

SR81

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.

S = Senate | H = House | D = Data Systems | \$ = Appropriation measure | ConAm = Constitutional Amendment

As an Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I am writing to express my strong support for measure SR81, which affirms support for the Classics Program.

Classics at UHM is special and I feel lucky to be part of it. We are small, with only three full-time faculty, but we punch above our weight. We provide instruction in four languages (Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and Egyptian) and also offer large numbers of courses taught in-translation on a range of topics including literature, mythology, ancient culture, etc. Our courses also contribute to the general education requirements at UHM and are among the most popular at the University.

Our Classics majors are drawn to us because of the breadth of education provided by the Classics degree, which is a flexible degree program that includes the study of language, literature, history, philosophy, religion, art history, and other fields. They also come to us because we can offer them the individualized attention that larger programs sometimes cannot. We get to know our students well and work closely with them to help them develop intellectually, professionally, and personally.

I am so proud of all our students and feel I gain as much from working with them as they do from me. I want to mention just one example. One of my Latin students, Brendon Oshita, is a talented composer of electronic music. Partly due to Brendon's own initiative, we recently co-created a hip-hop method for learning Latin grammar. Working together in the recording studios in UHM's Moore Hall, we produced a 30-track album that was released in 2014 by Bolchazy-Carducci, the premier publisher of classical pedagogical materials in the United States.

This kind of personalized, creative, passionate interaction is a hallmark of the kind of teaching and learning that goes on both in and outside of the classroom in the Classics Program. We have a long tradition of this kind of student-teaching interaction, and hope to improve upon this in the future. Your recognition of the good things we are doing is truly appreciated.

Yours with Best Wishes,

Daniel Harris-McCoy
Assistant Professor of Classics
UH Manoa

Dr. Tamara Albertini, 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.

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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: chrisbeaule@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SR81 on Mar 31, 2015 14:00PM
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 11:53:33 AM

SR81

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
Christine Beaule	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly urge you to support this measure. Classics have always been an integral part of a liberal arts education, for as long as humankind has pursued an intellectual life. Students in UH Manoa's Classics courses learn crucial critical thinking skills, writing and oral presentation, rhetoric and logic, and in some cases, the languages that reveal the roots of our own tongue and civilization. Classics is a good example of a division and discipline that can easily get lost in more public, visible efforts to support Hawaiian, Filipino, Pacific, and East Asian languages and area studies. These are important areas of academic work at our university. But a research university that is globally connected, in a place that prides itself on its diversity, MUST also provide students with a strong foundation in great books, historically important writers and thinkers, and languages. We are fortunate indeed to have a small but gifted Classics faculty that do exactly that. Please support this measure in recognition of the importance of Classics to the state and people of Hawaii.

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The Classics are an important part of University of Hawaii curriculum and its hardworking professors deserve respect and support for their endeavors in educating citizens on this subject. In order to plan for the future, recognition of the past is required. In studying the classics, the origins of modern ideals and politics are laid out for students. Even patrons of other majors can benefit from philosophy, writing style, and ethics written by equally- if not more- enlightened scholars from centuries ago. One cannot fully embrace a diversified education without the Language, Literature, and Classics department.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: danter@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR81 on Mar 31, 2015 14:00PM*
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 2:01:38 PM

SR81

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
Dante Rengiil	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: grantkurosawa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SR81 on Mar 31, 2015 14:00PM
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 4:41:08 PM
Attachments: [SCR134 SR81TestimonyTemplate.doc](#)

SR81

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
Grant Kurosawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I was never officially a history major at UH Manoa as I had aspirations of getting into the business school. However, I've always had an interest in the classics, especially Greek and Roman literature, as its influence is still prominent in our modern culture and can be seen throughout the world. I can say that taking classes in history really did broaden my overall knowledge, more so than other 'core' classes; as it really is the study of human interaction and how it changed; through time and region. While theory and hypothesis are important in academics, history is unique as it relies a lot on empirical study and primary sources. Works and research gathered throughout time, some thousands of years old! History is important on many levels, especially in regards to the Classics as it examines the human as it was during specific time's and helps us to understand culture as it is today and perhaps even the future. It's a dynamic field with new information discovered constantly as well as new methods to teach it. In the semesters I took history at UH Manoa studying Greek and Roman Classics, we tried many different methods of study. Of course there was reading and studying of primary sources, but also acting out history, trying to rationally the motivations of key figures of the past. In fact, these were actual methods used in Rome to train aspiring Senators to train them in public speaking and oration. Being able to convey complex ideas with passion, to be able to argue a point and to be accurate were all enforced, and at the end our class not only had a good grasp of history but also new techniques with teamwork, and speech memorization. To me the way we communicated then and now is an important thing to study, it shows us the good and the bad and how to become better as people. It serves society as a template to not repeat mistakes of the past and how to better ourselves toward the future. It's sad that something as important as the classics is in jeopardy of continuing and we actually need to be reminded why the study of history is important. I wholly support this bill and hope the Classics Division at UH Manoa gets the support it deserves because it supported me on my academic journey. Thank you very much for your time and the opportunity to testify.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: inicolay@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR81 on Mar 31, 2015 14:00PM*
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 11:54:47 AM

SR81

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian Nicolay	Individual	Support	No

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**Katie Kananileialoha Kawika
Kapolei, HI 96707**

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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:

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

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 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.

I 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, 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.

Miles Martin
Honolulu, 96848

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

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: pcturk2@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SR81 on Mar 31, 2015 14:00PM
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:12:05 PM
Attachments: [SCR134_SR81Testimony.doc](#)

SR81

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
Patrick Cody Turk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

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**Pavel Stankov
Aiea, HI 96701**

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:

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pavel Stankov", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Pavel Stankov

March 30, 2015

Robert Littman
Honolulu, HI 96822

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

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To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: ryandf@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR81 on Mar 31, 2015 14:00PM*
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:02:27 PM

SR81

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
Ryan Fleming	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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

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