



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
and  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 1:15pm  
by  
Donald O. Straney  
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### **SB 1248 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE**

Chairs Shimabukuro and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Galuteria and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and I am presenting the University's testimony on SB1248.

Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language provides essential support for the revitalization of the Hawaiian language and its increased use in our bilingual state. In addition to university degree programs, the college prepares teachers to instruct in schools throughout the state, provides in-service training for practicing teachers, and other important support activities to help the language thrive.

The legislature previously created the Hawaiian language revolving fund to receive revenues from the sale of Hawaiian language materials created by the college. This bill would increase the range of revenues that could be placed in this fund to include revenue "generated by the Hawaiian language college, Hawaiian language support center, and indigenous outreach program through fees for service, training, and the sale of all products." There are existing ways by which the university currently receives revenues from fee for service, training and outreach programs of the college. The university believes this bill would duplicate these existing mechanisms. We are concerned that including revenue "from the sale of all products" is overly broad.

The bill would permit expenditures from the revolving fund "at the discretion of the Hawaiian language college." This would create a unique situation where a University program could make expenditures outside the regular fiscal and procurement processes of the university or the state. This is neither consistent with University governance fiscal policy nor statutorily provided budget authority for the University in Section 304A-2004 to 2005, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The University believes the objective of this bill can already be accomplished through existing accounts and management structures. For these reasons, the university would request the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Higher Education and the Arts defer further action on this bill.