

SCR 52



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
March 30, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.

By

Rockne Freitas, Vice President for Student Affairs and University/Community Relations
And

Linda K. Johnsrud, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost
University of Hawai'i

**SCR 52: REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF AN ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM TO
CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY WITHIN
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

Chair Galuteria, Vice Chair Ryan, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

SCR 52 requests the University of Hawai'i President, in consultation with the Puko'a Council and other campus representatives, to convene an academic symposium to consider the establishment of a Hawaiian Language University within the UH System, and report to the Legislature and the Governor prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the intent of SCR 052 but respectfully requests the members of the committee to defer this resolution and allow the University to address this important matter. One of the primary strategic outcomes approved by the UH Board of Regents (BOR) in 2009 is for the University of Hawai'i to become a model indigenous-serving University. The BOR further expanded the mission of the University to affirm "its unique responsibilities to the indigenous people of Hawai'i and Hawaii's indigenous language and culture." More specifically, the administration is charged to provide "a level support for the study of Hawaiian language, culture, and history within the University of Hawai'i system that honors, perpetuates, and strengthens those disciplines into the future."

In keeping with this commitment, at the March 2011 Board of Regents meeting President Greenwood announced a system-wide academic planning initiative that will set forth the direction, priorities, and plans for the realization of the goal for UH to become a model indigenous-serving University. Building upon the strong programs in Hawaiian language, culture, and history developing across the ten campuses, this planning initiative will identify best practice in promoting and perpetuating an indigenous language and culture, will determine the gaps, strengths, and challenges of the University's current programs, and will outline a plan with a timeline and needed resources for UH to achieve the distinction of a model indigenous serving University.

A steering committee will be appointed by the President, with representation from each of the ten campuses within the University community. Multiple forums will be sponsored

across the state to gather the insights of faculty, staff, students within the University community as well as from interested individuals and entities outside of the University committed to the advancement of Hawaiian language and culture.

The steering committee will be chaired by Vice President for Student Affairs and University and Community Relations, Rockne Freitas, and the committee will be staffed by the office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. The planning initiative has been launched with a set of recommendations to be completed no later than December 2011. A copy of the final report will be made available to the legislature before the start of the 2012 session. We therefore respectfully request that this committee defer SCR 52.

Thank you very much for your continued support of UH and for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Me 'Oe Ku'u Mahalo.



SCR52

**REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF AN ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM TO
CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY
WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM**

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 30, 2011

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on SCR52, which requests the President of the University of Hawai'i System to convene an academic symposium to consider the establishment of a Hawaiian Language University within the University of Hawai'i System.

OHA encourages the consideration of the creation of a Hawaiian Language University as this will inevitably elevate the academic status and advancement of the Hawaiian language at the state, national and international levels. OHA recognizes the complexity in establishing a university within a university, and we recommend full and open dialogue on the issue. We appreciate the consideration of the Pūko'a Council as a means to engage the Native Hawaiian academic community in this symposium.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

**SCR 52 REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF AN ACADEMIC
SYMPOSIUM TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE UNIVERSITY WITHIN THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Wednesday; March 30, 2011; 2:45 p.; Rm. 224

Aloha Chairman Galuteria and Vice Chair Ryan of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I am Soulee Stroud here to support the passage of SCR 52 Requesting the convening of an Academic Symposium to Consider the Establishment of a Hawaiian Language University Within the University of Hawaii System.

If implemented, Senate Concurrent Resolution 52 will provide a huge step forward in the re-establishment of the Hawaiian language. It will enlist new students and speakers of the language and give renewed encouragement to those teachers and students who have been steadfast in the long struggle to bring back olelo makuahine.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, through its individual clubs, has consistently provided financial assistance to many past and current students of the Hawaiian language. Supporting SCR 52 is consistent with our established goals of protecting and preserving all aspects of the Hawaiian cultural heritage.

We urge your support of SCR 52. Mahalo nui.

Contact jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net