



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 4, 2014 at 2:01 p.m.

by
Donald O. Straney
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2443 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo). We support HB 2443 that appropriates funds to UH Hilo to support its memorandum of agreement with RISE 21st Century After School Program and the implementation of the agreement by the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i, a unit of UH Hilo.

The 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i has been cultivating community partnerships that targets greater engagement by Hawai'i Island youth with the resources of UH Hilo. A positive partnership has been established with the RISE 21st Century After School Program that serves as a community and cultural resource for disadvantaged Native Hawaiian youth in Keaukaha. The proposal will help to expand collaborative opportunities supported by staffing and curriculum resources to establish mentorships, initiate project-based learning activities, and offer academic and career planning. UH Hilo views our continued partnership and collaboration with RISE as a positive solution to increase access to higher education and career opportunities for Native Hawaiians on Hawai'i Island.

We support HB 2443 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2443. Aloha.