



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

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HB 1430 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1430 HD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports passage of HB 1430 HD1, which seeks to establish an Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach to be placed within UH Hilo through a collaboration between the UH Hilo 'Imiloa Astronomy Center ('Imiloa) and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Hawaiian language college, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani (College).

The legislature established the College under HRS §§ 304A-1301-1302 in 1997 and has continued to support Hawaiian language revitalization and growth through various legislative acts since that time. HB 1430 HD1 establishes an institute within UH Hilo that will have its own unique powers of scheduling, outreach, and functionality to be able to continue the mission of revitalizing the Hawaiian language and reintegrating its use within the State. Furthermore, the establishment of the institute enhances the ability of UH Hilo, the College, 'Imiloa, and our collaborators to address the needs of the State with a particular emphasis on developing an early education Hawaiian medium pathway and addressing the P-25 efforts of the College.

UH Hilo has found that both 'Imiloa and the College face many unique situations that require agility to address the State's Hawaiian language needs. Among such things are scheduling courses outside the standard university semesters to provide curriculum and instruction to PreK-12 institutions, teaching at the College's laboratory school program in areas where there are gaps in instruction, utilizing upper division college students to teach lower division/dual credit courses in beginning Hawaiian for English medium high school students, and providing personnel support for oceanic voyaging. The Institute would be responsible for assigning personnel to work in coordination with the public and charter schools to address both long term and short term needs and addressing an increasing number of requests from State offices for Hawaiian translation support. Lastly, establishment of the Institute raises the profile of our work in language revitalization and opens up more opportunities to obtain external funding.

UH Hilo is proud of the work that 'Imiloa and the College have already accomplished and see this institute as providing UH Hilo the ability to better serve the State. We look

forward to discussions between UH Hilo administration, 'Imiloa, the College and legislators to further clarify and define the role of the institute.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.