H.B. 999
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MEDIUM EDUCATION

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 9, 2005

By

Naomi Losch
Chair, Hawaiian & Indo-Pacific Languages & Literature
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Chair Scott Saiki and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on House Bill 999. I am Professor Naomi Losch, and I am here today to testify on behalf of the Chancellor of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa is supportive of HB 999. We have many resources on our campus that would be very helpful to the College of Education’s Office of Hawaiian language medium education in determining the qualifications for necessary personnel, and in the general administration of their programming.

The Kūali‘i Council on our campus is made up of Native Hawaiian faculty, staff, and students from all disciplines. We understand that the Council has been the basis for a collaboration between the Department of Hawaiian and Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures, The Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, and the College of Education.

We are interested in having the legislation direct the Department of Education to the appropriate resources on our campus, but ultimately we feel that the responsibility is that of the campus and these units. Therefore, we ask that the legislation be revised to read, as appropriate: “The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa in conjunction with its Kūali‘i Council.”