



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 1164 Relating to Making An Appropriation for Funding and Faculty Positions for Ilokano, Filipino, and Philippine Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 10, 2005

By

Joseph O'Mealy
Interim Dean, Languages, Linguistics and Literature
University of Hawai'i

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Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Lorriane Inouye and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1164. The College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa regularly offers thirty languages each semester for students to study. Among the dozen most popular languages are Filipino and Ilokano, with strong heritage learner bases.

According to Fall, 2004, enrollments in language courses, Filipino with 171 enrolled students and Ilokano with 106 enrolled students rank as the 9th and 11th most enrolled language courses at UH Mānoa. The College is very much committed to assisting the growth of these two languages and has currently requested funding support for filling a vacant Assistant Professor position in Filipino, the hiring process for which is now underway.

We therefore support any legislation that would increase the number of faculty positions in our heritage and strategic languages, as long as such legislation does not supplant or undermine the University of Hawai'i's current Board of Regents' approved Biennium Budget Request.