



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
April 23, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.  
by  
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SCR198 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO CONDUCT AN OUTREACH PROGRAM, PERFORM A NEEDS ASSESSMENT, AND ESTABLISH A HIGHER EDUCATION LEARNING CENTER IN THE DISTRICT OF PUNA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. We support SCR198 to conduct an outreach program, perform a needs assessment and establish a Higher Education Learning Center Project in the District of Puna.

Agriculture is a promising career choice for a new generation of innovative and responsible leaders who will contribute to the future needs of our island economy. There is a critical need to strengthen rural outreach, education and economic development. We propose to use the funds to establish an outreach program under our College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM). CAFNRM will hire personnel and provide outreach services and short training courses on farm management, sustainable crop production, value-added food products, etc. Furthermore, the outreach personnel will conduct an assessment of community educational and training needs for agricultural development and to increase community engagement and participation in agricultural education, workforce development and economic opportunities for the people of Puna.

We support SCR198 provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR198. Aloha.