



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Ways and Means
and

Judiciary and Labor

February 28, 2017 at 9:50 a.m.

by

David Lassner

President, University of Hawai'i

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Vice President for Community Colleges

SB 848 SD1 – RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chairs Tokuda and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, and members of the Committees:

At this time the University of Hawai'i opposes SB 848 SD1, which expands certain roles of the college of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, including the responsibility to establish a general education program to be delivered in the Hawaiian Language; permit a UH System-wide pilot project in instruction through the medium of Hawaiian Language; and establishes a working group to develop implementation plans for the recommendations created by the university's report requested by S.R. No. 97, S.D.1 regular session 2015.

There is no doubt that the UH Hilo College of Hawaiian Language has contributed greatly to the revitalization of the Hawaiian language, the establishment of immersion instruction in Hawaiian at the K-12 level, and the development of curricula and instructors of the Hawaiian language at all levels of education in our state. The faculty in the College are to be honored for their accomplishments. They are among the key pioneers who have educated a generation of instructors who now make it possible for students at all levels to learn and learn through the medium of Hawaiian language.

The bill describes several expansions of the role of the College of Hawaiian Language. All of those listed are either currently in place or can be accomplished without legislation:

- The college currently conducts its internal business in the Hawaiian Language and offers courses through the medium of Hawaiian on and off-campus and online;

- The college provides outreach to both indigenous and minority languages;
- The college currently maintains a language support center that provides support in all the areas listed in the bill;
- The college develops, pilots, and disseminates distinctive pathways, procedures, and rules that provide for the support and use of the Hawaiian language and other endangered languages, including use of such language in government functions
- The college collaborates with Native American and other world indigenous language medium education research;
- The college enters into agreements of cooperation and reciprocity with other entities as described in the bill.

Legislation is not needed for the college to continue these efforts. This college is not the only unit in the University of Hawai'i System that engages in these activities, nor should it be. Indeed, we hope that many colleges in the System can achieve the integration of instruction and operations through Hawaiian as the College of Hawaiian Language has achieved.

The only expanded role for the college called for in this bill not currently undertaken by the college is to "Provide a specially facilitated general education, dual enrollment, liberal studies, and shared courses and programs pathways through the medium of Hawaiian language to serve students, using technology as appropriate." At present, no single unit within the UH System can provide general education through the medium of the Hawaiian language by itself; no single unit has the range of faculty expertise and language fluency to teach the range of courses required for general education in Hawaiian.

It is a goal of the university to develop the ability to teach general education through the medium of Hawaiian, but we will need to mobilize faculty expertise and fluency across the whole system to begin such a program. To expand a pilot to deliver general education through the medium of Hawaiian requires coordinated efforts and curriculum development on all 10 campuses working together. Similarly, liberal studies degree programs and program pathways need to be developed across the system and not just on a single campus.

The University believes the College of Hawaiian language will be an important component of the development of a Hawaiian medium general education and liberal studies program. General education lies at the heart of the modern university education and it is, rightly, the purview of the faculty to determine its scope and content. The full UH faculty must be engaged with the process of creating a Hawaiian medium general education and liberal studies program. The faculty across the system must determine the required fluency level of Hawaiian appropriate for each general education course to ensure articulation across our 10 campuses. And it must consider questions of how delivery in Hawaiian impacts content as we, quite naturally, bring a greater indigenous world view into a general education program delivered in the Hawaiian language.

The College of Hawaiian language alone does not have the subject matter expertise across all general education sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities to solely create and deliver a vibrant general education curriculum on its own, much less one that

would be accepted across the entire UH system and beyond. Nor does any single school or college in the UH System. To accomplish this will require a bilingual faculty in multiple disciplines across our ten campuses.

The University of Hawai'i system greatly appreciates the interest of the Legislature in helping us become a model indigenous serving university. However, we believe we are now poised to achieve this as a system and do not need the assistance of additional legislation at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



SB848 SD1
RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 28, 2017

9:50 AM

Room 211

The Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **SUPPORT** on SB848 SD1, which expands the Hawaiian Language College's functions; authorizes a Hawaiian language medium general education coursework pilot project; supports the development of an implementation plan for instruction in the Hawaiian language throughout the University of Hawai'i (University) system; and requires the University to report to the Legislature each year on efforts to implement education taught in the Hawaiian language.

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian language) was saved from near extinction, due in large part to programs such as the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo's Hawaiian language immersion program, the State's Ka Papahana Kaiapuni Hawaiian language immersion program in grades K-12, the Hawaiian Language College, Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, and other programs within the University of Hawai‘i system. OHA has since participated in the working group created by SR97 (2015), to further contribute to the revitalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

Although there is much momentum in the revitalization of the Hawaiian language, for ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i to thrive, rather than simply survive, its usage must be normalized. Facilitating the expansion of Hawaiian language instruction throughout the University of Hawai‘i system would further the revitalization and normalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, and demonstrate a deserved respect for Hawai‘i's co-official language.

OHA therefore appreciates and supports this measure's assertion that "access to education taught through the Hawaiian language is a matter of statewide concern." We also appreciate that the University's Strategic Directions for 2015-2021 identifies four priorities developed by the Board of Regents to guide University decisions. One such priority is the University's commitment to being a foremost indigenous-serving institution, by embracing its unique responsibilities to Hawai‘i's indigenous, Native Hawaiian people. OHA respectfully submits that this measure will help advance one of the University's articulated priorities.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SB848 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 4:21 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leimomi Khan | Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu | Support | No |

Comments: Urge your committees to support this legislation for the reasons we earlier articulated in support of this bill.

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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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
and SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
For hearing Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Re: SB848

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

Establishes the Hawaiian language university college as an autonomous entity within the University of Hawaii system to be located at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Implements an indigenous university college model by transferring the University of Hawaii at Hilo Hawaiian language college's rights, duties, powers, and functions to the Hawaiian language university college. Mandates the Hawaiian language university college and University of Hawaii at Hilo to enter into a memorandum of agreement by the end of the 2017-2018 academic year to establish shared operations and administration.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

This bill tells the mo'olelo (story) of how a small program of Hawaiian language instruction has ballooned into an empire over the years with its own separate building, and now seeks to become an administratively separate institution.

The bill says "Today, U.S. Census data indicates Hawaiian is the largest non-English language spoken in Hawaii among children ages five to seventeen."

Surely that cannot be true. U.S. Census data show that the most rapidly increasing ethnic group in Hawaii is Filipino, whose population in Hawaii is now larger than the ethnic Japanese due to large-scale immigration from the Philippines. There are probably a larger number of children whose primary language at home is either Ilocano or Tagalog, than the number whose primary language is Hawaiian. However, politically activist ethnic Hawaiian parents whose children are enrolled in Hawaiian language immersion programs take pride in telling the Census Bureau their aspiration that their children's primary language is Hawaiian (although that is doubtful); while Filipino immigrant parents seeking to assimilate to America might tell the Census Bureau their aspiration that their children's primary language is English (although in fact it is probably Ilocano or Tagalog).

Naming Hawaiian an "official language" of the State was and will always remain an aspirational expression of affection and sentiment, but not an accurate description of fact. It's like naming the nene as the state bird, the pahu drum as the state musical instrument, and kalo as the state food. We treasure them because they were endangered and indigenous; but it would be foolish to spend huge sums of tax dollars to force them to become actually have co-equal prevalence.

There is no doubt that the most widely spoken language in Hawaii is English, both as the primary language at home and as the second language acquired by immigrants seeking assimilation for themselves and their children. Should that fact be used to justify not only a separate building for the English Department but also an administratively separate, autonomous University of English? How absurd is that concept!

The University of Hawaii has numerous departments devoted to teaching particular languages along with their respective literatures and cultures. In addition to the languages of Hawaii's largest ethnic groups such as Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean, UH also teaches German, French, Spanish, etc. for students who wish to broaden their cultural awareness, do academic research in original sources, or prepare for careers in businesses operating internationally. Should the Japanese or German Department become a physically and administratively separate, autonomous College of Japanese or German?

This bill SB848 is part of a much larger, and very dangerous, agenda of racial separatism and ethnic nationalism in Hawaii which seeks either to divide the lands and people of Hawaii along racial lines by creating a federally recognized Hawaiian tribe, or else to rip the 50th star off the flag and make Hawaii once again an independent nation.

A similar bill to rip apart the K-12 public school system along racial lines, SB2919, was actually introduced in the legislative session of 2002. It proposed to break off the Hawaiian-focus K-12 charter schools to create an autonomous Native Hawaiian race-based "public" school system. That astonishing bill can be found in the legislature's archive at

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2002/bills/sb2919_.htm

A webpage analyzing that proposal as a form of racial separatism or apartheid is at

<http://www.angelfire.com/hi2/hawaiiansovereignty/billsb2919.html>

which is part of a much larger webpage entitled "PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR ETHNIC NATION-BUILDING IN HAWAII -- a legislative bill to create a separate statewide school system for Native Hawaiians" at <http://www.angelfire.com/hi2/hawaiiansovereignty/edforhawnethnicnationbuilding.html>

The title of my book describes what's behind proposals such as HB950: "Hawaiian Apartheid: Racial Separatism and Ethnic Nationalism in the Aloha State" See <http://tinyurl.com/2a9fqa>

Please stop enabling this craziness. Please stop spending taxpayer dollars to promote ethnic pride and hobbies when there are serious economic problems which need government assistance. Defeat SB848.



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Ka Papa Alaka'i

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Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoē
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Pelehonuamea
Harman

No 'Ane'i Ko
Kākou Ola!

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date of Hearing: 02-28-2017

*Testimony of Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, Governing Board Chair
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani 'ōpu 'u Iki LPCS*

SB848 SD1 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters. I am the Chair of the Public Charter School Board of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani-'ōpu 'u (Nāwahī), the largest Native American language medium/immersion school in the country.

I want to express the strong support for SB 848 SD1. The Nāwahī 'ohana and many others have greatly benefited from Ka Haka 'Ula, but much more needs to be done. This bill expands the enabling legislation of the College. We do not have the luxury of importing external university-produced human and material resources for Hawaiian. This bill will allow the fine work of Ka Haka 'Ula to move to a higher level by funding current activities and provide for further expansion to meet important needs.

SB 848 SD1 also establishes a pilot project to develop innovative strategies and approaches for development of a Hawaiian language medium pathway. Presently there is no set of liberal education/general education courses taught through Hawaiian at any University of Hawai'i campus. As a result there is a lack of equity for students educated through Hawaiian in high school relative to bridging into college in their official state language medium of education. The pilot would address this equity challenge for our students at Nāwahī and would provide them with a means to continue general education through Hawaiian.

In addition, SB 848 SD1 seeks to produce an implementation plan to expand Hawaiian language medium education throughout the University of Hawai'i system.

The first two purposes of this bill are especially relevant to the dire teacher shortage experienced by Kula Kaiapuni Hawai'i. The teacher shortage for schools taught through Hawaiian is very severe with approximately 20% of teachers uncertified compared to 4% overall in the DOE/charter system. There is a general lack of understanding in the University of Hawai'i system of what it takes to develop sufficiently high-level proficiency in Hawaiian - an endangered Level IV language - to become a successful professional Hawaiian immersion teacher. According to recommendations of the U.S. Foreign Service Institute it takes approximately 1,100 hours in a Level IV language (equivalent to 73 credits - more than a Hawaiian language major) to reach a level of professional competence in a difficult to access Level IV language unrelated to English like Hawaiian (<http://www.effectivelanguagelearning.com/language-guide/language-difficulty>.)

We need SB 848 SD 1 in order to develop strong professional level Hawaiian proficiency in future teachers including proficiency in use of Hawaiian in content areas such as the social sciences, sciences, and mathematics. To reach such proficiency future teachers need the experience of taking core liberal arts/general education credits through our state's minority official language - Hawaiian- as exists in other areas with two official languages, e.g., Canada where French is the minority official language.

Hawaiian immersion schools are also severely underserved relative to the national and state movement to provide college level coursework at the high school level. Indeed aspects of this are now required to be provided by states under the new ESSA. However, we, a state with two official languages, face certain difficulties for our high schools taught through Hawaiian. For example, the Advanced Placement (AP) courses and national examinations are in English as are the vast number of "dual credit" courses offered in private and public universities in our state. We cannot address AP through Hawaiian, but we can use the pilot with Ka Haka 'Ula to develop dual credit through Hawaiian. Ka Haka 'Ula has experimented with some such courses with us at Nāwahī, but we have been stymied by structural barriers in the UH system that prevent such courses from being regularly offered. This bill is very important in this regard for equity reasons.

In HRS 304A-1302 Nāwahī is specified as a laboratory school site for the College. We currently serve as a training ground for the majority of teachers statewide certified through Hawaiian and often begin initiatives that later spread to other schools. If we are ever to properly attend to the severe highly trained professional teacher shortage for Kula Kaiapuni Hawai'i, there is a need to expand both pre-service and in-service training into the summer allowing undergraduate and graduate students to count such course work as regular enrollment for scholarship purposes. The need for such highly professional Kula Kaiapuni Hawai'i teachers is not just to address the present huge shortage. There is much potential in P-20 Hawaiian immersion education to improve academic achievement in our state if more sites could be opened. Since its first senior class in 1999, Nāwahī has had a 100% high school graduation rate with over 85% going directly on to college for a population of approximately 70% free and reduced lunch students. Recent data from Hawai'i P-20 show Hawaiian immersion students as a whole performing above their peers.

We are growing at a very high rate and cannot wait longer for barriers to Ka Haka 'Ula support for us to be removed. In the past five years, when the overall K-12 enrollment of the DOE and charters has decreased, Nāwahī's has increased by 67.1% to 458. In addition we have 115 preschool children integrated into our Nāwahī campuses through cooperation with the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. I strongly urge passage of SB 848 SD1.

February 26, 2017

SB 848, SD1
RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION
February 28, 2017
9:50am, State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB 848, SD1, Relating to Higher Education

Aloha Chairs & Committee Members:

On behalf of the staff at the Hale Kuamo‘o Hawaiian Language Center, a division of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, we express our STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB848, SD1.

Established in 1989 by the Hawai‘i State Legislature, the Hale Kuamo‘o Hawaiian Language Center encourages, develops, and supports the expansion of 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.

The Hale Kuamo‘o serves as the largest publisher of books and educational support materials printed in the Hawaiian language in the State of Hawai‘i, having published 664 books and educational support materials since 1989. Over the past 10 years, the Hale Kuamo‘o distributed over 180,000 books and materials to P-12 Hawaiian language immersion schools, families, and community organizations. The Hale Kuamo‘o is currently collaborating with the Kamehameha Schools to produce 80 culturally-based science texts for students in grades K-3.

Hale Kuamo‘o also publishes the Nā Maka O Kana Hawaiian language newspaper, the Māmaka Kaiāo modern Hawaiian language dictionary, and is a partner in the development of the Ulukau Hawaiian Digital Library.

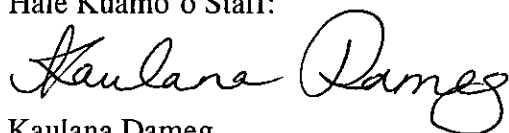
The Center provides in-service teacher training to P-12 Hawaiian language immersion teachers, and has conducted over 16 in-service workshops with 347 teacher participants in the last 10 years.

Hale Kuamo‘o has also supported families in the Hawaiian language immersion program through workshops designed to support the use of the Hawaiian language in the home environment—through 15 workshops on 5 islands with a total of 691 parents, grandparents, and children participating.

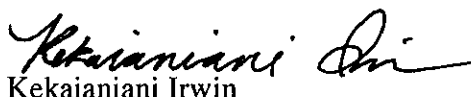
We have great admiration for the Legislature’s foresight in the establishment of the Hale Kuamo‘o and respectfully urge the committee members to pass SB 848, SD1 which will allow us to strengthen and expand our Hawaiian language services to schools and communities across the State of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Hale Kuamo‘o Staff:



Kaulana Dameg



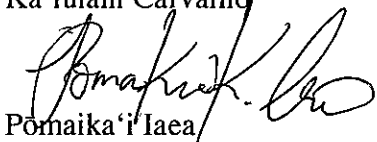
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UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA

Aloha

On Friday February 24, 2017, over 35 staff and faculty of the Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge met and expressed strong and unanimous opposition to SB 848 SD1. SSCR 504 As interim dean of this college, I am writing to warn the members of this joint committee that should this bill advance it will create an intolerable tension within the Hawaiian language teaching community that will not produce a favorable environment for ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi to grow and thrive.

There are several important reasons why this bill and this initiative from Ka Haka ʻUla are ill-considered. First, Ka Haka ʻUla does not have the capacity to drive a major curriculum reform throughout the system. The second reason, directly related to the first, is that Ka Haka ʻUla does not collaborate with important partners such as Hawaiʻinuiākea in the creation of the educational goals and methods, even though it demands cooperation in the implementation of those goals.

The University President's testimony in opposition to SB848 recognizes the assets and contributions of Ka Haka ʻUla and also points out that most of the work that the college is suggesting needs to be done, it already does. But in the one major initiative it is proposing to "Provide a specially facilitated general education, dual enrollment, liberal studies, and shared courses and programs pathways through the medium of Hawaiian language" President Lassner argues:

The College of Hawaiian language alone does not have the subject matter expertise across all general education sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities to solely create and deliver a vibrant general education curriculum on its own, much less one that would be accepted across the entire UH system and beyond. Nor does any single school or college in the UH System. To accomplish this will require a bilingual faculty in multiple disciplines across our ten campuses.

As dean of our college and as a 24 year professor in Hawaiian Studies, I know firsthand the importance of having not only a knowledge and fluency in our language but the necessity of developing a deep understanding of our history, mythology, literature, genealogies, traditional culture, such as traditional navigation, ʻloʻi and fishpond management, current problems and issues, public policy, law, music, visual culture and physical environment. In Hawaiian Studies and Hawaiian language at Mānoa we have developed a diverse and vibrant faculty and curriculum both in English and in Hawaiian that teaches our haumāna to appreciate the incredible knowledge and intelligence of our ancestors and also the applicability of that knowledge to their lives in the modern world. Over 4400 were enrolled in our courses this past year, representing 33% of the enrollments in Hawaiian courses system-wide.

Hawaiian Studies Professors come from diverse academic disciplines and backgrounds including History, Geography, Fine Arts, Business, Law, Political Science, Education, Urban and Regional Planning and Natural Resources and Environmental Management. Several of us conduct substantial portions of our classes in ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi, and some, like me have continued to attend Hawaiian language classes with our Kawaihuelani faculty even after 20 years of teaching. Hawaiian language professors also have earned their PhDs in equally diverse disciplines: Linguistics; Education; Geography; English; Political Science, Anthropology and History. They do not simply teach the language, they teach Kanaka Maoli world views through the lenses of many academic disciplines in our language, precisely what Ka Haka ʻUla proposes to undertake.

As fellow educators we laud the desire of the Hilo language college to begin to do what we at Hawai'i inuiākea have been doing for decades. But we take a dim view to any suggestion that Ka Haka 'Ula can reasonably lead this initiative, or that special appropriations should be made to their college when ours suffers real deprivation.

As the interim dean of Hawai'i inuiākea, I have recently moved into Spalding Hall on the Mānoa campus, which houses both the dean's office and the Hawaiian language faculty, the center for the Manaleo (Native speakers) and the Mele Institute. Everyone is crowded together. One of our senior professors shares his office with an instructor, and an associate professor consults with students in the hallway outside of my office. My predecessor Maenette Benham, now Chancellor at UHWO, requested that the old NOAA Fisheries building, built in the late 1940s and in need of millions of dollars worth of renovations, just to meet code, be set aside for Kawaihuelani and for the deans office. We are years away from raising the money for this and will almost certainly have to campaign for public and private support.

Native Hawaiian Student Services, one of our Colleges units, serves not only the 288 student majors and graduate students in our School but the 2700 Native Hawaiian undergraduate students who are now enrolled in Mānoa, making up 15% of the undergraduate population, up from the 8 % it was when they began their work a few years ago. They operate in an office building that is too small for an operation half their size and it has been a two year project just to find three small offices close by to relieve the overcrowding.

This is my point. Our faculty and staff does miracles with a fraction of the resources that have been given to Ka Haka 'Ula and our work is too important and already difficult enough for us to have to take the time to oppose initiatives like HB 950 and SB 848. That the legislature would consider a bill that recognizes the importance of the Hawaiian language to the culture and well being of this state and virtually hands the fate of the language to a program that, despite tremendous resources, including an expensive state-of-the-art building, has managed to build a student body of fewer than 85 undergraduate and graduate students, and had 715 enrolled last year, ranking in the bottom three of all of the colleges, is mystifying.

So forgive my frustration. I work for a remarkable institution at UH Mānoa. We work best when we collaborate and work together to attract more students, good faculty and innovation to our schools. We listen to each other and learn from each other and even when we disagree, we work together. Every one of the Hawai'i inuiākea faculty who have attended Hilo's Working Group have left because of their understanding that Hilo was not interested in their mana'o and merely wanted our representatives' compliance. There has been no actual consultation with our faculty and until there is consultation with us and every other college in the system, we will continue to object to the purposes and the mechanics of this kind of bill. The amended bill only serves to appoint faculty from other campuses to carry out the original Hilo-generated and Hilo-centric bill. Perhaps our University President says it best:

The University would support a well-planned pilot to initiate development of a Hawaiian medium general education program across the UH System. But such a program must have the support of our faculty and engage our campuses. We believe enshrining this in statute is premature and we recommend it be deferred until the appropriate consultation with faculty and all campuses can take place.

Mahalo Nui



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Niuolahiki
Hawaiian Language Online

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Time: 9:50 a.m.

Place: Room 211

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

SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees on Ways and Means:

'O 'Ekekela Aiona ko'u inoa. 'O wau ka Luna Ho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo. **Kāko'o Piha** ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo i ka pila SB 848 SD1. My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, submitting testimony in **strong support** of SB 848 SD1.

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization advocated by the Hawaiian Language College and other Hawaiian language entities that directly impact the families of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the statewide provider of Hawaiian medium early learning with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo greatly appreciates the support of all those dedicated to the revitalization and renormalization of the Hawaiian language. The importance of the Hawaiian Language College to the 'Aha Pūnana Leo cannot be emphasized enough. Not only is the Hawaiian Language College an invaluable partner of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, it is the only partner to provide continuous support over these thirty years in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training. Pūnana Leo keiki are taught by dedicated kumu (teachers) who, for over the past ten years, have participated in intense week-long *Aha Nu'ukia* retreats co-sponsored by the Hawaiian Language College. These multifaceted Hawaiian medium retreats focus on best practices in areas such as developmentally appropriate lessons, effective teaching strategies, integrated technology, differentiated instruction, and multi-age groupings. Pūnana Leo graduates continue on to Hawaiian medium education schools equipped and ready due in great part to these best practices. Supporting our kumu who teach our keiki is of great importance to the 'Aha Pūnana Leo and we extend our mahalo to the Hawaiian Language College.

E O I a K a 'Ō l e l o H a w a i ' i

In 2014, the 'Aha Pūnana Leo preschools were awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This accreditation satisfies eligibility criteria for private, state and federal resources for Pūnana Leo families. This accreditation award would not have been possible without the support and assistance from the Hawaiian Language College.

As multigenerational (home) use of Hawaiian is now a wonderful reality, it is imperative that laws and policies support the unencumbered use and normal implementation of Hawaiian. SB 848 SD1 expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will allow the College to help elevate Hawaiian medium education, revitalization, and renormalization to the next level in a timely manner.

It is fitting that SB 848 SD1 is being considered during the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i month of February, a designation established through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' 2012 package legislation on behalf of Hawaiian language. During this celebratory month, it is with great pride that the Hawaiian-language speaking community congratulates Kalani Pe'a, a Hawaiian medium graduate, on his historical 2017 Grammy win! Kalani Pe'a, a graduate of Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u, won the prestigious Grammy for Best Regional Roots Album, the first-ever Grammy won by a Native Hawaiian artist. Earlier this month, Kalani Pe'a stated in OHA's newspaper *Ka Wai Ola*, 2/2017 issue: *"Our graduated classmates believed in the program, but it has to take 'ohana. It has to take the 'ohana of Ke Kula o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and the 'Aha Pūnana Leo to believe in the program, to not only seek the challenges, but to overcome those challenges."* Nāwahī, as a laboratory school of the College, and the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, as a partner of the College, benefit greatly from advancements at the College. Advancement for one means progress for all. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is proud of Hawaiian language 'ohana such as Kalani Pe'a who not only affirm the value of 'ōlelo Hawai'i but recognize the pioneering work necessary to promote, encourage, and advocate on behalf of 'ōlelo Hawai'i. E ho'omaika'i, e Kalani me ka 'ohana Pe'a!

Mahalo in advance to the members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for recognizing the significance of SB 848 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1. Please support and pass this important bill.**

Mahalo nui,
'Ekekela Aiona
Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo

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Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Time: 9:50 a.m.

Place: Room 211

*Testimony: Pūnana Leo Preschools. The Hawaiian language shall live.
Drive and inspire change to ensure a living Hawaiian language in Hawai'i and beyond.*

SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the **Pūnana Leo o Waimea** preschool located in **Kamuela, Hawai'i** submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

Our preschool students and graduates feed into the P-20 Hawaiian medium educational system. In 2014, this system was awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This award would not have been possible without the support and assistance from the Hawaiian Language College who helped our preschool meet eligibility criteria in order for our families to receive assistance from private, state, and federal resources.

Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will also support the Pūnana Leo staff with necessary training in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training needed to provide quality early childhood education for families who choose education through the medium of Hawaiian.

The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

Maluhia O'Donnell, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Kāhealani Tanimoto, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Waimea

B. Pualani Lincoln, Parent Representative, Pūnana Leo o Waimea

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SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the **Pūnana Leo o Maui** preschool located in **Wailuku** submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

Our preschool students and graduates feed into the P-20 Hawaiian medium educational system. In 2014, this system was awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This award would not have been possible without the support and assistance from the Hawaiian Language College who helped our preschool meet eligibility criteria in order for our families to receive assistance from private, state, and federal resources.

Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will also support the Pūnana Leo staff with necessary training in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training needed to provide quality early childhood education for families who choose education through the medium of Hawaiian.

The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

Kili Namau'u, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Maui

Kaleimaile Robia, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Maui

Kui Gapero, Parent Representative, Pūnana Leo o Maui

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Drive and inspire change to ensure a living Hawaiian language in Hawai'i and beyond.*

SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the **Pūnana Leo o Mānoa** preschool located on O'ahu submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

Our preschool students and graduates feed into the P-20 Hawaiian medium educational system. In 2014, this system was awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This award would not have been possible without the support and assistance from the Hawaiian Language College who helped our preschool meet eligibility criteria in order for our families to receive assistance from private, state, and federal resources.

Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will also support the Pūnana Leo staff with necessary training in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training needed to provide quality early childhood education for families who choose education through the medium of Hawaiian.

The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

Kahōkū Lindsey-Asing, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Mailelani Namau'u, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

'Ānela Freitas, Parent Representative, Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

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SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the **Pūnana Leo o Lahaina** preschool located on **Maui** submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

Our preschool students and graduates feed into the P-20 Hawaiian medium educational system. In 2014, this system was awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This award would not have been possible without the support and assistance from the Hawaiian Language College who helped our preschool meet eligibility criteria in order for our families to receive assistance from private, state, and federal resources.

Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will also support the Pūnana Leo staff with necessary training in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training needed to provide quality early childhood education for families who choose education through the medium of Hawaiian.

The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

Karyn Kanekoa, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Lei Ishikawa, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Rena Pali, Parent Representative, Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

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SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the **Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko** preschool located in **Kāne'ohe** submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

Our preschool students and graduates feed into the P-20 Hawaiian medium educational system. In 2014, this system was awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This award would not have been possible without the support and assistance from the Hawaiian Language College who helped our preschool meet eligibility criteria in order for our families to receive assistance from private, state, and federal resources.

Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will also support the Pūnana Leo staff with necessary training in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training needed to provide quality early childhood education for families who choose education through the medium of Hawaiian.

The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

Kaipo Maikai-Kahanaoi, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Kāhealani Chang, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Kapua Francisco, Parent Representative, Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

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SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the **Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa** preschool located in **Hau'ula** submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

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The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

Kaipo Soares, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa

Kahiau Wallace, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa

Kōmike Makua Parent Group, Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa

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SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i preschool located in Līhu'e submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

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The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

Pūnohu Meade, Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i

Kamalu Almodova, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i

Leinā'ala Obrero, Parent Representative, Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i

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Executive Director

M. 'Ekekelā Aiona

Nā Papahana

Pūnana Leo

Pūnana Leo Programs

Nā Kula Pūnana Leo
*Pūnana Leo Family-Based
Preschool Program*

Pūnana Leo o Hilo

Pūnana Leo o Honolulu

Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i

Pūnana Leo o Maui

Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i

Pūnana Leo o Wai'ānae

Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Niuolahiki

Hawaiian Language Online

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Time: 9:50 a.m.

Place: Room 211

*Testimony: Pūnana Leo Preschools. The Hawaiian language shall live.
Drive and inspire change to ensure a living Hawaiian language in Hawai'i and beyond.*

SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the **Pūnana Leo o Honolulu** preschool located on O'ahu submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

Our preschool students and graduates feed into the P-20 Hawaiian medium educational system. In 2014, this system was awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This award would not have been possible without the support and assistance from the Hawaiian Language College who helped our preschool meet eligibility criteria in order for our families to receive assistance from private, state, and federal resources.

Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will also support the Pūnana Leo staff with necessary training in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training needed to provide quality early childhood education for families who choose education through the medium of Hawaiian.

The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

Alohalani Ho, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Honolulu

Leimomi Anderson, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Honolulu

'Iokepa Baggod, Parent Representative, Pūnana Leo o Honolulu

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Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

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*Testimony: Pūnana Leo Preschools. The Hawaiian language shall live.
Drive and inspire change to ensure a living Hawaiian language in Hawai'i and beyond.*

SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the **Pūnana Leo o Hilo** preschool located in **Puna, Hawai'i** submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

Our preschool students and graduates feed into the P-20 Hawaiian medium educational system. In 2014, this system was awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This award would not have been possible without the support and assistance from the Hawaiian Language College who helped our preschool meet eligibility criteria in order for our families to receive assistance from private, state, and federal resources.

Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will also support the Pūnana Leo staff with necessary training in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training needed to provide quality early childhood education for families who choose education through the medium of Hawaiian.

The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

Lenneth Pavao, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Hilo

Kealoha Reff, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Hilo

'Iwikau Joaquin, Parent Representative, Pūnana Leo o Hilo

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Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Time: 9:50 a.m.

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*Testimony: Pūnana Leo Preschools. The Hawaiian language shall live.
Drive and inspire change to ensure a living Hawaiian language in Hawai'i and beyond.*

SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the **Pūnana Leo o Hāna** preschool located in **Hāna, Maui** submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

Our preschool students and graduates feed into the P-20 Hawaiian medium educational system. In 2014, this system was awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This award would not have been possible without the support and assistance from the Hawaiian Language College who helped our preschool meet eligibility criteria in order for our families to receive assistance from private, state, and federal resources.

Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will also support the Pūnana Leo staff with necessary training in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training needed to provide quality early childhood education for families who choose education through the medium of Hawaiian.

The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

Kaimana Cabebe, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Maleka Tolentino, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Jana Sinenci, Parent Representative, Pūnana Leo o Hāna

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Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

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Place: Room 211

*Testimony: Pūnana Leo Preschools. The Hawaiian language shall live.
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SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i preschool located in Kualapu'u, Hawai'i submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

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Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will also support the Pūnana Leo staff with necessary training in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training needed to provide quality early childhood education for families who choose education through the medium of Hawaiian.

The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o

U'i Ramos, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i

Kolomona Kalua, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i

Kahulu Peltier-Yaw, Parent Representative, Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i

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Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Time: 9:50 a.m.

Place: Room 211

*Testimony: Pūnana Leo Preschools. The Hawaiian language shall live.
Drive and inspire change to ensure a living Hawaiian language in Hawai'i and beyond.*

SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We, the parents, teachers, and staff of the **Pūnana Leo o Kona** preschool located in **Kealahou, Hawai'i** submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization that directly impact the families of all Pūnana Leo that provide Hawaiian medium early learning statewide with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions and supporting long-range planning statewide will be of great assistance to our preschools and programs.

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Expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will also support the Pūnana Leo staff with necessary training in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training needed to provide quality early childhood education for families who choose education through the medium of Hawaiian.

The Pūnana Leo 'ohana humbly asks for the **support and passage of SB 848 SD1**. Investing in early childhood education is an investment in Hawai'i's future.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,
Nā'ai Colburn, Site Coordinator, Pūnana Leo o Kona
Puni Ka'awa, Lead Teacher, Pūnana Leo o Kona
Kōmike Makua Pūnana Leo o Kona

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Pūnana Leo o Hāna

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Hawaiian Language Online

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Time: 9:50 a.m.

Place: Room 211

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

SB 848 SD1 - RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

'O 'Ekekela Aiona ko'u inoa. 'O wau ka Luna Ho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo. **Kāko'o Piha** ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo i ka pila SB 848 SD1. My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, submitting testimony in **strong support** of SB 848 SD1.

SB 848 SD1 addresses the critical factors of language revitalization and renormalization advocated by the Hawaiian Language College and other Hawaiian language entities that directly impact the families of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the statewide provider of Hawaiian medium early learning with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo greatly appreciates the support of all those dedicated to the revitalization and renormalization of the Hawaiian language. The importance of the Hawaiian Language College to the 'Aha Pūnana Leo cannot be emphasized enough. Not only is the Hawaiian Language College an invaluable partner of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, it is the only partner to provide continuous support over these thirty years in the areas of curriculum development and teacher training. Pūnana Leo keiki are taught by dedicated kumu (teachers) who, for over the past ten years, have participated in intense week-long *Aha Nu'ukia* retreats co-sponsored by the Hawaiian Language College. These multifaceted Hawaiian medium retreats focus on best practices in areas such as developmentally appropriate lessons, effective teaching strategies, integrated technology, differentiated instruction, and multi-age groupings. Pūnana Leo graduates continue on to Hawaiian medium education schools equipped and ready due in great part to these best practices. Supporting our kumu who teach our keiki is of great importance to the 'Aha Pūnana Leo and we extend our mahalo to the Hawaiian Language College.

E O I a K a 'Ō l e l o H a w a i ' i

In 2014, the 'Aha Pūnana Leo preschools were awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This accreditation satisfies eligibility criteria for private, state and federal resources for Pūnana Leo families. This accreditation award would not have been possible without the support and assistance from the Hawaiian Language College.

As multigenerational (home) use of Hawaiian is now a wonderful reality, it is imperative that laws and policies support the unencumbered use and normal implementation of Hawaiian. SB 848 SD1 expanding the Hawaiian Language College's functions will allow the College to help elevate Hawaiian medium education, revitalization, and renormalization to the next level in a timely manner.

It is fitting that SB 848 SD1 is being considered during the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i month of February, a designation established through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' 2012 package legislation on behalf of Hawaiian language. During this celebratory month, it is with great pride that the Hawaiian-language speaking community congratulates Kalani Pe'a, a Hawaiian medium graduate, on his historical 2017 Grammy win! Kalani Pe'a, a graduate of Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u, won the prestigious Grammy for Best Regional Roots Album, the first-ever Grammy won by a Native Hawaiian artist. Earlier this month, Kalani Pe'a stated in OHA's newspaper *Ka Wai Ola*, 2/2017 issue: *"Our graduated classmates believed in the program, but it has to take 'ohana. It has to take the 'ohana of Ke Kula o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and the 'Aha Pūnana Leo to believe in the program, to not only seek the challenges, but to overcome those challenges."* Nāwahī, as a laboratory school of the College, and the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, as a partner of the College, benefit greatly from advancements at the College. Advancement for one means progress for all. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is proud of Hawaiian language 'ohana such as Kalani Pe'a who not only affirm the value of 'ōlelo Hawai'i but recognize the pioneering work necessary to promote, encourage, and advocate on behalf of 'ōlelo Hawai'i. E ho'omaika'i, e Kalani me ka 'ohana Pe'a!

Mahalo in advance to the members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor for recognizing the significance of SB 848 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1. Please support and pass this important bill.**

Mahalo nui,
'Ekekele Aiona
Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo

E O I a K a 'Ō l e l o H a w a i ' i



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Time: 9:50 a.m.
Date: February 28th, 2017
Where: State Capitol Room 211

TESTIMONY
By Ka‘ano‘i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Tokuda and Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: **SB 848 SD1, RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Tokuda a me ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Keith-Agaran, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Dela Cruz a me ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Rhoads, a me nā Lālā o kēia mau Kōmike a ‘elua o ka ‘Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka‘ano‘i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

SB 848 SD1, relating to higher education would establish the Hawaiian language university college as an autonomous entity within the University of Hawaii system to be located at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. We are writing to provide comments on this measure.

As an educational institution that understands the significant impact of the renormalization and proliferation of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i in our community and Hawai‘i nei, we support the intent of developing general higher education instruction delivered through the Hawaiian language. We commend the legislature for supporting Hawaiian language revitalization and renormalization throughout the University of Hawai‘i system, including at Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani. We believe that public policy is strengthened when shaped by community stakeholders through comprehensive and system-wide collaborations and are encouraged by the increased awareness fostered by dialog around this measure.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 4:46 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: lehua3@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM*

SB848

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lehua Miller | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 7:26 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kaawa@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Makalapua Alencastre | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Kāko’o piha! Urge full support of this bill.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 12:24 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM*

SB848

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benton | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 3:23 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kauanoek@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kauanoe Kamana | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I strongly support this bill that will be essential in the continuance of Hawaiian medium education by offering general education coursework at the university level. This will assure that our students who are educated in Hawaiian will have the choice to continue their university education though Hawaiian at Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani, a choice that presently does not exist. The time is now! Mahalo nui.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 3:46 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: rnamaka@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Namaka | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran and Vice-Chair Rhoads and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I support SB848SDI, which supports the expanded function of the Hawaiian Language College to include the Hawaiian medium pathway at the tertiary level. This is especially important for our seniors in Hawaiian medium immersion schools to access dual credit courses in a Hawaiian medium immersion pathway. I urge your committee to pass this bill to support the important and innovative approaches to a highly functioning Hawaiian medium education system in our state. Mahalo nui loa! Namaka Rawlins

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:15 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kekaianiani@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert Irwin | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I feel strongly that this bill will allow for more effective revitalization of the Hawaiian language at a critical moment. Only those involved in this movement have the insight and on-the-ground working knowledge to do the work and make the decisions that are critical to progress. The measure does not curtail the possibility of others at other colleges making similar structural rearrangements to further bolster progress in our collective efforts to bring back a beautiful heritage language from the brink of extinction. Mahalo!

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Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

SB 848 SD1 – Relating to Higher Education: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chairs Tokuda and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Nāko‘olani Warrington. I am a retired State of Hawai‘i Department of Education teacher with over 20 years of classroom experience. I was a fulltime educator at several elementary schools on the islands of Hawai‘i and O‘ahu in both Hawaiian medium and English medium education.

I am submitting this testimony in **strong support of SB 848 SD1 and urge its passage.**

SB 848 SD1 seeks to address the serious needs unique to Hawaiian medium education. Having taught students in both Hawaiian medium and English medium public schools, I can attest to many of these distinctive needs. While significant progress has been made in Hawaiian medium education, the equity gap is still wide between provisions automatically afforded those in English medium to those in Hawaiian medium education. Our Hawaiian medium community – students, families, teachers, etc. – continues to suffer from a lack of qualified classroom teachers, substitute teachers, special education teachers, content area teachers, counselors/guidance counselors, principals, vice principals, educational assistants, librarians, health aides, coaches and the whole range of support staff. Other ongoing concerns such as the lack of adequate facilities, valid assessments, appropriate curriculum, etc., are still major problems. Hawaiian medium education has survived, and yes, thrived, in spite of these many inequities for 30 years due to all those dedicated to the revitalization of the Hawaiian language to the point where multigenerational use is now a reality. Hulō! Hurrah! With Hawaiian language on the threshold of renormalization, innovative measures should be considered in order to meet the increasing demands as we stand on this fragile precipice. SB 848 SD1 envisions expanding the functions of the Hawaiian Language College and fellow higher education Hawaiian language entities in order to close the equity gap and to improve the conditions of Hawaiian medium education, revitalization, and renormalization. The pilot project will support the investigation of timely, efficient and expeditious processes to the future institution of the Hawaiian medium pathway in the university that will positively impact Hawaiian medium education students and families while benefitting the entire State of Hawai‘i and beyond.

For three decades, dramatic actions and cutting-edge solutions have provided remedies to meet the distinctive needs of Hawaiian medium education. In 1989, my application to fulfill student teaching requirements in a State of Hawai'i DOE Hawaiian Language Immersion Program (HLIP) classroom - the first student teacher to do so – was denied. Despite the UHH Hawaiian language faculty agreeing to provide interpreters and my agreeing to prepare all required materials in both English and Hawaiian, I still faced barriers not experienced by my fellow student teachers in English medium schools. After lengthy discussions, approval was granted and I was able to complete my student teaching in a HLIP kindergarten class. My receiving the UHH Elementary Education Student Teacher of the Year award was a direct result of unprecedented and innovative collaboration between the UHH Hawaiian language faculty, my HLIP Cooperating Teacher, the UHH Education Department, and the State of HI DOE. Later in 1989, a struggling HLIP in desperate need of curriculum materials worked with parents and educators at the Pūnana Leo preschools and the University of Hawai'i system to advocate for a pioneering curriculum development center where printed materials in the Hawaiian language would be developed and produced en masse for the HLIP population. Again, unprecedented and innovative collaboration, this time between private and public Hawaiian language educational entities, resulted in direct benefit to Hawaiian medium education. Birthed out of these two situations fraught with obstacles were the Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Training Program and the Hale Kuamo'o Hawaiian Language Center, both still an integral part of the Hawaiian Language College.

As a former kumu kaiapuni Hawai'i (Hawaiian Immersion/Hawaiian medium education teacher), I know that many are helping kumu in Hawaiian medium education and I extend my mahalo nui loa. More help is needed today for kumu; kumu who are struggling to develop enriching lessons for students in order to teach the required standards and benchmarks, kumu who are reporting to work even when sick because no substitute teachers are available, kumu who are still creating their own assessments and evaluations in the language of instruction where none exists. Even with the provisions envisioned in SB 848 SD1, everything takes time so it is imperative that initiatives continue to move forward. With many of our wonderful kumu leaving Hawaiian medium education to work elsewhere, the time for action is now. It is truly minamina – tragic - that many of our hardworking kumu feel they have no other choice but to leave Hawaiian medium education because the support they need to survive is still not there.

In closing, each legislative session brings with it much hope for the Hawaiian-language speaking community. Unprecedented and forward-thinking initiatives taking place at the legislature this year to promote, encourage and support Hawaiian language are very much appreciated. **Please support and pass SB 848 SD1.** Mahalo nui loa!

Me ke aloha,

Nāko'olani Warrington

Kumu Kaiapuni Hawai'i, Retired, State of Hawai'i Department of Education

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 9:06 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: hkfortunato@Gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hokulani Fortunato | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha nui kākou, ‘O Hōkū Fortunato ko‘u inoa a hele au i ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u ma Kea‘au, Hawai‘i. Kāko‘o au i kēia pila ‘oiai he ala ia e laulaha ai ka ‘ōlelo makuahine o kēia ‘āina nei. Ke ‘olu‘olu e kāko‘o mai i kēia mana‘o o ka ‘elua ‘ōlelo, ‘elua ala ho‘ona‘auao.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 10:18 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: pohaimm@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM*

SB848

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| C.R.P. Montague-Mullins | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Aloha kākou,

‘O au, ‘o Kēhaulani Wehrsig, he kumu a he makua au ma ke kula kaia‘ōlelo ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. Ke kākau nei au i kēia leka e hō‘ike i ko‘u kākō‘o piha ‘ana i ka pila SB 848, e pili ana i ka ho‘ona‘auao.

I ko‘u mana‘o, e kōkua ana kēia pila i ka pahuhopu o ka ‘imi mau ‘ana i ka na‘auao ma ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i mai nā pēpē a hiki i nā haumāna kulanui. He manawa kūpono kēia e ‘ae i ke koleke ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i e ho‘okā‘oi i ka hana i kīpapa mua ‘ia e nā koa ho‘ōla ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i no nā makahiki 30 a ‘oi i hala a he keu pono kēia no ke kaiaulu Hawai‘i ‘ōiwi.

Kākō‘o piha au i kēia pila a ke nonoi ha‘aha‘a nei au i kou kākō‘o ‘ana i kēia pila. Mahalo a nui loa!

I am Kēhaulani Wehrsig, a teacher and parent at Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. I am writing this letter to show my support for the bill SB848 with regards to education.

I believe, this bill assists the goal to educate people in the Hawaiian language from infants to college students. This is the appropriate time to allow the Hawaiian language college to further strengthen the foundation that was started by our Hawaiian language leaders 30 years ago, as a benefit for our Hawaiian community.

I strongly support this bill and I am humbly asking you to support this bill.

Na‘u me ka mahalo,
Na Kēhaulani Wehrsig
234 Liko Lehua Street
Hilo, Hawaii, 96720
(808)937-3126

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 2:19 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kekoaharman@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kekoa L Harman | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Please support SB 848 for the continued growth of Hawaiian medium education. 'O ka 'ōlelo ke ka'ā o ka maui Hawai'i!E ola!

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Kāko'o mākou i ka pila

SB 848 SD 1

(We support SB 848 SD 1)

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Kāko'o mākou i ka pila

SB 848 SD 1

(We support SB 848 SD 1)

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| Yoric Tarao | " |
| Anava Tarao | " |
| Paianea Tarao | " |
| Shaunda Makimolu | Hilo |
| Germane Jayati | Hilo |
| Beth Robinson | Hilo |
| Anne Vula | Puka |
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| Naomi Tachera | Waimea |
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| Charles R. Lora | HILO HI 96720 |
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| Taha Fernandez | Keaua HI 96749 |
| Kaniaka'i Kea-Russell | HCR 1 BOX 5479 Keaua HI 96749 |
| Mark Russell | " |
| John Russell | " |

Kakoo au i ka
pila SB 848 SD1

inoo

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Kynaston Ventura
Liza-Han farm

Brandon Bartolome
Pomaikai M. Bartolome

Piki Hayward

Doug Olds

Jon Boteilho

Hidi Boteilho

Kayla Asing

Mekaela Rawlins

Kawehionāpuia Keolani

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Kakoi au i ka
upela SB 848 SD1

ina

Puhala Kamālamalama

Lehua Pei

Poam Kamālamalama

Kaloumalani Francisco

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

Stephan Amara

Pua Leonard

Kalani Pea

Allan Cool

Hesemone Gage

Keone Taaca

Lenneth Pavao

Emilia Kaaua

Lanale Urbanozo

Stacia Aino ~~Urbanozo~~

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Kāhōō au i ka pila

SB 848 SD 1

1 NOA

Kini Kaawa

Kahunaani Kelikeli

Aolani Kailihon

Pumama Deal



Havakahi Penin

Justine Kamelamela

Isaiah Pasque Chung

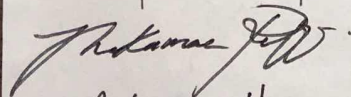
Kaila Brisay

Ainoa Manua

Ayako Onishi

Ke Kwamandha Burgess

Kapokini Pavao



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Benjamin Kama III

Kama Maku

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Kāko'o mākou i ka pila

SB 848 SD 1

(We support SB 848 SD 1)

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| 2/18 | Kyle Kaona | 15-1922 23rd Ave, Keaau 96749 |
| 2/18 | Karlana Stokes | 1231 W Kawailani St. Hilo 96720 |
| 2/18 | Bridgit Pales | 510 Auau Rd Hilo 96720 |
| 2/18 | Ashlynn Quinsaat | 16-2039 Aloha Dr. Pahoa 96778 |
| 2/18 | Lorilyn Montreal | P.O. Box 6696 Hilo, HI 96720 |
| 2/18 | Naimaka Rawlins | 497 Railroad Ave Hilo HI 96720 |
| 2/18 | Kama Lee Loy | 498 Auau Rd. Hilo, HI 96720 |
| 2/18 | Leilani Whittell | 64-874 Papapa Alani Hamlet 96743 |
| 2/18 | Kananinoka Māka'imoku | P.O. Box 2002 Keaau, HI. 96749 |
| 2/18 | Kamali Kawailani | 107-G W. Kawili Hilo HI 96720 |
| 2/18 | Kakoa Burgess | 1875 Kilauea HI 96720 |
| 2/18 | Mahina Carroll | 17-4233 Huna Rd Kurtistown 96760 |
| 2/21 | Maike Fios | 15-1504 LāuPaine Keaau, HI 96749 |
| 2/21 | Leilani Kuen | P.O. Box 1168 Kurtistown, 96760 |
| 2/21 | Kamali Hayes | 1297 Auau Rd Hilo, HI 96720 |
| 2/21 | Wilani Lindsay | 15-1175 27th Ave Keaau HI 96749 |
| 2/21 | Kaipo Keolanui | 322 Keauna St. Hilo, HI 96720 |
| | Jolinda Fortunato | PO BOX 7304 Hilo, HI 96720 |
| 2/21 | Akelina Tibayan | 132 Pilipaa St. Hilo, HI 96720 |
| 2/21 | Punahela Neumann | 113 West Puainako St, Hilo, HI, 96720 |
| 2/21 | Puanani Pe'a | 1661 Elama rd. Hilo, HI 96720 |
| 2/21 | Teta Teikiteka Hioho | HERI Pxbx 4143 ICEAAU 96749. |
| 2/21 | Robin Ali'i Hawaiiano | P.O. Box 10 Pahoa, HI 96778 |
| 2/21 | Tasha Lanitose | HO3 BOX 4679 Keaau HI 96749 |
| 2/21 | Krishna Zane | 600 Manono St. Hilo, HI 96720 |
| | Nicholas Atamia | 1920 Ainaola Dr. Hilo, HI 96720 |
| 2/20 | Alexandria Walker | PO Box 6654 Hilo, HI 96720 |
| 2/21 | Kuaicholani Yung | Kingslanding Hilo, HI 96720 |
| 2/21 | Samay A. Nani'ole | 2563 Kinoole St. Hilo, HI 96720 |

SB 848 SD 1
Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education, Hawaiian Affairs, Judiciary &
Labor, Ways & Means on
Thursday February 28, 2017 at 9:50am

Aloha e nā Luna Ho‘omalua Kai Kahele, Maile Shimabukuro, me nā Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Michelle Kidani, Brickwood Galuteria, a me nā Lālā o nā kōmike:

Kāko‘o piha au i ka SB 848.

Ke ‘ike nei ko Hawai‘i i nā hua o kekahi ki‘ina kālailai kupaianaha i koina ‘ia ka hakuhiā, ka wiwo ‘ole me ke aho kūpa‘a no ka ho‘iho‘i ‘ana i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i I loko o nā waha o nā keiki a hiki i ke o‘o ‘ana a‘e me ka ho‘okumu ‘ia o ka papahana kula kamali‘i ‘o Pūnana Leo e kāmau nei nō mai kona ho‘omaka ‘ana he 34 makahiki aku nei. Wahi a nā kālāi‘ōlelo ē he 3 hanauna ma ka li‘ili‘i kekahi wā e hua hou mai ai he mau kānaka mānaleo hou o kekahi ‘ōlelo ‘ane make loa e like me ka Hawai‘i. Ke kāmau nei nō ka hana a ka ‘Aha Pūnana Leo i aukahi like ‘ia me Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani ke Koleke ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i aia ho‘i I ka ‘īkoi o ua ‘aukahi ho‘ōla ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i nei. He loa na‘e ke ala e hiki aku ai I ka ho‘okahi haneli kaukani po‘e wali loa I ka ‘ōlelo I mea e ‘ike ‘ia ai he ola kuluma no ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i.

Ha‘aheo ka Moku‘āina ‘o Hawai‘i i ka mōhala mai o nā kumu mākaukau no ke a‘o ‘ana I nā papa mua a muli puka no ka ‘ōlelo, mō‘aukala a mo‘omeheu Hawai‘i ma ke Kulanui o Hawai‘i. I nā māhina ‘ehā a ‘oi iki a pau o ka makahiki Kulanui, puka nā haumāna mai kēia mau papahana. Kōkua kēia mau papahana kēkelē ma kekahi ‘ano I ko ka ‘ōlelo ola. ‘O ke kūlana pa‘amau o nā papahana kālāi‘ike Kulanui na‘e he kālele pololei ‘ole I ka pahuhopu ko‘iko‘i loa ‘o ka ho‘ōla ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. He mau hana nui I koe e ho‘okū ai I ka make loa o ko Hawai‘i ‘ōlelo a me ka mauli ola o kekahi lāhui kānaka ‘akahī a ho‘omaka ‘iki nei e ho‘ohana I ka ‘ōlelo, he ‘ōlelo ho‘ohana no kēlā me kēia lā. He pono ko‘iko‘i nui ka ho‘okumu ‘ana I papahana kulanui nona nā pahuhopu a me ka nu‘ukia no ka ho‘ōla ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. Ua ko‘iko‘i loa nei wā ‘ānō e ko‘o ai I nā ‘ōhana nana nā mānaleo ‘ōpio hou loa kāka‘ikahi o ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i ma ka ho‘omāhuahua hou ‘ana I ia heluna I ho‘i hou ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i I kona kūlana ola kuluma ma kona ‘āina ‘o Hawai‘i nei.

Ho‘oikaika hou au, aia ka ho‘okumu ‘ia o kekahi ki‘ina ho‘okawowo hakuhiā no ke ola hou ‘ana a‘e o ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i ma o ka ho‘ona‘auao kulanui, ‘o kekahi ki‘ina ia ma kona wā waiwai ‘i‘o ko‘iko‘i loa. ‘O ka SB 848 ia ki‘ina.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

Larry L. Kimura

Hope Polopeka, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani ke Kōleke 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i ma Hilo

English translation below:

I strongly support SB 848.

Hawai'i is now witnessing the fruits of an extraordinary strategy that required innovation, courage and commitment to bring the Hawaiian language back into the mouths of children into adulthood starting with the Pūnana Leo preschool program that still perseveres since its start 34 years ago. Linguists say it takes at least 3 generations to regenerate new first language speakers of a highly endangered language such as Hawaiian. The work of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo in consortium with Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language continues to be at the core of the Hawaiian language revitalization movement. Hawaiian still has far to go in reaching a goal of a hundred thousand fluent speakers in order to manifest some sense of life and normalcy for Hawaiian's existence.

The State of Hawai'i is proud to see the development of qualified instructors to teach both undergraduate and graduate offerings for Hawaiian language, history and culture at the University of Hawai'i. Every four months or so during the University's academic year, students graduate from these programs. These degree programs offer some positive contributions for Hawaiian's survival. The existing state of University academic programs however do not directly address the more critical goal of Hawaiian language revitalization. There still remains much more to be done in stemming the extinction of Hawai'i's language and the wellbeing of a people who are just beginning to use it as their daily language. There is an urgent need to establish a purposeful higher educational program whose mission is the revitalization of Hawaiian. Timing is especially urgent now to uphold the families of the few new, young first Hawaiian speakers by increasing their numbers so Hawaiian becomes normal in the homeland of Hawai'i nei.

I reiterate, the need for a progressive and new approach to the survival of the Hawaiian language through higher education is at a pivotal and very critical point. SB 848 is that strategy.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

Larry L. Kimura

Associate Professor, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 6:39 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: dylynngiirl@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dylynn | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha, 'O wau 'o Maikalani Miles-Bontog. Aia au ma ka papa 'umikumālua ma ke kula 'o Nāwahīoakalani'ōpu'u. Ke kāko'o nei au i kēia pila no ka papahana kaia'ōlelo Hawai'i ma ke kulanui no ka mea o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i ka 'ōlelo o ko'u lāhui a makemake au e kāko'o a ho'ōla! I mea e ola ka 'ōlelo a me ka mauili hawai'i.

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SB 848,SDI

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

February 28, 2017, 9:50 am, State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert K.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Roads Vice Chair

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB 848, SDI, Relating to Higher Education

E Kenekoa Tokuda, Kenekoa Keith-Agaran a me nā lālā o nā kōmike hui pū ‘ia,
Aloha ‘oukou;

My name is Keiki Kawai‘ae‘a and I am the Director of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language (KH‘UOK). On behalf of the Hawaiian Language College I want to express my appreciation for the past support by the legislature in the revitalization of the Hawaiian language. As an educator, administrator, parent and grandparent committed to Hawaiian medium education, I strongly support SB848 SD1 and urge the joint committees to pass the bill.

This year makes the 30th year of the Hawaiian Immersion Program in public education and the 20th year of KH‘UOK College of Hawaiian Language at UH Hilo. The many strides forward in the revitalization of the Hawaiian language have been made through tireless efforts on an educational platform of “two official languages, two pathways of education” as a choice through its two official languages English and Hawaiian. Currently, there are over 3,000 students enrolled in Hawaiian medium-immersion schools P-12. In addition, an estimated 13,500 students are enrolled in various Hawaiian language coursework in both public and private education, which includes higher education at roughly 2,000 students. The engagement of both lower and higher education work together to raise the vitality of the Hawaiian language in our home, schools, communities and workforce.

As the only state to have two official languages operationalized in public education under a single state education system, Hawai‘i is in the prime position to develop a strong Hawaiian medium pathway across its state educational system. Hawaiian language medium-immersion schools have lead the way as a model for language recovery in our state. Some of the success indicators includes increased student enrollment K-12, high graduation rates and college matriculation. As the data is showing some healthy signs of language recovery, there remains much to be done if we are to provide an equitable quality education for Hawaiian medium students across our state education system. Demands for support from the schools, community and students continue with only basic resources to address those needs.

SB848 SD1 provides a three pronged approach to build upon the strengths within the system by 1) expanding the statutory language of the Hawaiian language college it created 20 years ago, 2) establishing general core coursework within the UH system as a pilot project to innovate strategies and approaches that further develop a Hawaiian medium pathway from lower to higher education, and 3) honor all of the good work in Hawaiian language instruction “of and through” across the UH system by developing a system implementation plan as a next step towards advancing, actualizing, amplifying and achieving Hawaiian language renormalization.

Research informs us that it takes one generation for a language to become endangered and three to revitalize it. Among the best practices is instruction of and through the target language focused on high fluency through 1,100 hours of language instruction. Four years of language instruction of and through Hawaiian provides a strong foundation for building language fluency. Along with other coursework taught through Hawaiian the 1,100 hours of the recommended language learning can be achieved. SB848SD1 provides legislative support towards recovery of Hawaiian as a state educational commitment to one of its official state languages.

In the coming decade we will be facing additional challenges as the generation that began the Hawaiian Renaissance and Hawaiian language efforts through the state move closer to retirement and the few remaining Native Hawaiian speakers from that era pass. SB848 SD1 supports a direction from which both lower and higher education sectors of our state education system can work towards building a highly efficient and functioning Hawaiian medium system for the children, students and families seeking this choice. KH‘UOK has a long standing track record in Hawaiian medium education leadership and has been preparing for this challenge with its laboratory and college students.

We see possibilities through this bill that will allow new innovations for Hawaiian language as a stronger P-25 Hawaiian medium system. This opportunity will allow the college to engage in new areas of Hawaiian language support for students, families, and communities, including further expansion of Hawaiian language into the workforce. With all of the progress made we are only half way through the three generation journey to revitalize, renormalize and ensure sustainability of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i for the future generations. The momentum of the work must continue to support the aspirations of its students, families and communities whom have made tremendous commitment towards renormalization of Hawaiian. On behalf of KH‘UOK College, its faculty and staff, I ask for your strong support by passing SB848 SD1.

Mahalo nui loa no ko ‘oukou kāko‘o ‘ana i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i ma kēia mau ‘ōlelo ho‘oholo a no kēia mau makahiki lō‘ihi.

Mahalo nui.



Director, Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language

'O mākou, nā mea nona nā inoa ma lalo nā kumu a me nā limahana o Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, he kāko'o i ka pila SB848 SD1

(We the undersigned teaching faculty and staff of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani support the intent and passage of SB 848 SD1

| Signature | Home Community |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Kalena Silva | Hilo, Hawai'i |
| Kuilei Kepia | Hilo, Hawai'i |
| Scott SA | Hilo, Hawai'i |
| Dina [Signature] | Hilo, Hawai'i |
| Nicky Azum | Hilo, Hawaii |
| [Signature] | Hilo, Hawaii |
| Mona Vute | Pāhoa, Hawaii |
| Kaulana Dames | Kurtistown, Hawai'i |
| Kamela [Signature] | Kahala, Hawai'i |
| Jabari | 'Ō'ōkala, Hawai'i |
| Klean Co. Ke [Signature] | Hilo, Hawai'i |

‘O mākou, nā mea nona nā inoa ma lalo nā kumu a me nā limahana o Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani, he kāko‘o i ka pila SB848 SD1

(We the undersigned teaching faculty and staff of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani support the intent and passage of SB 848 SD1

| Signature | Home Community |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Th. 9. 9. 9. - P. 9. 9. 9.</i> | Hilo |
| <i>Jerry Kimura</i> | Hilo - Waimoa |
| <i>A. 9. 9. 9.</i> | Hilo |
| <i>Ulu Ulu</i> | Keaukaha |
| <i>Makalapa Alencastre</i> | Kilauea, Hawaii |
| <i>9. 9. 9.</i> | KEAUKAHA |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

February 26, 2017

SB 848, SD1
RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION
February 28, 2017
1:15pm, State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
 Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
 Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
 Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
 Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

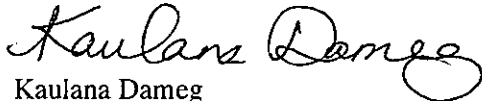
Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB 848, SD1, Relating to Higher Education

Aloha Senators:

My name is Kaulana Dameg, and I am the parent of a student at Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u Iki school. I am in strong support of SB 848, SD1, Relating to Higher Education.

I believe this bill will allow new innovations for ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as a stronger P-25 Hawaiian medium system. This opportunity will allow the college to engage in new areas of Hawaiian language support thereby continuing the 30+ year effort to revitalize ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and the Native Hawaiian community as a whole.

I strongly support this bill and hope for your favorable consideration of this measure. Mahalo for your time.



Kaulana Dameg
parent, Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u Iki school
PO Box 969
Kurtistown, HI 96760
kaulanad@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 9:35 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: alakaiiaea@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Alakai | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha mai kākou, ‘o Alaka‘i laea-Russell ko‘u inoa. He haumāna au o Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u a i kēia makahiki a‘e, e komo ana au ma ke kula nui. Mana‘o au he ko‘iko‘i loa ka loa‘a o nā papa koina laulā i nā haumāna ma ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i ‘oiai pēlā nō e ho‘oikaika ‘ia ka ‘ōlelo a me ka ‘ike Hawai‘i ma hope o ke kula ki‘eki‘e. Pēlā nō e ho‘omāhua mai ai nā hana e mālama ‘ia ma ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i a pēlā e ola maoli ai ka lāhui Hawai‘i. He ‘elua ‘ōlelo kūhelu o kēia moku‘āina a he ‘elua ala ho‘ona‘auao pū kekahi. E ho‘omana‘o kākou i kēlā ma ke kāko‘o like ‘ana i kēia pila!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 11:25 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: rhillen@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rachel Hillen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I kāko‘o this bill!

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No nā mea a pau ka po`e nona ia wahi,

ʻO Sarah Kapalihiwa Bilyeu ko`u inoa a he haumana Mo`omeheu Hawai`i au ma ke kulanui ʻo Ka Haka ʻUla o Ke`elikōlani. ʻOiai au i lohe ai i nā mana`o o kēlā me kēia `ao`ao e pili ana i kēia pila, ua pā loa ka na`au no ka mea he mea maika`i loa kēia `ano hana e wehewehe `ia i ka Pila SB848 no ke kula `ana o nā keiki `ōiwi o Hawai`i. I ka wā `ōpio au i lu`u ai i ke a`o `ana o ka `ōlelo makuahine, `o ia nō ka `Ōlelo Hawai`i. `A`ole au i hānai `ia me ka `ōlelo makuahine mai ka wā pēpē a i `ole ka wā kamali`i ho`i. Mahalo nui au i kēia manawa i loa`a ia`u e a`o aku i ka `ōlelo a me nā `ike ku`una o ko`u mau kūpuna. `O ia ko`u `i`ini e lilo i kumu `Ōlelo Hawai`i i mea e a`o aku ai i ka `ōlelo makuahine i ka hanauna a`e a e ho`omau ai i ka `ike.

Akā, i kēia wā loa`a nō nā keiki li`ili`i i hānai `ia penei, a ola mau ka `ōlelo makuahine o kēia `āina. No laila, he kōkua nui kēia `ano papahana i noi `ia i ka pila SB848 no nā keiki i pa`a mua ka `ōlelo makuahine iā lakou. Kāko`o au i ka mālama `ia `ana o kēia `ano papahana ma Ka Haka ʻUla o Ke`elikōlani. Pono kā kākou mau keiki i ka manawa e kula mai i nā kumuhana o kēlā `ano kēia `ano (ʻo ka Makemakika, ke Akeakamai, ka Mo`okalaleo, a pēlā aku) i ka `ōlelo makuahine, mai ka pae Pūnana Leo a hiki i ka pae koleke. A he kuleana ko kākou `o nā mākuā e mālama. Na kākou e `auamo.

Me ka ha`aha`a,

Kapali Bilyeu
26 Pepeluali 2017
kapali808@hotmail.com

Testimony, in Opposition to SB 848 Proposed SD1

Presented Before the

Committee on Ways and Means

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 28, 2017 at 9:50a.m.

by

M. Puakea Nogelmeier, PhD,

Professor, Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language

Director, Institute of Hawaiian Language Research and Translation

Executive Director, Awaiaulu

Opposed - SB 848 Proposed SD1 – RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Ways and Means Committee Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Senate members English, Galuteria, Harimoto, Inouye, Riviere, Shimabukuro, Taniguchi and Wakai
Judiciary and Labor Committee Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, Senate members Gabbard, Mercado Kim and Thielen

Though I have well over three decades in teaching Hawaiian language and hold a number of professional positions, including being affiliate faculty at Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani, please allow me to address the honorable senators as an individual. I sincerely thank all the committees for unflagging support of Hawaiian language and for working to revise SB 848 Proposed SD1. I know your intentions are to support Hawaiian language, and I hope you understand why I still strongly oppose the bill and ask that it be restructured from the foundation up.

I support every section of SB 848 that addresses support which Hawaiian language needs and deserves, but I cannot endorse the institutionalizing of UHH as the locus of that support. From the establishment of the "working group" to the initial and revised forms of this bill, Hilo's Hawaiian Language College is framed as the source of successful revitalization, the sole recipient of support and the driving force for direction and standards in the proposed pilot efforts. While the revised language of the bill includes participation from other campuses and access to courses and materials, such participation is secondary at best. The expanded inclusion is still intended to facilitate the original plan which was generated by a portion of the modern language community without inclusion or acknowledgement of other, major sections of the language community.

For decades, the Hilo faculty members have cultivated good relations with the legislature, received major support from state and federal sources and accomplished wonderful things. I laud and have always supported those successes, but great success has been accomplished by the other centers as well, through efforts long unrecognized, unfunded, and unincorporated in the historical expansion and planned efforts for UHH. The imbalance is counterproductive. The promise for Hawaiian to maintain viability as a living language and to perpetuate the historical and contemporary diversity that marks true vitality of this language is undermined by the continual empowerment of one facet of the language community at the expense and exclusion of the rest. Through 20 years of legislative support for the Hawaiian Language College, collaboration, inclusion and diversity have yet to become a part of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani.

I believe that more collaborative planning and better distribution of funding will provide the best possible support for the successful efforts of UHH and those throughout the language community while making the best use of the full range of experts and leaders the community contains. The interaction, which may initially need to be mandated, would foster the whole of the language community and revitalization efforts, statewide and beyond.

As I testified before, the bill should be redrafted to mandate balanced representation from all campuses in working together to develop a plan that uses all of the available resources and fosters the language as a whole, not a select thread of it. Mahalo for giving your time and attention to these concerns.

me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Puakea Nogelmeier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

M. Puakea Nogelmeier, PhD
Professor, Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
puakea@hawaii.edu/808-956-3562

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:28 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kinikalela_m@mail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kinikalela | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha kākou! I am a parent of keiki at Nawahiokalaniopu'u and Punanā Leo o Hilo. I am also a speaker of 'olelo Hawaii. I support this bill sb848 sd1 relating to higher education as it will only strengthen the p-25 education for our keiki and give the Hawaiian language college university an opportunity to make more support for our keiki and to other native languages in the world. I only see positive for this bill and would like to thank all of you for helping our native language of Hawaii to grow and thrive. Mahalo nui!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 5:41 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: balesb001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bales | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Passage of this bill is critical to the revitalization and normalization of the Hawaiian language.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:36 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: tkobash@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM

SB848

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tanya Kobashigawa | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Kāko'o!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:13 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: keola_8@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM*

SB848

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keola Limkin | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 12:02 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: micahalameda@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB848 on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM*

SB848

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for WAM/JDL on Feb 28, 2017 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Micah Alameda | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Lā Ho‘olohe Pila (Hearing Date/Time): 02-28-2017 9:50a

Lumi hālāwai (Meeting Room): Conference Room 211 House Finance

Kōmike (Committee): Judiciary and Labor & Ways and Means

Pila (Bill): SB848, SD1

Kumu (Purpose): RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Mana‘o (Position): KĀKO‘O (SUPPORT)

Aloha Chairman Keith-Agaran, Chairperson Tokuda and members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor as well as the Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is P. Kanoe Kanaka‘ole, I am a parent of a Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u graduate and would like to offer my support of bill SB848, SD1.

The State of Hawai‘i is unique in that both the native Hawaiian and English languages are official state languages; it is critical that both languages be represented equitably in all facets of government, especially education. Hawaiian is the language of my household; my daughter was educated exclusively in the Hawaiian language from Pūnana Leo until the twelfth grade. Now she attends classes at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s Hawaiian language college, Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani. As a family, I feel that the state’s university system is negligent in affording my daughter the opportunity to fulfill her general education requirements in the Hawaiian language.

This must be corrected and I expect the support of the Hawai‘i State Legislature to act upon this injustice and prod the sluggish University of Hawai‘i into action. Hawaiian is not just a token culture used to attract tourist to Hawai‘i, we are a vibrant and viable culture who has made great contributions to Hawai‘i’s recognition as a global leader in indigenous education.

An investment in higher education in the Hawaiian language is an investment in Hawai‘i’s brilliant future. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Na‘u me ke aloha ‘ōlelo,
Na P. Kanoe Kanaka‘ole

We, the undersigned students of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, hereby confirm our support for Senate Bill 848_SD1

ISAAC K. PANG



Sophie Kaleimomi Dolera



Ku'uleialoha B. Kahiapo



Joshua N. Kalima



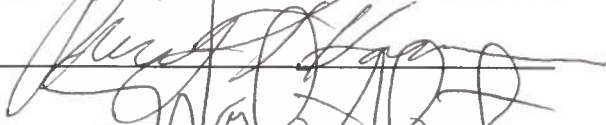
Rafael Puhono Zano



Chelsie Uilani Kuali'i



Kapua Kala'u'a



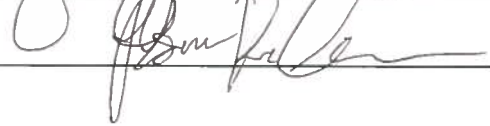
Wai'olu Peterson



Jora May-Ann Tolentino-Smith



Pomakai-laea



LATE

Aloha Chairs Kahele and Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs Kidani and Galuteria and Members of the Committees

My name is Wehi Kanewa my child graduated from the 'Aha Punana Leo program. He is currently a fourth grade student attending Ke Kula 'o Nawahiokalani'opu'u. He also plans on attending Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I am writing in strong support of SB848 SD1, relating to higher education .

I believe this bill will allow for new innovations for 'olelo Hawai'i as a stronger P-25 Hawaiian medium system. This opportunity will allow the college to engage in new areas of Hawaiian language support thereby continuing the 30+ year effort to revitalize 'Olelo Hawai'i & the Native Hawaiian community as a whole.

I strongly support this bill & hope for your favorable consideration of this measure. Mahalo for your time.

Mahalo nui loa,

Wehi Kanewa
wehiona@yahoo.com