



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

By  
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor  
And  
Denise Eby Konan, Dean  
College of Social Sciences  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 119 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO FUND AND FILL  
THE VACANT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE  
POSITION AT THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on SCR 119. The College of Social Sciences values the significance of African American history and its impact in shaping the past of both America and the State of Hawai'i. We strongly believe it is an important area of study and scholarship.

We are aware of concerns around the current vacancy in the Ethnic Studies Department dedicated to African American history and contemporary issues. Please know that the position is not being abolished from the department, and we have no intention of doing so. However, funding to fill the position, as it is with many other positions across all the units within the university, has not been available.

The college reiterates the importance of investing in the future of its students and recounts the factors that led to this current situation:

- Since 2009, the college's general fund base has been reduced by more than \$1.89 million, which is roughly a reduction of 12 percent. At the same time, collective bargaining has increased salary costs.
- Continued restrictions, such as unfunded liabilities and a mandated five percent reserve, have required that the college put in place austerity measures designed to maintain its level of services while adapting to the continuing erosion of its base budget and fiscal policies imposed by the administration.
- Since 2011, the college has lost 10 instructional faculty positions, and currently there are 22.5 instructional faculty positions that we have been unable to fill due

to funding constraints. These include vacancies in areas of high student demand such as Communications, Psychology, Sociology and academic advising.

We share your frustration and reiterate our commitment to the value of the study of the African American experience. Filling this position, along with other critical needs, remains our top agenda as we find our way through the reality of our current economic situation.

Testimony to Senate Committee  
Ways and Means

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Tuesday April 5, 2016, 1:00pm, Conference Room 211

Strong Support for SCR 119 Urging The University Of Hawai‘i At Mānoa To Fund And Fill The  
Vacant African American Studies Faculty Tenure Line Position At The College Of Social  
Sciences

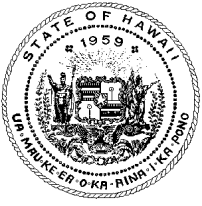
Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

The Department of Ethnic Studies (ES) strongly supports SCR 119 as we feel it is imperative that the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) funds and fills a position dedicated to African American history and contemporary issues. This position in ES fell vacant in 2013 when the department’s tenured African Americanist left. The position is critical to the role ES has played at the university and in the community. Our department offers a learning experience that is meaningful to UHM’s diverse body of students who take the deep knowledge of ethnic and racial struggles and achievements back to their own communities. Many community members have greatly benefitted from this approach to learning.

African American studies is part of every ethnic studies department’s core curriculum. At the UHM’s Department of Ethnic Studies, two core African American studies courses are part of the group-specific courses ES majors are required to take. The African American Experience I and II 300-level sequence is very popular among ES majors. Non-majors take them as well because these are among the few UHM courses that focus on African Americans. These courses cover an essential part of our collective history that ranges from the enslavement of Africans and African Americans to the civil rights movement and the contemporary social justice and solidarity movements led by African Americans. At UHM, where we have only a handful of African American professors, the ES faculty member who teaches these courses serves as a much-needed mentor to and role model for our African American students. That faculty member is an important link between the university and the local African American community. The experiences of African Americans in the Islands, including those of President Obama, are a critical part of Hawai‘i, U.S., and global history, and they are important for present and future scholarship in the social sciences.

Even as we write, students across more than a 100 campuses on the U.S. continent point to structural racism at their universities, and demand ethnic studies courses. They have led protests to demand the appointment of African American faculty members. To not have an African Americanist as part of the UHM’s Ethnic Studies faculty at this moment, when the need for students to understand the struggles of African Americans is so urgent, harms the university’s core values of engaged learning, student and faculty diversity, and a multicultural education.

This harm is compounded by the fact that African American students and faculty are already underrepresented in the College and at UHM. In the wake of the events in Ferguson in 2014, our students (supported by faculty) organized a talk story forum that drew a standing room only crowd. Many of the students there, both African American and allies, expressed their gratitude for finally having a space to talk about the issues being raised nationally in the Black Lives Matter movement; they asked us to (re)hire an African American specialist so that these conversations could be sustained. These same students have marched in the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, hosted a Black Studies Matter discussion in February, delegated the Dean of the College of Social Sciences and the Chancellor of UHM, and are currently cosponsoring upcoming UHM events featuring leading Black scholars and activists D. Watkins and Angela Davis. Given this vibrancy, we urge the committee to pass SCR 119. Mahalo for allowing us to testify on this.



# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 • PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

April 5, 2016  
Rm. 211, 1:00 p.m.

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair  
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

## Re: S.C.R. No. 119

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

S.C.R. No. 119, urges the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to fund and fill a vacant African American Studies faculty tenure line position in the College of Social Sciences, Department of Ethnic Studies. The HCRC supports S.C.R. No. 119.

It is our understanding that the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) College of Social Sciences has not approved repeated requests from the Department of Ethnic Studies (ES) to fill a faculty position dedicated to African American history and contemporary issues, vacant since the 2013 departure of the tenured incumbent. This is cause for great concern, and the UHM College of Social Sciences should carefully consider the import of this decision and action. For the reasons discussed below, it is critical that African American history be included and integrated in ES curricula, not just addressed separately elsewhere in other departments.

Hawai‘i has a proud civil rights history of our own, and a civil rights movement that paralleled the civil rights movement on the US continent.

We have a history of race and ethnicity-based occupational stratification with roots deep in the plantation system, and segregation in housing (segregated plantation camps and segregated neighborhoods, reinforced by restrictive covenants), education (segregation implemented through exclusive private institutions and the English Standard system), and segregated clubs (*e.g.*, the Pacific Club infamously denying sitting Supreme Court Justice Masaji Marumoto’s bid to become its first Asian member in 1963). In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, there were

several high profile criminal cases that taught the lesson that in Hawai‘i, the quality of justice a person was entitled to depended on their race. (*e.g.*, the *Goto*, *Fukunaga*, and *Massie* cases).

This history of discrimination and injustice gave rise to Hawai‘i’s civil rights movement, directly tied to the progress of organized labor and the ILWU, who in efforts to organize plantation workers won and secured the right to vote, the right to assemble and associate, the right to trial by jury of peers, and the rights to free speech and due process. In the Constitutional Convention of 1950, a civil rights provision was adopted, providing that no person “... shall be denied enjoyment of the person’s civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex, or ancestry.” This civil rights provision can still be found in the Hawai‘i State Constitution, in Article I, §5. And, Hawai‘i’s state fair employment law was enacted in 1963, the year before the enactment of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

This brief recitation of Hawai‘i civil rights history is not offered to illustrate that it is separate from the US Civil Rights Movement that dates back to slavery, emancipation, and Jim Crow, and continues through the present. It is offered to show that our struggles for justice and equality are related, contemporaneous, and inextricably linked. Our Hawai‘i civil rights movement would not have been, but for the African American civil rights struggle.

This is what Ethnic Studies teaches us. “Our History, Our Way,” is more than a slogan. It reflects that learning this integrated history is empowering in a very real way. ES teaches us that slavery was related to the contract labor system, and that both were outlawed by the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment prohibition against slavery and peonage. By teaching history as an integrated whole, that context gives meaning to both histories; the civil rights movement is not something remote, something that happened far away and long ago. This opens our eyes to critical analysis of current discrimination issues, income and social inequality, police violence against minorities, anti-Muslim hysteria, and Native Hawaiian claims. This invites college students to engage in critical thinking and analysis.

Finally, it is important that African American history be included in ES. UH ES is a pioneer among ethnic studies programs nationwide, one of the first and the few that include all these histories in an integrated ethnic studies department, rather than separated into smaller parts (Black Studies, Latino Studies, Asian American Studies, etc.) that can be more easily pitted against each other and dismantled. This has inured to the benefit of generations of Hawai‘i leaders who are products of ES, dating back to the 1970s. No doubt, these community leaders will come forward to support ES in the face of proposed actions to diminish or dismantle it as a viable and valuable UHM asset.

Thank you for your consideration.

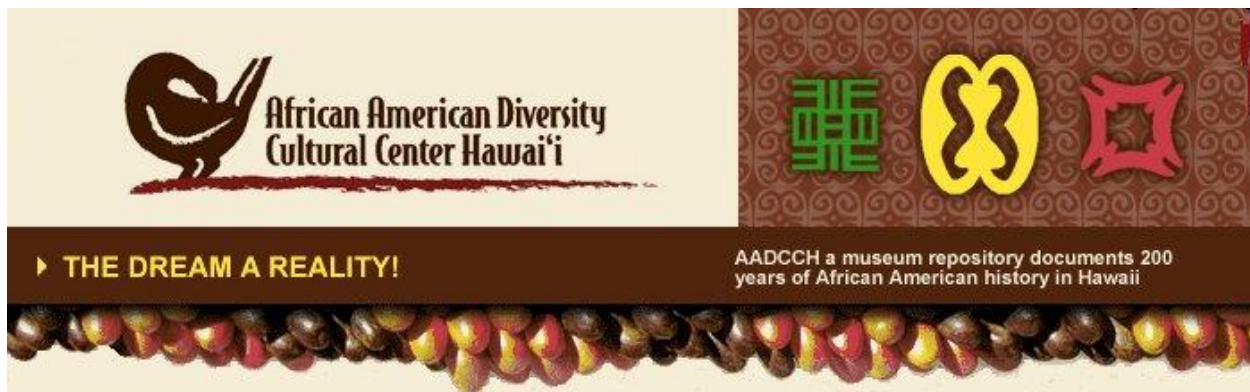
**From:** [Alphonso Brags](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** NAACP supports  
**Date:** Sunday, April 03, 2016 11:14:35 AM

---

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
S.C.R. 119 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO FUND AND FILL  
THE VACANT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE POSITION AT  
THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.

Alphonso Braggs  
President

Sent from my iPhone



Hawaii National Bank Building o 1311 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 203 o Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 o Tel. 808-597-1341 o [aadccch.org](http://aadccch.org)

### Testimony in Support of SCR No. 119

To Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair and Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

We, the community urge the University of Hawaii at Manoa to fill the vacant African American Studies Faculty Position in the College of Social Sciences.

It's imperative for the presence of Hawaiian African and contemporary people of African descent to be represented among Hawaii's ethnic groups in the Department of Ethnic Studies. We cannot be erased from the culture fabric of these islands after two hundred years. African people were settlers in these islands long before the hegemonic dominance of the missionaries' children establishing of plantations and bringing in laborers from China, Japan, Philippines, and Korea including African Americans and Puerto Ricans.

The Hawaiian Africana settlers' children are the faces of this diverse population today. We the contemporary settlers are an integral part of the islands. The late Nolle Smith, a Territorial Legislator was responsible for the advocating that the University of Hawaii become a four-year institution.

In the twenty first century, it's interesting to experience the age old mindset that the founders of America propaganda about people of color. Yet, today, it is the people of color using the same dynamics as the founding fathers to keep us from being at the table (academically or politically) in these islands.

It's time to change, President Barack Obama a local boy has put Hawaii on the world map. We can no longer using "being local" as something to cherish. All our children need to participate in democracy. Education is the key! We need the African American position to be filled and tenured this year.

With Great Respect and Aloha

Deloris Guttman

Historian





**From:** [Dr. Debra Y. Butler](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Fill the African American Faculty Position  
**Date:** Sunday, April 03, 2016 9:39:40 AM

---

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights strongly SUPPORT S.C.R. 119 which urges U.H. Manoa to fill the African American Ethnic Studies faculty position. HFCR supports programs and policies that promote social justice, non-discrimination and equal access. We believe that the Manoa campus has a special and important obligation to provide academic courses on the history and contributions of African Americans in Hawai'i and the US. Manoa students and the state of Hawaii deserve to have a full time faculty member teach these courses for the benefit of our multicultural student body and our state. Please accept our appreciation for this resolution that expresses support for the values of diversity, equality, historical accuracy and scholarship. HFCR respectfully request you approve SCR 119.

Debra Y. Butler, Ph.D

**From:** [Amy Agbayani](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Ty P. Kawika Tengan](#)  
**Subject:** Support SCR 119: WAM 4/5/16 @1pm. HFCR Kennedy & Agbayani  
**Date:** Saturday, April 02, 2016 8:34:55 PM

---

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO: Senate Committee on Ways & Means. Conference Room 211  
Tues. April 5, 2016 at 1pm

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
S.C.R. 119 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO FUND AND FILL THE VACANT  
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE POSITION AT THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL  
SCIENCES.

SUBMITTED BY:  
FAYE KENNEDY AND AMY AGBAYANI, CO-CHAIRS, HAWAI'I FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS 3432 B-1  
Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI 96819

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights strongly SUPPORT S.C.R. 119 which urges U.H. Manoa to fill the African American Ethnic Studies faculty position. HFCR supports programs and policies that promote social justice, non-discrimination and equal access. We believe that the Manoa campus has a special and important obligation to provide academic courses on the history and contributions of African Americans in Hawai'i and the US. Manoa students and the state of Hawaii deserve to have a full time faculty member teach these courses for the benefit of our multicultural student body and our state. Please accept our appreciation for this resolution that expresses support for the values of diversity, equality, historical accuracy and scholarship. HFCR respectfully request you approve SCR 119.

**From:** [Denisa Thompson](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#); [Stanley Yuen](#)  
**Subject:** Bill SCR119  
**Date:** Sunday, April 03, 2016 11:36:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [SCR119 -1.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

---

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of committee:

The HAWAII Friends of Civil Rights strongly Support S.C.R.119 which urges U.H. Manoa to fill the African American Ethnic Studies faculty position. HFCR supports programs and policies that promote social justice, non-discrimination and equal access. We believe that the Manoa Campus has a special and important obligation to provide academic courses on the history and contributions of African Americans in Hawaii and the U.H. Students and the state of Hawaii deserves to have a full time faculty members teach these courses for the benefit, of our multicultural student body and our state. Please accept our appreciation for this resolution that expresses up-out for the values of diversity, equality, historical accuracy and scholarship. HFCR respectfully request you approve SCR119.

Sincerely

**From:** [Sharon Yarborough](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SCR 119: WAM 4/5/16 @ 1 p.m. SEH Sharon Thomas Yarborough  
**Date:** Sunday, April 03, 2016 7:39:24 PM

---

***TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO: Senate Committee on Ways Y Means. Conference Room 211 Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 1:00 pm.***

***TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT S.C.R. 119 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO FUND AND FILL THE VACANT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE POSITION AT THE COLLEGE F SOCIAL SECIENCES.***

SUBMITTED BY SHARON THOMAS YARBROUGH, PRESIDENT & FOUNDER OF SISTERS EMPOWERING HAWAII, 1515 Nuuanu Avenue, #163, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

- Sisters Empowering Hawaii (SEH) strongly SUPPORT S.C.R. 119 urges U.H. Manoa to fill the African American Ethnic Studies faculty position. SEH mission and goal is to empower, motivate and empower all women. SEH supports programs and policies that promote social justice, non-discrimination and equal access. We believe that the Manoa campus has a special and important obligation to provide academic courses on the history and contributions of African Americans in Hawaii and the United States. Manoa students and the State of Hawaii deserve to have a full time faculty member teach these courses for the benefit of our multicultural student body and our State. African Americans have a RICH history that has only enhanced, improved, inspired, educated, and built this strong country. What other State can be proud to state that we voted in the First African American President of the United States of America? Hawaii.
- Please accept our appreciation for this resolution that expresses support for the values of diversity, equality, historical accuracy and scholarship. SEH respectfully request you approve SCR 119.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Sharon Thomas Yarborough  
Sisters Empowering Hawaii  
President  
(808) 599-2998  
(808) 228-8503

April 3, 2016

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 119 URGING THE UH AT MANOA TO FUND AND  
FILL THE VACANT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE POSITION  
AT THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair De La Cruz and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, aloha. My name is Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor and I am a professor of Ethnic Studies at UH-Manoa, teaching courses on Native Hawaiians; economic change and Hawai'i's people; and land tenure and use in Hawai'i. I am testifying in support of SCR 119.

My primary reason for supporting this joint resolution is that African American courses are essential for our Ethnic Studies Department to maintain its standing among ethnic studies departments in the U.S. The African American experience is essential to understanding the dynamics of race and class in the U.S. and justice for African Americans was at the heart of the Civil Rights movement in the U.S. Continued racism against the African American community is one of the principal issues of race in the U.S. today.

In order to support the excellence of the Department of Ethnic Studies at UH Mānoa, I urge your committee to pass SCR 119.

Mahalo nui loa.

**From:** [Ed Young](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO: Senate Committee on Ways & Means. Conference Room 211, Tues. April 5, 2016 at 1pm  
**Date:** Monday, April 04, 2016 8:05:15 AM

---

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO: Senate Committee on Ways & Means. Conference Room 211  
Tues. April 5, 2016 at 1pm

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

S.C.R. 119 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO FUND AND FILL THE VACANT  
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE POSITION AT THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL  
SCIENCES.

Submitted by Ed Young

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

As a former guest lecturer on African American History at the Ethnic Studies Department, I strongly support S.C.R. 119, which urges the University of Hawaii Manoa Chancellor to fill the African American Studies Faculty position, as a demonstration of the University's commitment to promote social justice, equal access, and non-discrimination. I believe that having specific courses taught on the history and contributions of African Americans in Hawaii and the U.S. for the UH Manoa students, faculty, and the Community at Large (Hawaii) that is taught by a full time faculty member trained in this topic area, is crucial as a vehicle to maintain the UH Manoa's leadership in research and education for our multicultural students. Please approve S.C.R. 119.

Aloha Char Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Grandinetti. I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa studying Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies. I would like to express my strong support of SCR 119.

Ethnic Studies has played an integral role in creating spaces both in curriculum and on campus for students of color, including myself. It is so important for just knowledge production and student morale/success to have people of color in faculty positions, and tenured positions at that.

Especially because the movement to establish the discipline and department of Ethnic Studies came out of the Civil Rights Movement, it is rather disgraceful to not have an African American expert faculty position at UH Mānoa. Furthermore, as the African American community faces issues such as mass incarceration and police brutality, filling this position becomes even more necessary.

Students, faculty, and community members realize this and that is why we have been organizing ourselves to put pressure on the UH administration, particularly Dean Konan and Chancellor Bley-Vroman. Unfortunately, they have not committed to filling the position. That is why we need your help by passing SCR 119.

Getting this position filled will also represent a commitment to prioritizing Ethnic Studies, which is increasingly necessary in the current atmosphere of threats to departments across the country. The issue presents an opportunity for Hawaii to lead the nation in moving forward in studying and theorizing about racial dynamics, rather than moving backwards with more budget cuts diminishing the efficacy of Ethnic Studies departments departments.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote yes on SCR 119, and support students and faculty in their efforts to protect Ethnic Studies and fill our African American position.

Mahalo,  
Lisa



**From:** [maile.goo](mailto:maile.goo)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** S.C.R. 119  
**Date:** Monday, April 04, 2016 10:52:28 AM

---

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF S.C.R. 119  
URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO FUND AND FILL  
THE VACANT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE  
POSITION AT  
THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee, Aloha!

Please accept this testimony in strong support of S.C.R. 119.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa should take the steps necessary to fill this vacant position as it has both the opportunity and obligation to do so. It is very possible that failure to do so or being perceived as indifferent could result in a backlash against the very campus that professes equity, diversity, and dare I say “aloha.” Rather than hear the perspective of a mere “available” faculty to speak on the complexity of current issues surrounding blackness and black identity in America, why not let students instead be inspired by a faculty member who is dedicated to African American studies, especially at a time of challenge as we have seen of recent time across the nation. The February 14, 2016 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education contains a 12 page article that speaks to issues surrounding faculty diversity by college, and the students across the country that are calling for greater numbers of minority professors, also examining “where are the minority professors” demographics across the nation.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

I humbly ask the committee to consider this matter seriously.

Mahalo nui loa,

Maile Goo  
3683 Woodlawn Terrace Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->  
<!--[endif]-->

**From:** [muhtadia rice](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SCR 119  
**Date:** Monday, April 04, 2016 12:20:31 AM

---

MUHTADIA RICE  
322 Aoloo Street, Suite 601  
Kailua, HI 96734  
Phone (808) 262-6533

April 1, 2016

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
DATE: Tuesday, April 05, 2016  
TIME: 1:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SUPPORT SCR 119. URGING THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO FUND AND FILL THE VACANT AFRICAN  
AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE POSITION AT THE COLLEGE OF  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dear Senators Tokuda and Dela Cruz:

Our educational system, especially UH-Manoa, is obligated to provide academic courses, programs, and policies that promote social justice, non-discrimination, and equal access. The history and contributions of African Americans in Hawaii cannot be ignored. Achievements of African-Americans in Hawaii date back to 1810 with individuals who provided distinguished services, and made many notable contributions that have benefited our islands:

- “Black Joe” – a master sail maker for King Kamehameha II;
- Betsy Stockton – educator and co-founder of the Lahainaluna School on Maui;
- Richard Armstrong – a pastor who served at Kawaiahao Church in Honolulu;
- William Lineas Maples, a physician; and his brother, Samuel Maples, a lawyer – both who worked at the Hawaii Commercial and Sugar Company;
- Alice Augusta Ball – the first African-American woman to graduate with a Master of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Hawaii, and who taught at that institution and helped develop a treatment for those suffering from Hansen’s Disease;
- Carlotta Stewart-Lai – an African-American woman trailblazer in Hawaii’s educational system who served as principal of the multi-ethnic Koolau Elementary;
- Kamaka Fernandez – Hawaii’s top traditional Hawaiian falsetto singer immersed in Hawaiian culture on the island of Maui;
- Dorie Miller – a Navy cook assigned to the USS West Virginia Stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, who, with no previous training, operated an anti-aircraft gun and shot down enemy aircraft; and most recently
- Our own United States President Barack Obama!

Students everywhere, but especially at UH-Manoa deserve to know this information and more. They can't learn this important history now because UH-Manoa has failed to retain and maintain faculty for the continued vacant African American Studies position at the College of Social Sciences. Our students deserve a full-time faculty member to teach academic courses, programs, and policies that promote social justice, non-discrimination, and equal access that will benefit of our multicultural population.

This resolution expresses support for the values of diversity, equality, historical accuracy and scholarship. I STRONG SUPPORT SCR 119, and trust you will too.

Mahalo nui loa,

MUHTADIA RICE

*The bamboo that bends is stronger than the oak that resists. Japanese Proverb*

Confidentiality Notice: The information contained in this e-mail message and any attachments to it is intended only for the designated recipient(s) and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not a designated recipient of this e-mail message or believe you have received this e-mail message in error, please do not duplicate or forward this e-mail message and immediately delete from your computer.

**From:** [Nola](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sistersempoweringhawaii](#); [Maile Goo](#)  
**Subject:** SCR119 Testimony  
**Date:** Sunday, April 03, 2016 8:14:29 PM

---

While I do not know the details behind the Ethnic Studies Department decision not to refill the African American studies position at UH Manoa, I do know something of the sorry enrollment of African Americans in the University system. I also know how uninformed many people in this state are about African Americans' contributions and experiences in Hawai'i beginning well before annexation or statehood. As a person of mixed African-American heritage, I was born and raised here, educated in public and private schools and at UH Manoa. As such, I think that my experiences here and on the U.S. continent validate, at least in part, my views.

Unless other departments/programs such as American History, History, Hawaiian Studies, Sociology, Social Work, etc. can show tangible evidence of curriculum content that compares to that in Ethnic Studies about African Americans in Hawai'i, I believe that UH Manoa would be hard-pressed to justify this action.

Nola Sonoe Tanaka Buffins  
327 Dalene Way  
Honolulu 96821

**From:** [Pepper](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SCR 119  
**Date:** Sunday, April 03, 2016 2:28:24 PM

---

"Justice delayed is justice denied." This quote from a former British prime minister later paraphrased by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is aptly applied where as here delay threatens progress. We cannot allow that to happen. Act now for passage of this law. Too long the rights of minorities have been ill considered through lassitude, inconsiderateness and downright prejudice. As legislators this is your opportunity to demonstrate your leadership to the voters who depend upon you. Support SCR 119.

Pepper Liddell