



*Ko`olau Foundation*

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February 6, 2023

To: Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Sen. Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair  
& Members, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Aaron D. Mahi, President  
Mahealani Cypher, Board Member  
Ko`olau Foundation

Re: SCR 14/SR 12 – Requesting the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to Establish and Maintain Hawaiian Cultural Centers within the State – Support

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and Committee Members:

The Ko`olau Foundation strongly supports both SCR14 and SR12, which would request that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) establish and maintain Hawaiian cultural centers within the State of Hawai`i.

Our organization is dedicated to the perpetuation of Hawaiian cultural traditions, practices and historic places throughout the pae`aina Hawai`i.

These resolutions provide OHA with a specific kuleana that needs to add these cultural centers to its excellent strategic plan. In fact, it should either serve as the foundation for their “Directives”, if not as a separate directive itself. Otherwise, OHA’s function seems to lose the spiritual core of their existence, the piko of what this Office of Hawaiian Affairs should be.

We suggest that at least one cultural center should be established in each moku, developed over time, and drawing on public and private resources and hiring or drawing in cultural experts and practitioners from those specific moku – connect the Hawaiian people to these cultural centers.

We mahalo Senator Fevella for introducing these resolutions, and urge all of you to pass these resolutions out of committee and through the legislature for signing.

We also urge OHA to seriously consider these recommendations.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our mana`o.