



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Water & Land  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 1:01 p.m.

By  
Michael Bruno  
Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 206/SR 171 – REQUESTING THE WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW TO ESTABLISH THE BURIAL SITES WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE BURIAL SITES PROGRAM UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES' STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Chairs Shimabukuro and Inouye, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committees:

Mahalo for this opportunity to comment on SCR 206/SR 171, requesting the William S. Richardson School of Law to establish the burial sites working group to examine the burial sites program under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) State Historic Preservation Division. The University of Hawai'i acknowledges the intent of these resolutions; however, **we respectfully request that the William S. Richardson School of Law (UH Law School) participate as a member, versus as the working group's lead.** The UH Law School has a faculty member with expertise on iwi kūpuna issues (Native Hawaiian burials) and who is willing to serve on the working group. Unfortunately, however, we do not have the financial or other resources necessary to adequately establish and effectively manage the working group's significant kuleana, especially given the importance of this task to DLNR and the Native Hawaiian people.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.