosted a racist "Compton Cookout"-themed party. Somehow, nearly a hundred students at one of the best universities in the country thought this was a good idea. I, along with hundreds of students, protested the event and urged our university that our Ethnic Studies and African American Studies courses were needed now more than ever.

It's been six years since then, and not much has changed. If anything, the issue is getting worse. Racism in our universities is still all over the news. Black Lives Matter arose from the systemic racism of our police institutions. And instead of supporting and growing Ethnic Studies and African American Studies departments, universities have been cutting back on them. It is alarming to me that the University of Hawai'i at Manoa may do the same by not filling its vacant African American Studies faculty tenure position.

I urge you to support SCR 119. This would benefit not just the University of Hawaii but the whole community.

Mahalo,  
Paola Rodelas  
Kapahulu Resident

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 10:40 AM  
**To:** HEA Testimony  
**Cc:** amyathomas@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR119 on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM

**LATE**

**SCR119**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: I strongly urge the legislature to fund and fill the vacant African American studies faculty tenure line position at the College of Social Sciences at UH Manoa. it is critical that students and the community have the intellectual resources necessary to challenge institutionalized racism in our community, and it is the obligation of the legislature to provide said resources. Thank you, Amy Perruso

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UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
MĀNOA

**LATE**

Testimony to Senate Committee on  
Higher Education and the Arts

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Tuesday March 29, 2016, 1:15pm, Conference Room 224

Strong Support for SCR 119 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO FUND AND FILL  
THE VACANT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE POSITION AT THE  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members,

The Department of Ethnic Studies (ES) strongly supports SCR 119 as we feel it is imperative that the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) funds and fills a position dedicated to African American history and contemporary issues. This position in ES fell vacant in 2013 when the department's tenured African Americanist left. The position is critical to the role ES has played at the university and in the community. Our department offers a learning experience that is meaningful to UHM's diverse body of students who take the deep knowledge of ethnic and racial struggles and achievements back to their own communities. Many community members have greatly benefitted from this approach to learning.

African American studies is part of every ethnic studies department's core curriculum. At the UHM's Department of Ethnic Studies, two core African American studies courses are part of the group-specific courses ES majors are required to take. The African American Experience I and II 300-level sequence is very popular among ES majors. Non-majors take them as well because these are among the few UHM courses that focus on African Americans. These courses cover an essential part of our collective history that ranges from the enslavement of Africans and African Americans to the civil rights movement and the contemporary social justice and solidarity movements led by African Americans. At UHM, where we have only a handful of African American professors, the ES faculty member who teaches these courses serves as a much-needed mentor to and role model for our African American students. That faculty member is an important link between the university and the local African American community. The experiences of African Americans in the Islands, including those of President Obama, are a critical part of Hawai'i, U.S., and global history, and they are important for present and future scholarship in the social sciences.

Even as we write, students across more than a 100 campuses on the U.S. continent point to structural racism at their universities, and demand ethnic studies courses. They have led protests to demand the appointment of African American faculty members. To not have an African Americanist as part of the UHM's Ethnic Studies faculty at this moment, when the need for students to understand the struggles of African Americans is so urgent, harms the university's core values of engaged learning, student and faculty diversity, and a multicultural

education. This harm is compounded by the fact that African American students and faculty are already underrepresented in the College and at UHM. In the wake of the events in Ferguson in 2014, our students (supported by faculty) organized a talk story forum that drew a standing room only crowd. Many of the students there, both African American and allies, expressed their gratitude for finally having a space to talk about the issues being raised nationally in the Black Lives Matter movement; they asked us to (re)hire an African American specialist so that these conversations could be sustained. These same students have marched in the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, hosted a Black Studies Matter discussion in February, delegated the Dean of the College of Social Sciences and the Chancellor of UHM, and are currently cosponsoring upcoming UHM events featuring leading Black scholars and activists D. Watkins and Angela Davis. Given this vibrancy, we urge the committee to pass SCR 119. Mahalo for allowing us to testify on this.