

Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135 Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

SCR 71(SSCR3174) URGING THE STATE AND STATE ENTITIES TO SUPPORT THE HOKULE`A AND HER CREW AS THEY JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD

Wednesday, 4/16/14; 9:00 am; Room 312

Aloha Chairman Takai, vice chair Ito and members of the House Committee deliberating on SCR 71 calling for support for the Hokule'a as it sails around the world.

Nainoa Thompson, Captain of the voyaging canoe Hokule'a, appeared at our convention in October, 2013 and spoke movingly of the history and future of the Hokule'a. Upon completion of his address the assembled delegates gave him a standing ovation, sending him off with pule, aloha and best wishes for fair winds and calm seas.

This measure calls for the people of the State of Hawaii and entities of the State to provide supporting infrastructure and network to the Hokule'a and her fearless crew throughout their long voyage. The world will soon know of the Great Pacific Voyaging Canoes and the courageous people who sailed beyond the horizon to find the high mountain islands of Hawaii.

Celebrate the Hokule'a as it ventures forth on May 17, 2014! We urge the passage of this resolution.

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Wednesday, April 16, 2014 9:00 AM Conference Room 423

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

<u>RE: SCR 71 – Urging the State and State Entities to support the Hokule'a and Her Crew as</u> <u>they journey around the world</u>

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Educational Council (HEC) and Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) board member. In a partnership between HEC and PVS, Nainoa Thompson and I have founded the Mālama Honua Learning Center (MHLC), a public charter school and teaching institute located in Waimānalo committed to providing the students of Hawaii a rigorous, values-based, and place-based education. MHLC stands to provide the community with a school dedicated to indigenous cultural values that nourish goodness; in addition to helping students develop into wise, compassionate navigators of their learning, lives and the 21st century global world.

The purpose of our school is to perpetuate the legacy of the Worldwide Voyage (WWV). All of the invaluable lessons learned and knowledge gained over the course of the four-year voyage will reside at MHLC to benefit the students and teachers of Hawaii for many generations to come.

HEC is in strong support of SCR 71, a resolution that would urge the state and state entities to support the Hokule'a and her crew as they journey around the world.

The WWV serves to teach us, as well as future generations, lessons of environmental justice such as sustainability and social justice issues such as learning to 'mālama honua' with one another.

Thank you to the House for its leadership in recognizing this historical voyage with this resolution and for the opportunity to testify in strong support of it.