HCR 142/HR 52
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALOHA CORPS

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

March 31, 2004

by

Angela Meixell
Chancellor, Windward Community College
University of Hawaii
HCR 142/HR 52 Requesting the Establishment of the Aloha Corps

Chair Takai and Members of the Committee:

HCR 142/HR 52 requests the University of Hawaii to undertake the establishment of an Aloha Corps. The university hired a consultant in 2003, Dr. Reynold Feldman, to research the feasibility of creating an Aloha Corps. Dr. Feldman did thorough community work and concluded that it may indeed be viable. He suggested however, that the next step would be to create a task force that would test out the idea through several small pilot projects. Only after those pilots were complete, and assessed by an impartial evaluator, would the decision be made whether or not to go forward with the full creation of such a corps. His recommendation was that after the pilot projects were completed, and assuming that the results were positive, resolutions would be sought such as the one proposed. It is our estimation that $30,000 would be needed to fund the pilot projects and the external evaluator.