



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and the
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

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By
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SCR 199 REQUESTING THE COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI`I AT HILO TO WORK WITH APPROPRIATE
GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO PROMOTE THE
HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IN ALL STATE AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICES

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

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and the state's
Hawaiian language college, I wish to support Senate Concurrent Resolution
199. The College faculty has confirmed with me its support for
this measure and the accuracy of the information included in SCR 199.

The College has just finished its work in providing the Hawaiian language
content for the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, the 40,000 square foot astronomy
science museum and educational center on the UH Hilo campus. This is the
only science museum in the United States fully bilingual in English and a
Native American language. The scope of the work of the College in
providing Hawaiian translations and terminology for the 'Imiloa Center was
considerably larger than what is being requested in SCR 199.

Mamaka Kaiāo, the dictionary of modern Hawaiian vocabulary produced by the
College, was compiled primarily for the Department of Education and the
some 2,000 students in Pūnana Leo preschool and Hawaiian immersion
classroom. This book has been developed with input from various islands
and from academics as well as native speakers. It is an indication of the
ability of the College to work cooperatively for government purposes.

The College has assured me that any new terms that need to be developed for state and county offices will go through its Lexicon Committee for approval by the statewide experts referred to above. Such new terms will be included in subsequent editions of the dictionary to be disseminated to Hawaiian language students and speakers throughout the state, both in hard copy and technologically through the Ulukau on-line library.

I asked the College to provide me with information on Ulukau and its status as the most developed indigenous language library in the world. Ulukau includes Hawaiian dictionary services, access to archival Hawaiian documents, Hawaiian curriculum and many other services. It receives approximately 20,000 hits per day, and its log shows an incredible upward trend in use: January 2005 -- 250,000 hits for the month; June 2005 --- 300,000 hits for the month; January 2006 -- 400,000 hits for the month; March 2006 -- 550,000 hits for the month.

In closing, SCR 199 appropriately designates the state's Hawaiian language college to provide services to state and county offices in developing their use of Hawaiian. The College was organized in 1998 in response to a mandate from the legislature that the University of Hawai'i establish the College, and as stated in SCR 199, the College has been legislatively mandated to provide Hawaiian language support and Hawaiian language development for the state.