



HCR113
URGING ALL HAWAII HIGH SCHOOLS TO
PROVIDE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 23, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HCR113, which urges all Hawai'i high schools, both private and public, to provide Hawaiian language courses.

In 1896, a law was passed that banned Hawaiian from being spoken in schools. The impact of this law was devastating. By the early 1980s, Hawaiian language teetered on the brink of extinction, with only a handful of native speakers under the age of 18. To save the language, advocates established Hawaiian language immersion schools to create new generations of native speakers. More than 25 years later, these schools remain at the center of the thriving Hawaiian language movement. It's important to note that schools have played a key role in both the decline and revival of Hawaiian language.

We support this resolution because Hawaiian language underpins our culture and identity and its protection and perpetuation is vital to Native Hawaiians as a people. Every private and public school in Hawai'i that offers foreign language courses should at the very least also offer courses in Hawaiian, which is not only the native language of Hawai'i but also the official language of the State of Hawai'i.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS HCR113. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to present this testimony.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
Testimony of President Soulee Stroud
HCR113
**URGING ALL HAWAII HIGH SCHOOLS TO
PROVIDE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES**
Before the
HOUSE JOINT COMMITTEES ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Wednesday; March 23, 2011;8:30a.;Rm. 329

Aloha Madam Chair Hanohano of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee and Madam Chair Wooley of the Culture and Arts Committee. I am Soulee Stroud here to speak in support of House Concurrent Resolution 113 Urging All Hawaii High Schools to Provide Hawaiian Language Classes.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is comprised of sixty component clubs in Hawaii and eleven states and the District of Columbia on the continent. Each year we hold an annual convention and conduct several days of business at which we also submit resolutions that are debated in committees. If they pass out of our committees they are voted upon in plenary session by the House of Delegates.

In 2010 our convention was held in Keauhou, Hawaii and more than fifty resolutions were adopted. Resolution #10-32 was entitled:
**URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO RECOGNIZE ITS
RESPONSIBILITY TO ABIDE BY ARTICLE 15, SECTION 4 OF THE
HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION AS CREATED AND ENACTED IN
THE 1978 HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**

The resolution spells out the systematic demise of the Hawaiian language by simply passing a law in 1896, following the overthrow of Kingdom of Hawaii that prohibited the use of Hawaiian language as a medium of education in public schools. To use the language in school was to be punished.

LATE TESTIMONY

The repressive law of 1896 was repealed eventually and in 1978 the State Constitutional Convention made both English and Hawaiian the official languages of the State as defined in Article 15, Section 4.

In the year 2011 we look to our children and grandchildren who benefit from a Hawaiian Renaissance and eagerly take to olelo makuahine. The Association of Hawaiian Civic clubs fully supports House Concurrent 113 and urge its passage.

For further information please contact our Government Relations Chair, Jalna Keala at jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

clee2 - Matt

From: Alohilani Okamura [kumualohilani@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:41 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Subject: HCR 113

Aloha mai kakou e na hoa makamaka o Na Kai 'Ewalu,
As a Hawaiian language instructor in the public schools for the last 20 years,
it is with great joy and pride that I write to support House Bill HCR 113.

Hawaiian language classes have proven to be a wonderful venue for our students of all ethnicities to understand the beauty of our island home through the study of our traditions, values and history.

The language is the vehicle for which aloha is spoken and which gives life to us all. There are dozens of students who come through our program every year in which their lives are saved.

The Hawaiian language is not just a class that they are enrolled in, but a venue to understand the complexities of our world in a culturally appropriate context.

One of the greatest challenges the Hawaiian language classes have faced within the last five years is that of enrollment. Competing against "required courses" such as the doubling of math and english courses, many schools have opted to relinquish their kuleana to provide Hawaiian language courses as an option.

Please join me in supporting HCR 113 and urge all schools to provide Hawaiian language classes.

'O wau no me ka ha'aha'a,
Kumu 'Alohilani Okamura
W.R. Farrington High School
Hawaiian Language Chairperson
Hawaiian Academy Director

clee2 - Matt

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:01 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: alika_m@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HCR113 on 3/23/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 3/23/2011 8:30:00 AM HCR113

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alika McNicoll
Organization: AHA PUNANA LEO
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: alika_m@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:
21 March 2011

The Honorable Faye P. Hanohano

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Support for HCR 113

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 113.

On behalf of 'Aha Punana Leo's Niuolahiki Distance Learning Program, I, Mr. Alika McNicoll, coordinator of said distance learning program, would like to express our support of HCR 113.

As the vision of 'Aha Punana Leo is "E ola ka 'olelo Hawai'i, The Hawaiian language shall live," we strongly feel that all public and private high schools in Hawai'i should offer Hawaiian language classes.

If, however, funding becomes an issue with the hiring of qualified teachers to teach these classes, 'Aha Punana Leo's Niuolahiki Distance Learning Program, offering rigorous, online Hawaiian language courses, would be more than happy to assist in filling this potential void.

In fact, we are currently working in partnership with a private high school on Hawai'i Island and have administered our online lessons with said school for the past year with very positive outcomes.

It is our goal to assist all of Hawai'i's people here and abroad in effectively learning Hawaiian via the internet.

Mahalo nui for your time.

Humbly submitted,
Mr. Alika McNicoll
Coordinator



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