Aloha, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and the state’s Hawaiian language college, I wish to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 199. The College faculty has confirmed with me its support for this measure and the accuracy of the information included in SCR 199.

The College has just finished its work in providing the Hawaiian language content for the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, the 40,000 square foot astronomy science museum and educational center on the UH Hilo campus. This is the only science museum in the United States fully bilingual in English and a Native American language. The scope of the work of the College in providing Hawaiian translations and terminology for the 'Imiloa Center was considerably larger than what is being requested in SCR 199.

Mamaka Kaiao, the dictionary of modern Hawaiian vocabulary produced by the College, was compiled primarily for the Department of Education and the some 2,000 students in Pūnana Leo preschool and Hawaiian immersion classroom. This book has been developed with input from various islands and from academics as well as native speakers. It is an indication of the ability of the College to work cooperatively for government purposes.

The College has assured me that any new terms that need to be developed for state and county offices will go through its Lexicon Committee for
approval by the statewide experts referred to above. Such new terms will be included in subsequent editions of the dictionary to be disseminated to Hawaiian language students and speakers throughout the state, both in hard copy and technologically through the Ulukau on-line library.

I asked the College to provide me with information on Ulukau and its status as the most developed indigenous language library in the world. Ulukau includes Hawaiian dictionary services, access to archival Hawaiian documents, Hawaiian curriculum and many other services. It receives approximately 20,000 hits per day, and its log shows an incredible upward trend in use: January 2005 -- 250,000 hits for the month; June 2005 --- 300,000 hits for the month; January 2006 -- 400,000 hits for the month; March 2006 -- 550,000 hits for the month.

In closing, SCR 199 appropriately designates the state's Hawaiian language college to provide services to state and county offices in developing their use of Hawaiian. The College was organized in 1998 in response to a mandate from the legislature that the University of Hawai‘i establish the College, and as stated in SCR 199, the College has been legislatively mandated to provide Hawaiian language support and Hawaiian language development for the state.