

SCR-121

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 4:39:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/5/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edith Kawai	Testifying for Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on this important topic. The practice of hula is a crucial repository of ages of cultural creativity and art. The Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports this measure.

Language should be included to discourage intellectual and cultural appropriation of this essential Hawaiian art form.

Edith Kawai, President

Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club



HUAMAKAHIKINA

April 3, 2022

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of Measure SRC121.

Aloha mai, e nā Lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo o Hawai‘i Moku‘āina,

HuamakahiKina is a coalition of Kumu Hula, open to all Kumu Hula and representing the breadth of Hula Lineages, standing together for the purpose of organizing and advocating on behalf of Kumu Hula and the ‘oihana of Hula itself. HuamakahiKina formed and ratified the “HuamakahiKina Declaration on the Integrity, Stewardship, and Protection of Hula” on August 21-22, 2021, at the Kupukalālā Kumu Hula Convention, which brought together 201 lineally acknowledged Kumu Hula from across the Pae‘āina o Hawai‘i, 10 states of the United States of America, and the countries of Japan, New Zealand, French Polynesia, France, and Spain. The HuamakahiKina Declaration has already been adopted by the Maui County Council through resolution CC 21-484, in November, 2021.

Hula – a constitutionally protected traditional and customary practice – is not only integral to Kānaka Maoli, but to the local culture and identity of the entire State. Although Hula is a tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Kānaka Maoli, it is nondiscriminatory in that its traditions and knowledge are available to all who would dedicate themselves to it. Hālau Hula and Kumu Hula have contributed to our communities for decades. As experts in traditional knowledge and leaders of our community, Kumu Hula uphold and instill the importance of environmental stewardship; we educate ‘ohana from keiki to kūpuna; we tell and celebrate the stories of our home, and sing of its beauty; we bring both joy and pride to our larger community; and, Hula events and pursuits are important contributors to the State’s economy.

On page 3 of the HuamakahiKina Declaration, the 201 ratifiers delineate historic challenges to Hula – specifically those regarding its abuse, ignorance about it, its lack of protections, lack of equity for its masters and practitioners, and deficits of government-sourced resourcing and funding.

Recognizing that existing laws and policies are inadequate for the protection and support of Hula, HuamakahiKina calls upon policymakers to develop and implement policies and practices consistent with this Declaration, in full consultation with Kumu Hula. In accordance with pono and the kuleana of Kumu Hula, through consensus and without reservation, and as is consistent with the “HO‘ĀLA: Call to Action” of the Declaration, the Membership of HuamakahiKina calls upon the State of Hawai‘i, and all of its counties, to embrace the letter and intent of the “HuamakahiKina Declaration on the Integrity, Stewardship, and Protection of Hula” through measure SCR121.

Me ka ‘oia‘io,

The Membership of HuamakahiKina



HUAMAKAHIKINA

SCR-121

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 2:49:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/5/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vicky Takamine	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha

I am Vicky Holt Takamine. I ‘ūniki (graduated through the rituals of hula) as a kumu hula from hula master Maiki Aiu Lake in 1975 and established my own hālau, Pua Ali’i ‘Ilima, (school of Hawaiian dance) in 1977. I have taught hula at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and Leeward Community College for more than 30 years and am currently teaching hula for Windward Community College at Kailua High School.

There are thousands of practitioners of hula all over the world. It is important to acknowledge that the hula is the dance of the Hawaiian people, the indigenous people of Hawai‘i, who settled these islands over a thousand years ago. With new technology being developed for the sharing of knowledge and expertise, it is even more important today to recognize that the mis-appropriation of our Native Hawaiian cultural traditions are at risk.

While there are many kumu hula that have not signed on to the Huamakahikina Declaration, it is important that these efforts to protect our traditional practices be supported.

Mahalo nui loa!

Vicky Holt Takamine

SCR-121

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 4:31:28 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/5/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SCR 121 and urge this Resolution to be heard.

Mahalo,

Lahela Spencer

Aloha,
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Members

Subject: In-Support of SCR 121/ SR 108 Ancestral Lineage of Kumu Hula

Mahalo for your support of the Huamakahikini Declaration which honors the Kumu Hula leadership of this very ancient tradition. Hula is perhaps the oldest Hawaiian tradition that continues to be practiced and is appreciated world wide.

Hula was originally ceremonial and was a way of passing knowledge from one generation to the next. The knowledge passed on through hula was maintained because it imitated the cycles of life as composed in mele oli or chants. These ceremonial practices were known as hula kapu. My grandma was raised in hula kapu. This type of Hula was known as Hula 'Olapa.

With the influx of foreigners to Hawai'i Hula changed, music change. Hula developed a form for entertainment or Hula 'Auwana. For the last 50 years in Hilo we have the most ourstanding exhibition of Hula both in Hula 'Olapa (Kahiko) and Hula 'Auwana. Mahalo to Luana Kawelo and her mother Dorothy for maintining this setting of Merrie Monarch as a means for Hālau and Kumu Hula to exhibit and elevate their statis. Also to elevate Hula as a bonifide Tradition.

Kumu Hula lineage, status and recognition is important to the quality of this ancient and yet growing tradition. Huamakahikina declaration honors and recognizes the genealogical connections of Kumu Hula.

Mahalo again for your support and all those who have worked long hours to initiate the Huamakahikina determination.

Mahalo,
Pualani Kanahele, Kumu Hula