



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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

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By

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SCR 198 URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A SEPARATE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MEDIUM EDUCATION FOR THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE PROGRAM AND TO COLLABORATE WITH THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE COLLEGE, KA HAKA 'ULA O KE'ELIKOLANI, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII`I AT HILO TO ADDRESS HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MEDIUM EDUCATION.

Aloha, Chair Sakamoto, Chair Hee and Members of the Committees:

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and the Hawaiian language college, I wish to testify in support of SCR 198.

As noted in SCR 198, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo has a long history of commitment to developing Hawaiian language medium education and success in reaching that goal while still maintaining high academic standards in English and other content areas. Our successes have drawn national attention both from researchers in Native American education and from Indian tribal governments.

The successes that we have had in meeting high academic goals in our preschool to grade 12 Hawaiian language immersion laboratory school has lead us to believe that similar success can be best achieved through a separate office of Hawaiian language medium as called for in SCR 198.

Should the Board of Education respond positively to SCR 198 and create a separate office of Hawaiian medium education, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo will work cooperatively with that office of the Department of Education and also serve as a coordinating point for inclusion and coordination of national partners who are presently working with the college of Hawaiian language laboratory school program. Among such partners are Educational Testing Services of Princeton, the RAND Corporation, and the Northwest Educational Laboratory.

The University of Hawai`i at Hilo also serves as the coordinating point for services to Hawaiian language immersion in terms of new vocabulary development, cultural standards development, and technology since legislative funding of the Hale Kuamo`o Hawaiian language center in 1989. Subsequently it was designated the government representative for the Polynesian Languages Forum by Governor Waihe`e and has continued to serve in that capacity with Polynesian government offices including government ministries of education. The governments of Polynesian then chose the Hawaiian Language College as the permanent secretariat to coordinate the meetings of the Forum.

Again, on behalf of the legislatively mandated College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo, I support this bill and confirm that the College is willing to serve as a coordinating point for external support to the Department.