



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

By  
Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor

#### HB 2684 HD1– RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2684 HD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports the passage of HB 2684 HD1, which seeks to establish the Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach (Institute) to be placed within UH Hilo through a collaboration between the UH Hilo 'Imiloa Astronomy Center ('Imiloa) and the UH Hilo college of Hawaiian language, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani (CoHL).

The legislature established the CoHL under HRS §§ 304A-1301-1302 in 1997, the functions of which include providing a quality education primarily through the medium of the Hawaiian language, as well as the incorporation of Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u School and other laboratory schools, that now includes three other K-12 charter schools as well as all the 'Aha Pūnana Leo's ('APL) 13 Hawaiian Medium preschools throughout the state.

CoHL faculty and administrators worked alongside community members and agencies to help establish 'Imiloa as an extension of its work to advance the Hawaiian language. 'Imiloa opened its doors in 2006 and is the only bi-lingual science Center in Hawai'i and has become a national and international model for indigenous informal science education, serving its community through local science research, cultural advancement, and environmental stewardship. 'Imiloa has become a critical gathering place for practitioners and scholars, fostering collaborative efforts to advance science education from an indigenous foundation and perspective.

The Institute established by HB 2684 HD1 will further solidify the relationship between 'Imiloa and the CoHL, along with its laboratory schools and community partners. The streamlining of operations and the flexibility of scheduling, outreach, and functionality will further the impact of these units. UH Hilo has found that both 'Imiloa and the College face many unique situations that require agility to address the State's Hawaiian language needs. Among such things are scheduling courses outside the standard university semesters to provide curriculum and instruction to PreK-12 institutions, teaching at the College's laboratory school program in areas where there are gaps in instruction, utilizing upper-division college students to teach lower division/dual credit courses in beginning Hawaiian for English medium high school students, and being able

to provide outreach to learners with distinctive ties to the State as well as institutions, organizations and agencies looking for support with furthering the learning, use and normalization of the Hawaiian language.

This consortium provides services and support to Hawaiian Language schools and programs statewide via its curriculum and materials development, pre- and in-service teacher training. To further bolster the statewide impact and benefit of the Institute's work, we offer suggested amendments to HB 2684 HD1 that address two accounts currently available to the CoHL's Hale Kuamo'o and 'Imiloa. Expanding the scope of the sources of revenue these funds can take in, and the purposes for which the funds can be used will allow for a more sustainable model for the Institute's programming.

HB 2682, also before this committee today, provides for this expanded scope of those two accounts. The Attorney General has brought to light however a constitutional concern with the title of HB 2682.

Given the two accounts are relative to UH Hilo and this bill, HB 2684 HD1 is "RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO," we are requesting that HB 2684 HD1 be amended to include the contents of HB 2682.

Mahalo nui again for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2684 HD1.



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Pūnana Leo o Nu'uānu  
Pūnana Leo o Waiālua

Committee of Finance  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Friday, February 23, 2024  
TIME: 10:00am  
Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee on Finance,

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo **strongly supports HB 2684 HD 1** Relating to the University of Hawai'i.

My name is Ka'iulani Laehā, Chief Executive Officer of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. With 13 language nest, child care centers in all counties of Hawai'i, the 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the only statewide provider of Hawaiian medium early childhood programs and education. We stand on 40 years of experience in language revitalization and early childhood related programs.

Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani, the state Hawaiian language college, works with 'Aha Pūnana Leo to provide early childhood teacher training, language fluency development, curriculum development, assessments and action research. Together with the public charter Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and the college we demonstrate a Hawaiian medium education pathway from infant-toddler through doctoral degree education. Since 2005, the 'Aha Pūnana Leo has conducted its annual 'Aha Nu'ukia statewide professional development for all staff in which laboratory schools of the college throughout the state benefit from the intense weeklong training. We share an educational philosophy Ke Kumu Honua Mauli Ola that guides our work. Aligning Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani with 'Imiloa Center into a single institute will increase support for the laboratory school program and further support indigenous language revitalization in Hawai'i and beyond.

One of our most significant challenges in language revitalization work, especially seen in language nest programs, is the dire need for kumu proficient in the language. This bill seeks to move the college and 'Imiloa into an institute model that would allow for the great need to support obtaining higher language proficiency among new teachers; we are constantly seeking kumu (teachers) with high proficiency in 'ōlelo Hawai'i throughout the school year.

The establishment of our current P-25 Hawaiian language medium pathway was revolutionary for native language revitalization efforts on a national level; establishing an institute of indigenous education, science and outreach is the next groundbreaking step needed to help us regain a normalized Hawaiian language and remain a national and global leader in native language education.

We urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo,

Ka'iulani Laehā



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### Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani  
'Aipia-Peters,  
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,  
Hope Pelekikena

Kyla Manzano,  
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,  
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoe  
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Kayla Asing

'Ānela Freitas

No 'Ane'i Ko  
Kākou Ola!

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 02-23-2024  
Time: 10:00am  
Location: Conference Room 308

Testimony of Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, Governing Board Chair  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki LPCS

### HB 2684 HD1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT HILO **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

E nā Po'o Kōmike a me nā Lālā Kōmike o ka Māhele Mālama Kālā, aloha nui kākou

My name is Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, and I am the Governing Board Chair of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki, Laboratory Public Charter School. I am providing written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2684 HD1.

We, the governing board of Nāwahī, **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB 2684 HD1 that establishes the Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach within the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

Nāwahī strongly supports the unification of the Hawaiian language college, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani with 'Imiloa Center into a single institute that will lay the early education pathway for Hawaiian medium education and into the higher grades. The establishment of this institute will also increase support for the College's laboratory school programs as well as other educational and outreach support for the Hawaiian language and other indigenous languages.

The passage of HB 2684 HD1 indicates an awareness of the significance of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani and 'Imiloa as they address the needs of and ensure the forward progress of Hawaiian language medium education.

Mahalo for this bill and the many other related initiatives that have come out of our State Legislature.

Mahalo,

Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters  
Chair, Governing Board  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki LPCS

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:43:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kauanoë Kamana	Ke Kula ʻŌ Nawahiokalaniʻopuʻu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Over the past 30 years, Nāwahī has sought out federal grants to work with both the Hawaiian language college and ʻImiloa in developing access to a parity of resources that already exist for English medium students in our public school system. This bill will facilitate access, parity and latitude to build on our distinctive past successes.

Mahalo

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:55:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brandy De Lima-Suganuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill for the establishment of the Institute of Indigenous Education, Science & Outreach within the university.

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:59:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair, Vice Chair, a me Committee Members,

As a makua of 2 keiki in Hawaiian Immersion School I support this bill. Please pass HB2684.

Mahalo nui loa,

Shannon M.

Ola'a Resident

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:24:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kawailele Aki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o HB2684



**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:49:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Davielynn Briones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a makua of 3 keiki who are currently attending Hawaiian Immersion schools, I support this bill!

E ola ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:02:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 2684 HD1.

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:08:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin ODonnell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

As a parent of a Hawaiian language medium education student, I support this bill!

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:19:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Taelalii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Mahalo.

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:06:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Mokuhalii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:04:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kehaulani Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: Friday, February 23, 2024

Time: 10:00am

Location: House conference room 308

Via Video conference

Testimony of Kēhaulani Medeiros

HB2684 HD1, Relating to the University of Hawaii at Hilo. *Establishes the Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach within the University of Hawaii at Hilo at Hilo. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)*

KĀKO‘O, STRONGLY SUPPORT

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:50:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikiya White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2684. Mahalo!

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 6:00:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Moiwai Victor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o HB2684



**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:31:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rain K. Kahula Yong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o piha!

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:07:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaipolani Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

‘Ano ‘ai,

Kāko‘o nō au i nei pila e kāko‘o ana i ka mana‘o no ke kikowaena ‘o Hawai‘i ‘Imi Loa.

Na Kaipolani Kim

**HB-2684-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:08:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Rehmert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the establishment of the Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach within the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Lā Ho‘olohe: Po‘alima, 23 Pepeluali 2024  
Hora: 10:00am  
Wahi: Conference Room 308

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike na:  
Kyla Manzano  
PO Box 492528  
Kea‘au HI 96749

*HB 2684 Relating to The University Of Hawai‘i At Hilo*

**STRONGLY SUPPORTS**

Aloha mai e ka mea heluhelu,

My name is Kyla Keakealani Manzano and I am writing in support of HB 2684.  
It will be extremely beneficial that an institution of Indigenous Education,  
Science, and Outreach within the University of Hawaii at Hilo is established.

Mahalo nui,

Kyla Manzano

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