HCR 275 / HR 203
Urging the Appropriation of Moneys to Fund Faculty Positions and Curriculum Development and Support for Ilokano, Filipino, and Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education

March 29, 2005

By

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Chair Tommy Waters, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 275 / HR 203. The College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa regularly offers thirty languages each semester for students to study. Among the dozen most popular languages are Filipino and Ilokano, with strong heritage learner bases.

According to Fall, 2004, enrollments in language courses, Filipino with 171 enrolled students and Ilokano with 106 enrolled students rank as the 9th and 11th most enrolled language courses at UH Mānoa. The College is very much committed to assisting the growth of these two languages and has currently requested funding support for filling a vacant Assistant Professor position in Filipino, the hiring process for which is now underway.

We therefore support any legislation that would increase the number of faculty positions in our heritage and strategic languages, as long as such legislation does not supplant or undermine the University of Hawai‘i’s current Board of Regents’ approved Biennium Budget Request.