



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
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By
Marcia Sakai
Interim Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 313 SD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 313 SD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) and 'Imiloa Astronomy Center ('Imiloa) support this bill which appropriates two full-time equivalent positions (2.0 FTE) and funding for the wayfinding education program at 'Imiloa at UH Hilo. We are seeking an appropriation of \$375,000 for fiscal year 2019-2020 and \$300,000 for fiscal year 2020-2021 to fund the wayfinding education program.

'Imiloa was explicitly designed to integrate Hawaiian perspectives and modern science for both local and global communities. 'Imiloa sponsored the temporary position of a master navigator for the Mālama Honua Worldwide voyage. As part of solidifying the values and continuation of that momentum of that voyage, UH Hilo requests to establish a permanent program at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center that provides both formal academic training and community education in Celestial Navigation and Wayfinding.

The program will use the existing assets of 'Imiloa that includes a full sized Planetarium and Exhibit Hall. The positions being requested are as follows:

1. Navigator-in-Residence: this position will be responsible for the development and implementation of navigation/wayfinding programs including credit programs, community outreach education (offered both onsite at 'Imiloa/UH Hilo, as well as, offsite in schools and community settings), student recruitment initiatives, and student internship oversight. This position will participate in leadership for the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, contributing to the development and execution of strategic initiatives of 'Imiloa and UH Hilo. This position will also continue to serve as a link between the UH Hilo and the broader voyaging community.
2. Education Specialist: this position will assist the Navigator-in-Residence in delivering and evaluating programs related to the navigation curriculum, as well as, 'Imiloa's broader education program priorities that serve K-12 and higher education students.

UH aspires to be the world's foremost indigenous serving university and embraces its unique responsibilities to the indigenous people of Hawai'i and to Hawai'i's indigenous language and culture. To fulfill this responsibility, the proposed Navigation/Wayfinding program will ensure active support for the participation of Native Hawaiians - as well as general population engagement both local and global - and supports vigorous programs of study and support for the Hawaiian language, history and culture.

Wayfinding Education Program at 'Imiloa Astronomy Center

Development of a Wayfinding Education Program at UH Hilo based out of 'Imiloa will integrate Hawaiian perspectives and modern science through curriculum and placed-based learning that will include credit, non-credit, and community education components. The program will be staffed by a Traditional Master Navigator-In-Residence along with a Curriculum Development Specialist, and will include a full-sized planetarium dome for training and teaching purposes.

Collaborations with other University of Hawai'i Programs

'Imiloa engages UH Hilo programs and faculty in several ways and serves as a conduit for the University to the Public. In its thirteen-year history, 'Imiloa has partnered with many programs at UH. We highlight our major partners here: programs and faculty from the Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language (KHUOK); the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa LAVA Lab and Academy for Creative Media along with UH Hilo Art, Marine Science and Computer Science departments for world class Data Visualization; the Graduate Program at the UH Hilo School of Education; the Drama and Communications Program at UH Hilo; and the Graduate Program in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies.

Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language

- There has been a long-standing relationship between KHUOK and 'Imiloa. At its inception, students and faculty from KHUOK were key in the planning and development of the center to ensure that Hawaiian perspectives and modern science were explicitly integrated. As the only fully bilingual science and culture center in Hawai'i, 'Imiloa is uniquely positioned to continue to support the perpetuation of Hawaiian language through continued partnerships with KHOUK. For example, KHUOK faculty and the 'Imiloa Executive Director have engaged in an effort to ensure that astronomical discoveries made in Hawai'i are given Hawaiian names using traditional naming protocols. This effort was recently recognized nationally at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Seattle Washington. Finally, several KHUOK faculty and classes use 'Imiloa.

CyberCANOE UH Mānoa LAVA Lab and Academy for Creative Media, UH Hilo Art, Marine Science, and Computer Science Departments

- In 2016, the 'Imiloa worked with the LAVA lab at UH Mānoa and the Academy for Creative Media to install a state-of-the-art data visualization lab called

CyberCANOE (Collaborative Analytics Navigation and Observation Environment). The goal of this class was to teach practical techniques for students to create effective data visualizations that can be applied to a broad range of disciplines. Students in the class formed interdisciplinary teams to produce interactive visualizations related to Marine Science to be exhibited to the general public at the 'Imiloa as well as at UH Mānoa. CyberCANOE was installed at 'Imiloa to showcase research by faculty and students that is taking place in departments and institutes at the University of Hawai'i, particularly Hilo. CyberCANOE also connect UH Hilo to other islands as well as other research institutions around the world. This means that unlike exhibits, high end visualizations and research data from latest discoveries can be added to CyberCANOE and be presented by UH Hilo researchers very quickly. This cycle of research, discovery and outreach benefits 'Imiloa's audiences by giving them access to ongoing cutting edge locally grown research.

UH Hilo School of Education Partnership: Graduate Program in Education

- 'Imiloa works with Hawai'i Island teachers to deliver innovative STEM programming by partnering with the UH Hilo School of Education to design and coordinate a series of professional collaborations among 'Imiloa, the Hawai'i State DOE, UH faculty, and a cohort of in-service teachers on Hawai'i Island. We have currently recruited a pilot cohort of 12 teachers in East Hawai'i and support them with professional resources to help them develop their own grade-specific culture-based science "learning modules." This program broadens the reach of our programs beyond astronomy/wayfinding to other natural sciences ("earth/sea/sky") where 'Imiloa's resources can support integrated culture-based science instruction with a place-based approach. These modules will ensure alignment of curriculum products with student performance expectations embedded in both the newly adopted national NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) and the new Nā Hopena A'o ("HĀ") learning outcomes framework developed by the Hawai'i State DOE. This program will allow us to begin to build a library of "learning modules" and professional development resources at 'Imiloa that can be shared more broadly, including outside Hawai'i.

UH Hilo Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies Graduate Program (TCBES)

- Science and Technology Centers around the world are more and more being viewed as critical sites for community engagement in socially challenging scientific topics. 'Imiloa has recently engaged with the UH Hilo TCBES program to raise graduate student awareness about the need to effectively communicate science to a broad spectrum of communities. The current cohort of TCBES graduate students used the Exhibit Hall to analyze 'Imiloa's exhibits for their effectiveness. 'Imiloa staff also participated in guest lectures on campus stressing the importance of integration of indigenous knowledge in to modern science perspectives.

**UH Hilo Drama and Communications Departments for a class in “Edutainment”:
Speaking and Performing for Educational Purposes**

- ‘Imiloa partners with the UH Hilo Drama and Communications Department to assist with the delivery of a course, “Edutainment”. Students were guided through the process of researching, writing, rehearsing and performing a series of presentations that deal with science and/or Hawaiian culture. Presentations were shared directly with the general public at ‘Imiloa, allowing students to use their skills in a real-world situation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 313 SD1.