



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 1:00pm
by
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SB 1248 SD1 – RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and I am presenting the University's testimony on SB1248 SD1.

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 created the college with a specific mandate to teach and revitalize the Hawaiian language. The revolving fund was created to support the work to achieve that mission. The college has expanded its programs to promote the Hawaiian language beyond the simple "materials" reference in the original legislation. If the language of this bill made it clear that the revenues to be deposited in the revolving fund were only those generated by college programs, activities, and materials that were language-related, the university could support the bill. Section 2 should be adjusted to read, "There is established the Hawaiian language college revolving fund into which revenues generated by the Hawaiian language college from language-related programs of the Hawaiian language support center, and indigenous outreach language and training programs through fee for service, and the sale of language related materials shall be deposited. Monies deposited into this fund shall be expended to support the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo established under section [304a-1301]."