



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 10, 2015 at 9:00am

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

HB 1222 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Chair Ing, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and I am presenting the University's testimony on HB 1222.

Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language provides essential support for the revitalization of the Hawaiian language and its increased use in our bilingual state. In addition to university degree programs, the college prepares teachers to instruct in schools throughout the state, provides in-service training for practicing teachers, and other important support activities to help the language thrive.

The legislature previously created the Hawaiian language revolving fund to receive revenues from the sale of Hawaiian language materials created by the college. This bill would increase the range of revenues that could be placed in this fund to include revenue "generated by the Hawaiian language college, Hawaiian language support center, and indigenous outreach program through fees for service, training, and the sale of all products." There are existing ways by which the university currently receives revenues from fee for service, training and outreach programs of the college. The university believes this bill would duplicate these existing mechanisms. We are concerned that including revenue "from the sale of all products" is overly broad.

The bill would permit expenditures from the revolving fund "at the discretion of the Hawaiian language college." This would create a unique situation where a University program could make expenditures outside the regular fiscal and procurement processes of the university or the state. This is neither consistent with University governance fiscal policy nor statutorily provided budget authority for the University in Section 304A-2004 to 2005, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

The University believes the objective of this bill can already be accomplished through existing accounts and management structures. For these reasons, the university would request the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs defer further action on this bill.