



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2684 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2684. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports passage of HB 2684 which seeks to establish the Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach (Institute) to be placed within UH Hilo through a collaboration between the UH Hilo 'Imiloa Astronomy Center ('Imiloa) and the UH Hilo college of Hawaiian language, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani (CoHL).

The legislature established the CoHL under HRS §§ 304A-1301-1302 in 1997, the functions of which include providing a quality education primarily through the medium of the Hawaiian language, as well as the incorporation of Nāwahīōkalani'ōpu'u School and other laboratory schools, that now includes three other K-12 charter schools as well as all the 'Aha Pūnana Leo's ('APL) 13 Hawaiian Medium preschools throughout the state.

CoHL faculty and administrators worked alongside community members and agencies to help establish 'Imiloa as an extension of its work to advance the Hawaiian language. 'Imiloa opened its doors in 2006 and is the only bi-lingual science Center in Hawai'i and has become a national and international model for indigenous informal science education serving its community through local science research, cultural advancement, and environmental stewardship. 'Imiloa has become a critical gathering place for practitioners and scholars, fostering collaborative efforts that are advancing science education from an indigenous foundation and perspective.

The Institute established by HB 2684 will further solidify the relationship between 'Imiloa and the CoHL, along with its laboratory schools and community partners. The streamlining of operations as well as the flexibility of scheduling, outreach and functionality will further the impact of these units. UH Hilo has found that both 'Imiloa and the College face many unique situations that require agility to address the State's Hawaiian language needs. Among such things are scheduling courses outside the standard university semesters to provide curriculum and instruction to PreK-12 institutions, teaching at the College's laboratory school program in areas where there are gaps in instruction, utilizing upper division college students to teach lower

division/dual credit courses in beginning Hawaiian for English medium high school students, and being able to provide outreach to learners with distinctive ties to the State as well as institutions, organizations and agencies looking for support with furthering the learning, use and normalization of the Hawaiian language.

UH Hilo is proud of the work that 'Imiloa and the CoHL have already accomplished, including the recent designation of the CoHL as the National Native American Language Resource Center, funded by a five-year grant from the US Department of Education. This Institute will provide UH Hilo the ability not only to better serve the Hawaiian language needs of the State but to further our impact as a model for indigenous language revitalization and normalization.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.



16-120 'Ōpūkaha'ia St
Kea'au, HI 96749
(808) 982-4260
(808) 966-7821
www.nawahi.org

Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani
'Aipia-Peters,
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,
Hope Pelekikena

Kyla Manzano,
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoe
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Kayla Asing

'Ānela Freitas

No 'Ane'i Ko
Kākou Ola!

Representative Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 02-07-2024
Time: 2:00pm
Location: Conference Room 309

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

HB 2684, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT HILO **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

E nā Po'o Kōmike a me nā Lālā Kōmike o ka Māhele Ho'ona'auao Kulanui a me ka 'Enehana,
aloha nui kākou

My name is Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, and I am the Governing Board Chair of Ke Kula 'O
Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'ū Iki, Laboratory Public Charter School. I am providing written testimony in
STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2684.

We, the governing board of Nāwahī, **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB 2684 that establishes the
Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach within the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

Nāwahī strongly supports the unification of the Hawaiian language college, Ka Haka 'Ula O
Ke'elikōlani with 'Imiloa Center into a single institute that will lay the early education pathway for
Hawaiian medium education and into the higher grades. The establishment of this institute will also
increase support for the College's laboratory school programs as well as other educational and
outreach support for the Hawaiian language and other indigenous languages.

The passage of HB 2684 indicates an awareness of the significance of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani
and 'Imiloa as they address the needs of and ensure the forward progress of Hawaiian language
medium education.

Mahalo for this bill and the many other related initiatives that have come out of our State
Legislature.

Mahalo,

Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters
Chair, Governing Board
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'ū Iki LPCS



Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

"No 'Ane'i Ko Kākou Ola"

Representative Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 02-7-2024

Time: 2:00pm

Location: Conference Room 309

Testimony of Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā, Director, Principal
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u
HB2684, RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT HILO
STRONGLY SUPPORT

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Perruso, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū Kapela a me nā lālā Kōmike Ho'ona'auao Kulanui me ka 'Enehana, Aloha pumehana kākou,

My name is Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā, Director and Principal of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u (Nāwahī), a P-12 laboratory school of the Hawaiian Language College, Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani (KH'UOK) at UH-Hilo. Nāwahī's current enrollment is 670 and is the largest of any school taught entirely through Hawaiian in the state. Nāwahī's main campus is located in Kea'au, Hawai'i and has two satellite sites, one in Wai'anae, O'ahu and the other in Waimea, Hawai'i.

Over the past 30 years, Nāwahī has sought out federal grants to work with both the Hawaiian language college, KH'UOK and 'Imiloa in developing access to a parity of resources that already exist for English medium students in our public school system. This is especially the case at the high school level where we have established, for example: 1) dual college/high school credits in World History and Statistics; and 2) internship opportunities relating to video production, museum exhibit design, research, teaching and leadership. All through the Hawaiian language.

The permanent presence of an institute will facilitate work like this and provide the latitude to build on the successes we have seen since 1994 when Nāwahī was established. It will further expand the development of skilled Hawaiian speaking teachers and professionals, which are areas of great need in our state. The institute will help us move forward together as a single entity, sharing a strategic mindset rooted in our language and culture and focused on serving families and the broader Hawaiian speaking population throughout the state.

The legislature itself established the UHH Hawaiian Language College and its laboratory school program. It has been highly successful. HB2684 builds upon that proven success. Again, I urge passage.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Kauanoe Kamanā
Principal/Director

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:58:13 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Uilani K Palis	Ke Kula ?O Nawahiokalani?opu?u	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Mahalo.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:32:07 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalia Kalama	Ke Kula 'O Nawahiokalani'opu'u Iki Lab Public Charter School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislature board or to whom it may concern:

I, Natalia Kalama attest that this bill HB2684 is essential. I am mother of a child that is immerse in the paha hana o Māilikūkahi. Our people of Hawai'i has right as natives to the island of Hawai'i for our children to grown and learn in their mother tongue, ʻōlelo Hawai'i. The university of Hawaii, HILO is essential part of the students learning and development in keeping them immerse in language, knowledge, tradition and cultural practices. It has connected our family back after for 4 generations to our cultural, traditions and language. This will help our people to continue to thrive and grow.

I appreciate your time.

Mahalo,

Natalia Kalama

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:51:43 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa L Harman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill in order to strengthen Hawaiian Medium education in Hawai'i.

Mahalo!

HB2684

Aloha e ke Kōmike 'Oihana Ho'ona'auao a 'Enehana,

I am submitting my testimony in support of HB2684.

The UH College of Hawaiian Language has been directly connected to Maunakea astronomy science beginning with the appointment in 1998 of the College's two senior faculty, Dr. William H. Wilson and Dr. Larry L. Kimura, to serve as Co-Chairs of the Committee to develop and create a new UH Maunakea management plan. The UH Board of Regents' adopted the new management plan in the summer 2000. In the fall of 2000, Dr. Kimura was one the first members to be appointed to the new Maunakea management's Hawaiian Cultural Committee, subsequently named, Kahu Kū Mauna, an appointment he served in until 2009. Because of the Hawaiian cultural concerns emphasized in the new management plan, Senator Daniel Inouye amended the mandate of an astronomy science center at the UH Hilo campus, to embrace astronomy with Hawaiian culture. Dr. Kimura was then designated to serve as the Hawaiian Cultural Planner for the building of the Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center project. UH Hilo undergraduate Hawaiian Studies major, Leslie K. Kimura, was assigned to be Dr. Kimura's student assistant for this work, both serving in this capacity from 2000 to 2006 until the new Hawaiian astronomy center was dedicated and named, 'Imiloa Astronomy Education Center of Hawai'i. The 'Imiloa Astronomy Center is one of the Hawaiian College's consortium members, that also includes several of the College's public Hawaiian medium K-12 laboratory schools and the 'Aha Pūnana Leo early childhood Hawaiian medium schools. This association serves as the core for the Hawaiian language revitalization movement now progressing into its forty-first year.

I strongly recommend HB2684 for your approval to establish an institution to advance the wellbeing of the Hawaiian language and culture through the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

Mahalo nui. Dr. Larry L. Kimura

to develop and create a new Maunakea UH management plan. In

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:48:56 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn P. Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2684 which, if enacted, will provide educational resources and support for Hawaiian and other indigenous languages worldwide.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:43:18 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. William H. Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Perruso and Vice Chair Kapela of the House Higher Education and Technology Committee.

I write in strong support of HB2684. Mahalo for hearing this important bill.

My name is Dr. William H. Wilson. I am the longest serving faculty member at Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani. I joined the UH Hilo faculty in 1978 when I was hired to flesh out a Hawaiian Studies B.A. to be distinctively delivered through Hawaiian. I have seen and participated in the development of the program here from the time when the kūpuna of the community were advocating to have Hawaiian included among the languages taught at UH Hilo. Over the years we have moved forward the vision of those kūpuna that UH Hilo serve as a focal point for the revitalization of the Hawaiian language. With strong community and legislative policy support we have developed an M.A., a Ph.D., a teacher education program, a laboratory school, and a curriculum center all administered and operated through Hawaiian. They have all been firsts for Hawaiian and for any Native American language. They have been developed through powers granted by the legislature with minimal special funding. Those programs have also been expanded by the College to serve American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native American Pacific Islanders in the spirit of aloha for which Native Hawaiians are famous throughout the world. That was done without any extra funding.

I have also been involved with the establishment of ‘Imiloa as a bilingual center from its conceptualization in the 1990s. Just to propose that ‘Imiloa be bilingual or even have a Hawaiian name was radical at the time. The Hawaiian aspects of the center were not funded, so we moved forward using our own resources. The Hawaiian language revitalization community here in Hilo has over the years been able to move the concept of bilingualism at ‘Imiloa to the point where UH Hilo has hired director who is fully Hawaiian speaking and using Hawaiian as an administrative language. To my knowledge, the use of an Indigenous language in this way does not exist in any other entity of similar sort in the US.

Not only is 'Imiloa operated through the Hawaiian language, it is operated through a Hawaiian lense that makes it a venue where the Native Hawaiian community feels comfortable meeting together despite any difference that they may have on any issue. That is 'Imiloa is operated based on 'ohana values. Furthermore, 'Imiloa follows a Hawaiian cultural feature of embracing others into the 'ohana. Because of this the general multi-ethnic community of East Hawai'i has felt very comfortable using 'Imiloa and participating in its programs.

Bringing the College and 'Imiloa together as a single institute will demonstrate to Hawai'i and the world that the state of Hawai'i is sincere in its use of Hawaiian as an official language. Bringing the two together into a single unit will allow the institute move forward at a higher level of efficiency and of UH system and state attention. It will also empower the new institute to pilot various innovative programs for the local and state community as well as for students following the values and attention to excellence that have moved the two separate entities to the current level of success. Those programs will continue to be open to people from throughout the state and from the various ethnic groups that call Hawai'i home. The record of the two entities demonstrate that the institute will be built upon Native Hawaiian values and spreading the Hawaiian language, goals of the state and local community.

Significantly the two entities have recently been recognized and designated by the Office of Indian Education of the US Department of Education to work together as the lead entity of the National Native American Language Resource Center. Joining the two together as a single institute will provide a means to streamline and further support the unique role of work here for the United States as a whole. The ability to serve Native peoples on a national level is based on the strength of the two entities in the revitalization and actual normalization of use of the Hawaiian language and culture in daily life and operations. The ability to work on such a level comes from the example of those early kūpuna who called upon UH Hilo to focus on the language.

Last year, there was a huge number of testimonies in support of what is being proposed here, and that earlier bill passed all committees only to falter in the Conference Committee. That support demonstrated last year, including my previous testimony, should once again be the basis for moving this bill forward as this bill is essentially the same.

Thank you again for hearing this bill.

TO: Higher Education & Technology Committee
FROM: Kananinohea Māka'imoku
RE: HB 2684 Relating to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

DATE: February 6, 2024

TIME: 2:00 PM

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2684

Aloha e Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Higher Education & Technology Committee,

My name is Kananinohea Māka'imoku. I currently serve as the Program Coordinator for Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I am also a parent of students attending the college's laboratory school, Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīkalanī'ōpu'u. I strongly **support HB 2684**.

This bill seeks to unite the Hawaiian language college with 'Imiloa Center into a single institute that will lay the early education pathway for Hawaiian medium education and on into the higher grades. This institute will also increase support for the college's laboratory school programs as well as other educational and outreach support for the Hawaiian language and other Indigenous languages.

Please **PASS HB 2684**.

TO: FIN Committee
FROM: Kananinohea Māka'imoku Date: February 27, 2023
RE: HB 1430 Relating to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

DATE: February 28, 2023

TIME: 1:30 pm

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1430 HD1

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Kananinohea Māka'imoku. I currently serve as the Program Coordinator for Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I am also a parent of students attending the College's laboratory school, Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u. I strongly **support HB 1430**.

This bill seeks to unite the Hawaiian language college with 'Imiloa Center into a single institute that will lay the early education pathway for Hawaiian medium education and on into the higher grades. This institute will also increase support for the College's laboratory school programs as well as other educational and outreach support for the Hawaiian language and other Indigenous languages.

Please **PASS HB 1430**.

TO: HET Committee
FROM: Kananinohea Māka'imoku Date: February 2, 2023
RE: HB 1430 Relating to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

DATE: February 3, 2023

TIME: 2:00 pm

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1430

Aloha e Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the committee,

My name is Kananinohea Māka'imoku. I currently serve as the Program Coordinator for Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education Program at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I am also a parent of students attending the College's laboratory school, Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u. I strongly **support HB 1430**.

This bill seeks to unite the Hawaiian language college with 'Imiloa Center into a single institute that will lay the early education pathway for Hawaiian medium education and on into the higher grades. This institute will also increase support for the College's laboratory school programs as well as other educational and outreach support for the Hawaiian language and other Indigenous languages.

Please **PASS HB 1430**.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:44:40 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Asing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

‘O ‘Āpuakea, Kāne‘ohe, O‘ahu ku‘u one hānau. ‘O Hawai‘i mokupuni kahi e noho nei. ‘O Maunakea ka mauna. ‘O Waiākea ka wai. ‘O Hilo ka moku. ‘O Waiākea ke ahupua‘a. ‘O ka wao kanaka kahi e noho nei. E ola.

My name is Kayla Lindsey Asing and I am parent of three keiki in Hawaiian Medium Education; one attending Pūnana Leo o Hilo & two attending Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. I am also a parent representative for Nāwahī’s Papa Alaka‘i (school governing board) and also parent representative for Nāwahī at the ‘Aha Kauleo meetings.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2684 - relating to UH Hilo & ‘Imiloa and the establishment of the Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach within the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

I am in full support of the efforts to implement an institute for Hawaiian language education at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and in consortium with ‘Imiloa Center. This is a crucial step towards the development of a Hawaiian language medium education pathway for our keiki, and would also set the foundation for the pipeline of the programs and resources needed for Hawaiian language medium education teachers' development, studies and certification. It would also expand the reach of the college of the Hawaiian language and ‘Imiloa center to help address the Hawaiian language needs in our communities. The institute would also serve as a model for language education for other indigenous communities globally, who seek our programs and efforts as a model for their revitalization and sustaining efforts for indigenous languages and cultures.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2684. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

Na Kayla Lindsey Asing

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:56:45 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keliipaahana Anakalea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB2684.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:57:36 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ahia Dye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, and building these relationships!

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:58:48 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Rehmert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it puts into law the establishment of a center where the vision and mission of the Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani Hawaiian Language College, and 'Imiloa Astronomy Center.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:59:31 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheyenne Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:59:38 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipolani Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I fully support the establishment of the Institute of Indigenous Education Science and Outreach within the University of Hawaii at Hilo, where the vision and mission of Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani Hawaiian Language College, ‘Imiloa Center and their relationship with Nāwahī as laboratory schools, will develop and grow.

Mahalo nui,

Na Kaipolani Kim

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:04:08 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolinda Fortunato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Kako‘o au ka pila HB2684.

Mahalo,

na Jolinda

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:04:23 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taira Pe'a	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

‘Ae, kāko‘o wau i ka ho‘opa‘a kānawai ‘ia o ke kikowaena e ulu hou a‘e ai ka nu‘ukia o Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani, ‘Imiloa a me ia pilina me kākou nā kula ho‘okolohua.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:04:36 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawehi Keolanui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kakoo wau i keia pila!

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:06:13 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy De Lima-Suganuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o! I support this bill for the growth and continuity of the Hawaiian language in our lāhui. Mahalo.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:08:46 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawailele Aki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o HB2648

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:15:08 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haley Agbayani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am in full support of HB2684 which puts into law the establishment of a center where the vision and mission of Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani Hawaiian Language College, ‘Imiloa Center and their relationship with us as laboratory schools will develop and grow. With the establishment of an Institute of Indigenous Education Science, our lāhui will continue to thrive within the context of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, ‘ike ku‘una Hawai‘i, and Honua maui ola. E ola ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

na Haley Ku'uipo Agbayani

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:42:23 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekuamakana Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

Kāko'o no au i kēia pila e ho'oulu a e ho'oikaika i nā kumu Waiwai no nā haumana o ke kaiaulu 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

me ka ha'aha'a,

Kekuamakana Lewis

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:53:50 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robyn Kalauli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at UH Hilo should not be made to use state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, stall qualifications, and staff training requirements. I support the repeal of the sunset date.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:57:42 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse P Neumann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:59:36 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Ha'amauliola Makua Aiona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill which puts into law the establishment of a center where the vision and mission of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani Hawaiian Language College, 'Imiloa Center and their relationship with us as laboratory schools will develop and grow. This is of utmost importance for the growth of future Hawaiian language programs.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:54:23 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Taeoalii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this measure

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:08:03 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair, Vice Chair, a me Committee Members,

Please support this bill. This bill puts into law the establishment of a center where the vision and mission of Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani Hawaiian Language College, ‘Imiloa Center and their relationship with laboratory schools will develop and grow. As a parent of two keiki in Hawaiian Immersion Kula I want them to have all the opportunities all keiki have and this funding continues to support their growth and learning and that of all of us living in and embracing the language and culture of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,

Shannon M.

Hawai‘i Island Resident

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:24:51 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willette K. Akima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Willette Kalāokahaku Akima-Akau, I strongly encourage you to support HB2684 that establishes the Institute of Indigenous Education Science, and Outreach within the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.

Mahalo,

Willette K Akima-Akau

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:31:27 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Mokuhalii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support bill H2684. Mahalo.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:37:57 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Kalei Hoku Kalai-Aguiar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Rep. Amy Perruso, Chair, House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Members

FROM: Dr. Dawn Kaleihökü Kala‘i-Aguiar, Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

RE: **HB2684**

Hearing on February 7, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2684

Aloha e ka Luna Ho‘omalua Perruso, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Kapela, a me nā lālā Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao Kulanui me ka ‘Enehana,

My name is Kaleihökü Kala‘i-Aguiar and I am a teacher at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u (Nāwahī), a Pre-K through grade 12 Hawaiian language medium laboratory school of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani (KH‘UOK) College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. I am writing this testimony in full support of House Bill 2684, Relating to the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.

Nāwahī is fortunate to have a solid and reliable working relationship with KH‘UOK and the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center to be able to provide educational opportunities to our students, such as dual credit Hawaiian medium university courses and internships in Hawaiian, as well as professional development opportunities for our faculty and staff, such as course work in culturally and linguistically appropriate student assessments and Hawaiian medium education language related laws and policies, as well as teacher externships. This bill will allow the

Hawaiian language medium educational pathway to be strengthened even further and assist in the revitalization of the Hawaiian language.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2684. Mahalo nui loa!

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Dr. Kaleihōkū Kala'i-Aguiar

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:40:16 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikiya White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing to support HB2684. I believe it is important to help support our native Hawaiian educational system. Mahalo!

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:08:51 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liann Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I support this bill HB2684!!

KAKO‘O!!

MAHALO!

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:18:47 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Waia'u	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My child currently attends a Hawaiian medium school and I support this bill.

Mahalo

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:22:30 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rayden Keaulana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep hawaii in Hawaiian hands

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 8:12:08 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Sarah Strong, ND	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 8:44:01 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalamanamana Harman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in **SUPPORT of SB2684 - Relating to Education.**

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka Aha ‘Ōlelo,

My name is Kalāmanamana Harman, and I am a graduate of Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u, the Hawaiian medium school in Kea‘au. My family has been long-time supporters of the Hawaiian language revitalization movement.

I am testifying in SUPPORT of SB2684 - Relating to Education. I support this bill because it will enhance the relationship and support network between ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center and the Hawaiian Language College at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Firstly, public education offers two language pathways - English and Hawaiian. While the Hawaiian Language College at UH Hilo and ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center have conducted many programs separately, they have also collaborated on projects such as the A Hua He Inoa program in conjunction with Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u, Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani, and astronomy experts to work on naming groundbreaking astronomical discoveries such as Pōwehi, the black hole. However, establishing an institute of Indigenous education, science, and outreach that combines these two entities would foster a stronger partnership. Approving this bill will further enhance outreach programs that not only promote the use of the Hawaiian language across all levels but also provide a platform for innovative educational approaches within language and science.

In conclusion, supporting SB2684 is vital for fostering a deeper partnership between the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center and the Hawaiian Language College at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. By establishing an institute that combines Indigenous education, science, and outreach efforts, we can create a space for collaborative programs that promote the Hawaiian language and innovative educational methods. This bill presents an opportunity to strengthen connections within our community and advance the use of Hawaiian language and culture in educational settings. I urge you to support SB2684 for the benefit of our students, our communities, and the preservation of Hawaiian language and knowledge.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Kalāmanamana Harman

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 11:13:49 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealii Pooloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I am a native Hawaiian mother with a child attending Nawahiokalaniopuu and I SUPPORT HB 2684 as we must establish the Institute of Indigenous Education Science, and Outreach within the University of Hawaii at Hilo to continue strengthening our relationship between the Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani Hawaiian Language College, ‘Imiloa Center as laboratory schools will develop and grow.

The perpetuation of our native language is crucial to us as kanaka, please pass HB 2684.

Mahalo piha,

Keali'imakamana'onalani

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 11:55:22 AM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahaliilani Sukanuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In order to preserve our culture it is essential that these centers be created and preserved. Without these centers, we become passengers in boats with a broken rudders. Some will still get to the destination, but they will be the minority.

HB-2684

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:35:28 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaunohea Peneku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill as it will help to ensure that the Hawaiian and Indigenous frame of thinking will be perpetuating through higher education and other avenues that will result.