



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 Higher Education and Technology
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By

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HB 1430 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1430. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports passage of HB 1430 without amendments. HB 1430 seeks to establish an Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach to be placed within UH Hilo through a collaboration between the UH Hilo 'Imiloa Astronomy Center ('Imiloa) and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Hawaiian language college, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani (College).

The legislature established the College under HRS §§ 304A-1301-1302 in 1997, and has continued to support the College through various legislative acts since that time. HB 1430 establishes an institute within UH Hilo that will have its own unique powers of scheduling, outreach, and functionality distinct from the University. HB 1430 also provides that the institute may incorporate as a nonprofit corporation to further its objectives. Establishment of the institute includes for flexibility and agility to address needs of the state with a particular emphasis on developing an early education Hawaiian medium pathway.

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, sharing faculty between the College and its laboratory school program to teach in areas where there are gaps in personnel, using upper division college students to teach lower division/dual credit courses in beginning Hawaiian for English medium high school students; providing personnel support for oceanic voyaging. In addition, the Institute would be responsible for assigning personnel to work on coordination with the public and charter schools to address both long term and short term needs and addressing an ever increasing number of requests from state offices for Hawaiian translation support.

UH Hilo is proud of the work that 'Imiloa and the College have already accomplished and see this institute as providing UH Hilo the ability to better serve the state. We look forward to discussions between UH Hilo administration, 'Imiloa, the College and legislators to further clarify and define the role of the institute.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.