The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo supports HB 2491 that proposes to establish a standard for the spelling and punctuation of Hawaiian names and words as they appear in official State and County documents, letterheads, and signage.

UH Hilo is home to Ka Haka ʻUla o Keʻelikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language, that has been leading efforts to revitalize the Hawaiian language while also serving as a model to national and international indigenous communities who also seek to revive their endangered languages. We see this bill as further recognition of the Native Hawaiian people by emphasizing the importance of language and the proper spelling of language that is reflective of the pronunciation.

Mahalo for allowing UH Hilo to testify on this issue.