

SCR134

Measure Title: EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF THE CLASSICS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES OF EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.

Report Title: Classics Department; University of Hawaii

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
3/13/2015	S	Offered.
3/23/2015	S	Referred to HEA.
3/27/2015	S	The committee(s) on HEA has scheduled a public hearing on 03-31-15 2:00PM in conference room 224.

Dr. Tamara Albertini, UH Philosophy Department (96822)
Dr. Roger Ames, UH Philosophy Department (96822)
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

SCR134/SR81: Supporting the UHM Classics Division
Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 02:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Innouye, and Members of the Committee:

As Faculty of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Hawaii with a long-standing interest in the study of the Classics, we **strongly support** SCR134/SR81. This resolution provides support to the Classics Division at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for the recent and unexpected death of a beloved faculty member. Further, this resolution recognizes that the Division is currently struggling to resolve two urgent issues that arose from this sudden decrease in faculty staff support.

The first issue concerns the lack of available funds in the Division for the salary and operational expenses of a new faculty staff member. The sum of the salary and operational expenses, for which the Division shall petition the Legislature in the Regular Session of 2016, is modest in amount. In providing the Division with the means to hire a new faculty staff member, the Division could continue providing its impressive array of courses, including the study of Classical languages and their respective cultures, histories, and mythologies.

We strongly urge this Committee to further consider the worth of these courses from another, entirely practical, perspective: many of these courses satisfy one or more requirements, established by the University, that each student must satisfy prior to graduation. While every course matters for its inherent intellectual value, we respectfully would direct this Committee's attention toward the potential economic value built into these courses. Specifically, these courses serve as a vehicle by which students develop promptly and thoroughly into productive forces within the State's economy.

The second issue concerns the incredible efforts now exerted everyday by the remaining faculty staff members in order to maintain the quality and diversity of standards for the Division's teaching and academic requirements. These requirements were once distributed evenly and sustainably among the four faculty staff members. This struggle is unacceptable, especially within an institution of the caliber and resources as the University of Hawaii at Manoa. These professors have selflessly served many generations of local and out-of-state students and contributed to the ongoing growth of State residents that hold a degree from an institution of higher education of education. Through passage of this resolution, your Committee would take the first step to ensure the sustainability of the Classics Division at the University of Hawaii of Manoa. This is a division that also greatly benefits both undergraduate and graduate students of philosophy.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify before your Committee.

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Grant Kurosawa
Aiea, 96701

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: janej@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR134 on Mar 31, 2015 14:00PM
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 10:44:38 PM

SCR134

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for HEA on Mar 31, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Chesmore	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe the program in classics should continue at the University of Hawaii because it provides important educational history for students, helping enrich their knowledge of the past and how it helped pave the way for the present and future. I would know this because I was a student who enjoyed and learned a lot during courses that taught classics at the University of Hawaii.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Katie Kananileialoha Kawika
Kapolei, HI 96707

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Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Katie Kananileialoha Kawika, and as an alumni of the University of Hawai‘i with a long-standing interest in the study of the Classics, I submit this testimony today in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR134/SR81**. This resolution provides support to the Classics Division at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa for the recent and unexpected death of a beloved faculty member. Further, this resolution recognizes that the Division is currently struggling to resolve two urgent issues that arose from this sudden decrease in faculty staff support.

The first issue concerns the lack of available funds in the Division for the salary and operational expenses of a new faculty staff member, and the need for support. The second issue concerns the formidable efforts of the remaining faculty and staff members to maintain the quality and diversity of standards for the Division’s teaching and academic requirements prior to the loss of their colleague.

In the three years since I have graduated from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, I have subsequently begun a successful career as a historian, writer, public speaker, and educator. I credit this personal and professional success in part to two of my college professors and mentors.

One of these inspirational women is the reason for my testimony today. In Fall 2009, I enrolled in HON 291H, as taught by Professor Sandra Schwartz, Ph.D. At the time, I had no idea that this class, this passionate professor, and ultimately my study of the Classics, would change my personal view about historical pedagogy and inspire me to create a curriculum of my own. This course provided my classmates and I with the opportunity participate in a unique teaching curriculum called "Reacting to the Past" (RTTP), which was designed as a complex historical game. Entitled, "The Threshold of Democracy: Athens, 403 B.C.," the first half of the curriculum introduced my class to the Classics Division through first hand experience.

In the wake of treason, rebellion, political instability and Athenian military defeat, all students in the class were designated as members of the Assembly. In the Assembly, which was reopened by advocates of Democracy, students took on roles as Radical Democrats, Moderate Democrats, Oligarchs and Socratics, and debated political, economic and social issues. This was not historical reenactment, but an opportunity for

critical thinking, logic, and either the repetition, or reinvention of history. As a member of the Socratic faction, one of my responsibilities was to take the stand and defend Socrates during his infamous trial. This teaching module incorporated the study of Classical languages and their respective cultures, histories, and mythologies. In addition to lectures on the above topics, students read and discussed Plato's *Republic*, a classic, Socratic dialogue which addresses the definition of justice and the organization and governance of the city-state. Studying Plato's *Republic* is merely one example as to how Classic literature has impacted our current system of governance, and how applicable it is for students to have the opportunity to learn about its relevancy from a competent professor.

The study of the Classics provide a platform for other Nations, Cultures, and People. Languages such as Greek and Latin serve as foundational building blocks for many widely used languages today. However, it is not merely practicality that leads me to submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR134/SR81**, but actually the way I was inspired to build on models of the Classics to explore the evolution of my own cultural identity.

In subsequent years, not unlike my Athenian alter ego Anaxagoras (*Leader of the Assembly*), I continued to work with Dr. Schwartz to share this passion for historical education with other students. I enjoyed classes on Greek and Roman History, Gender and Sexuality in the Ancient World, and Medieval Studies. In 2010 I worked as a Teaching Assistant with other HON 291H classes and continued on in independent study to adopt the RTTP teaching module and co-author a Hawai'i curriculum. My text, which was drafted to educate students across the continental US about the events leading up to the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893, would not have been written without my first foray into 403 B.C Athens, Greece.

In conclusion, it is obvious that the Classics are relevant not only to my life and career as a historian and educator, but also in all facets of education, politics, government, oration, and many other topics. I feel that the study of the Classics is an area of education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa that should not be allowed to fall into jeopardy due to lack of funds or insufficient staff. I can personally attest to the caliber of exemplary educators, such as Dr. Saundra Schwartz, who are employed in the Classics Division. I know that it would be a travesty if the loss of a single colleague in the Division could lower the quality of education that our hard working faculty are striving to provide and preserve.

Therefore, Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee, I urge you to vote today in **SUPPORT** of **SCR134/SR81**. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Michael Dufresne
Honolulu, 96822

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graduation. While every course matters for its inherent intellectual value, I respectfully would direct this Committee's attention toward the potential economic value built into these courses. Specifically, these courses serve as a vehicle by which my classmates and I develop promptly and thoroughly into productive forces within the State's economy.

The second issue concerns the incredible efforts now exerted everyday by the remaining faculty staff members in order to maintain the quality and diversity of standards for the Division's teaching and academic requirements. These requirements were once distributed evenly and sustainably among the four faculty staff members. This struggle is unacceptable, especially within an institution of the caliber and resources as the University of Hawaii at Manoa. These professors have selflessly served many generations of local and out-of-state students and contributed to the ongoing growth of State residents that hold a degree from an institution of higher education of education. Through passage of this resolution, your Committee would take the first step to ensure the sustainability of the Classics Division at the University of Hawaii of Manoa.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify before your Committee.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

March 30, 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

SCR134/SR81: Supporting the UHM Classics Division

Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 02:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

As a faculty member of the History Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I give my strongest support of the **SCR134/SR81**, a resolution to provide support for the replacement for the unexpected, recent death of a much beloved faculty member in the Classics Division here at UHM.

My specialty is the history of the ancient world. Many students are interested in the history, culture, and arts of Greece and Rome. Over the past decades, course enrollments in Greek and Roman history demonstrate great student interest in the subject. The study of languages and literature is an absolutely essential complement to my courses. UHM is the only university in the state to offer courses in Greek and Latin languages. Without this program, and without the faculty to sustain it, students in Hawai'i will be deprived of the opportunity to be part of a millennia-old intellectual tradition.

The legacy of ancient Greece and Rome is one of the world's great heritages. Just as natural scientists emphasize the obligation to protect biological diversity, scholars of history and humanities recognize that the loss of Greek and Latin language and literature cannot be measured in terms of head counts and tuition revenue alone. Many disciplines look to classical philosophy, literature, and history and touchstones for the human experience.

The funding of a faculty position would do much to shore up and continue to sustain the treasured intellectual diversity of the University of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this important matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Schwartz'.

Sandra Schwartz
Assistant Professor of History

Stormy Dodge
Ewa Beach, 96706

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

SCR134/SR81: Supporting the UHM Classics Division

Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 02:00 PM

State Capitol Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

As a student of the University of Hawaii with a long-standing interest in the study of the Classics, I **strongly support** SCR134/SR81. This resolution provides support to the Classics Division at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for the recent and unexpected death of a beloved faculty member. Further, this resolution recognizes that the Division is currently struggling to resolve two urgent issues that arose from this sudden decrease in faculty staff support.

The first issue concerns the lack of available funds in the Division for the salary and operational expenses of a new faculty staff member. The sum of the salary and operational expenses, for which the Division shall petition the Legislature in the Regular Session of 2016, is modest in amount. In providing the Division with the means to hire a new faculty staff member, the Division could continue providing its impressive array of courses, including the study of Classical languages and their respective cultures, histories, and mythologies.

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Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify before your Committee.