



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs
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by
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HB 1223 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Chair Ing, Vice Chair Lowen and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1223. This bill addresses the need for preschool instruction through the medium of the Hawaiian language. It would create a four year pilot program to be offered by the laboratory school program of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘eliōlani, College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. The bill also identifies a funding formula and identifies the source of funding for this pilot program to be the Department of Education, the College, and the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.

While the University strongly supports the intent of this bill, there has been insufficient discussion among the funding agencies identified here to allow us to support the funding model. It is possible the resources needed to establish the program would exceed what the funding formula presented here would support. We recommend the committee defer action on this bill at this time.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.