



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HCR 41/HR 33 RECOGNIZING NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDS AS AN UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY GROUP AND URGING ALL SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND OTHER ACADEMIC PROGRAMS THAT GIVE PREFERENCE OR LIMIT ACCESS TO UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES TO RECOGNIZE NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDS AS A DISTINCT AND UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY

Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 23, 2005

By

Linda Johnsrud
Interim Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

Testimony Presented Before the
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Interim Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy

Chair Saiki and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i is pleased to support HCR 41/HR 33 Recognizing Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders as an underrepresented minority group and urging all scholarships, fellowships and other academic programs that give preference or limit access to underrepresented minorities to recognize Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders as a distinct and underrepresented minority. This resolution is consistent with the strategic goals of the University of Hawai'i relating to our commitment to Native Hawaiians and also our support for diversity and equity. The University of Hawai'i is pleased to support HCR 41/HR 33.

The resolution appropriately identifies historic and current issues facing Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who are underrepresented in higher education. We understand the critical need to increase the number and success of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders because it is morally right and because the campus and our state benefit from their talent and participation. The University of Hawai'i has identified and already recognizes these groups as one of the underrepresented minority groups eligible for consideration for various private, state and federal programs consistent with affirmative action laws.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students.