



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Committee on Higher Education

January 30, 2007  
by

Rose Tseng  
Chancellor of University of Hawaii at Hilo

HB 922      RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Dear Chairman Chang and Members of the Committee:

As Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, I fully support House Bill 922 that supports construction funds for a Hawaiian Language Building. This building is pivotal to the development of our Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies programs. Currently, these programs are dispersed throughout our campus and office for faculty is solely needed. Given the demand for Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies office space for faculty and lectures are totally inadequate. In a numbers of situations 5 or 6 faculty members share 150 sq ft of office space to conduct their meeting with students in a hall way. This building will consolidate all Hawaiian programs on the UH Hilo campus.

The college established in 1997, UH Hilo's College of Hawaiian Language, Ka Haka'Ula O Ke'Kelikolani, named in honor of Princess Ruth Ke'elikolani, the 19<sup>th</sup> century high chiefess known for her strong advocacy of Hawaiian Language and Culture.

The college is building a vast repository of Hawaiian Language and Oral Histories that has been accumulated over generations. They have been committed to the mission of revitalizing the Hawaiian Language and have been actively implementing this vision over the past 30 years. In addition, they are involved in Hawaiian Medium Laboratory Schools, Curriculum Development and Outreach into the Hawaiian Community. The College has and continues to play a key role in implementing programs to enrich, preserve and promote Hawaiian Language for the people of Hawaii.

The University of Hawaii at Hilo certainly supports HB 922 for a Hawaiian Language Building. We are proud of our accomplishments in this area and by way of this building will further our commitment to strengthening the Hawaiian Language program for the people of Hawaii.