



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs
February 10, 2016 at 9:00am

by
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HB 1224 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1224. This bill addresses the need for college-level instruction through the medium of the Hawaiian language for high school students. It would create a pilot program to be offered by Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'eliōlani, College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. This bill would also create a mechanism to enroll students, permit a fee to be charged, and permit students on federal aid to be charged full tuition costs.

The University currently has programs to enroll high school students in its college level courses on each of its campuses. The Running Start program, Hawai'i P-20's Early College Programs and ongoing collaborations with Kamehameha Schools are providing Hawai'i's high school students direct instruction at the college level. There are no barriers to offering programs under these initiatives through the medium of the Hawaiian language.

While the University strongly supports the intent of this bill, we believe its goals could be accomplished through existing programs.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.