



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.C.R. 122: Urging the Department of Education to Implement a Civic Responsibility Education Program

Testimony Presented Before the Senate
Committee on Higher Education and
Committee on Education & Military Affairs

April 13, 2005

By

Randy Hitz
Dean
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Testimony Presented Before the Senate
Committee on Higher Education and
Committee on Education & Military Affairs

April 13, 2005

By

Randy Hitz, Dean
College of Education
University of Hawaii at Mānoa

S.C.R. 122:

**Urging the Department of Education to Implement a Civic
Responsibility Education Program**

Chairs Hee & Sakamoto, Vice Chairs Inouye & Hooser, and
Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawaii supports the intent of S.C.R. 122 which is to strengthen the Department of Education's efforts to prepare students for citizenship in a democratic society. Too often the purpose of K-12 education is described as preparing students for the workforce. While that is certainly important, it is not sufficient. Citizens in a democratic society have responsibilities to stay informed and involved in their government. Democracy cannot thrive or survive without an informed and active citizenry. Moreover, we will never realize justice in our society if some citizens are marginalized and not involved.

S.C.R. 122 is entirely consistent with the vision of the College of Education which is to "prepare educators to contribute to a just and democratic society". It is also consistent with major efforts of the College of Education to prepare curriculum materials in the social studies. The COE Curriculum Research and Development Group has created a textbook on the history of Hawaii that is used in every high school in the state. They have also developed history texts dealing with two Asian cultures, Japan and China, which have greatly influenced Hawaii.

The University is aware of the enormous effort necessary to create meaningful change in curriculum, and we wonder if the DOE has the resources necessary at this time to properly address the requests in S.C.R. 122. Without the necessary resources, this effort will likely be dealt with superficially and will not have the intended impact.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of
S.C.R. 122.