



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 2:45 p.m., Room 229
By
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SB 313 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kim and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 313, which makes an appropriation for two full-time equivalent positions for the wayfinding education program – 'Imiloa Astronomy Center.

The 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo 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, the University of Hawai'i at 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 the 'Imiloa Center 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/UHH, 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. This position will also continue to serve as a link between the University 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.