

TESTIMONY
SB2391

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 4:13 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: elmer.kaai@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2391 on 1/29/2010 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 1/29/2010 2:45:00 PM SB2391

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elmer Kaai
Organization: Individual
Address: P.O. Box 2056 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 8084291121
E-mail: elmer.kaai@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/26/2010

Comments:

I oppose the added provision requiring the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to use their trust for Aha Hoonaaauao Oiwi. The state Legislature has no authority to dictate the use HHCA trust funds. Only the Hawaiian Homes Commission has that authority. You can ask them.

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Fr: Michael Kahikina, Legislative Chair for Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Assembly (SCHHA)

Date: January 27, 2010

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2391: Relating to State Finances

Aloha mai Senators Hee and Tokuda:

I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 that provides funds to support critically needed Native Hawaiian educational and cultural programs and initiatives—this includes support for the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education Hookulaiwi: Aha Hoonaaauao Ojwi (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education); the provision of legal services and representation for Native Hawaiians; support for the Achieving a Dream Initiative at the Hawaii Community College; and support for the establishment of a research and training program for Native Hawaiians at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

In particular, I support Section 9A, which includes the provision of funds to support the building, operating, and personnel expenses of Hookulaiwi. In keeping with legislative findings, I believe that there is a critical need for excellent teachers, curriculum developers, researchers, teacher educators, and educational leaders, especially to work with Native Hawaiian communities. Now, more than ever, a concerted effort is needed to raise educational opportunities for Native Hawaiians. This type of concerted effort is reflected in the goals of Hookulaiwi:

- o To prepare teachers for the Department of Education Hawaiian Language Immersion Program;
- o To prepare teachers for Title I schools with large numbers of Hawaiian children (especially those schools in Hawaiian Homestead communities);
- o To prepare teachers for Hawaiian charter schools; and
- o To prepare Native Hawaiian educational leaders in areas such as curriculum research, school administration, and teacher education through study at the master's and doctoral levels

Hookulaiwi has a proven history of preparing excellent educators who are well grounded in both the Hawaiian and Western languages and cultures and who are committed to ensuring the educational well-being of Hawaii's diverse population of children, especially Native Hawaiian children. This effort will grow exponentially if Hookulaiwi is established as a permanent part of the University of Hawaii system. Lasting systemic changes in the quality of education and in the academic outcomes for Hawaii's children in Hawaii's public schools must be given the highest priority by Hawaii's lawmakers.

In conclusion, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 and send my sincere aloha to the senators who introduced this bill. Their unwavering advocacy for public education in Hawaii marks them as outstanding lawmakers. Mahalo.

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Date: January 27, 2010

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2391: Relating to State Finances

Aloha mai Senators Hee and Tokuda:

I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 that provides funds to support critically needed Native Hawaiian educational and cultural programs and initiatives.

In particular, I support Section 9A, which includes the provision of funds to support the building, operating, and personnel expenses of Hookulaiwi. As a Native Hawaiian educator dedicated to the perpetuation and revitalization of the Hawaiian language and culture, I believe that there is a critical need for excellent teachers, curriculum developers, researchers, teacher educators, and educational leaders, to work with Native Hawaiian communities. I strongly believe that we must prepare teachers locally for the Department of Education Hawaiian Language Immersion Program; Title I schools with large numbers of Hawaiian children (especially those schools in Hawaiian Homestead communities Hawaiian charter schools; as well as to prepare Native Hawaiian educational leaders in areas such as curriculum research, school administration, and teacher education through study at the master's and doctoral levels

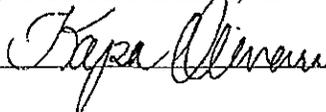
I have had the great professional privilege of partnering with Hookulaiwi on various initiatives. I can attest to the fact that the faculty and staff of Hookulaiwi are top notch. Their proven history of preparing excellent educators who are well grounded in both the Hawaiian and Western languages and cultures and who are committed to ensuring the educational well-being of Hawaii's diverse population of children, especially Native Hawaiian children is an asset to the educational system here in Hawaii. This effort will grow exponentially if Hookulaiwi is established as a permanent part of the University of Hawaii system. Lasting systemic changes in the quality of education and in the academic outcomes for Hawaii's children in Hawaii's public schools must be given the highest priority by Hawaii's lawmakers.

In conclusion, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 and send my sincere aloha to the senators who introduced this bill. Their unwavering advocacy for public education in Hawaii marks them as outstanding lawmakers.

Name: Kapa Oliveira

Address: 2640 Dole Street B226, Honolulu, HI 96822

Signature: _____



To: Senators Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Date: January 27, 2010

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2391: Relating to State Finances

Aloha mai kākou,

I write to express my full support of Senate Bill 2391 that provides funds for Native Hawaiian educational programs and initiatives that seek to improve the overall well-being of Native Hawaiians through educational reform, research, and general systemic change. The bill includes support for the University of Hawai'i College of Education Ho'okulāiwi: 'Aha Ho'ona'auao 'Ōiwi (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education); the provision of legal services and representation for Native Hawaiians; support for the Achieving a Dream Initiative at Hawai'i Community College; and support for the establishment of a research and training program for Native Hawaiians at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology.

Although I am in strong support of all these programs, I am particularly interested in Section 9A of the bill which provides support for the expansion of Ho'okulāiwi, a program dedicated to the improvement of the educational well-being of Native Hawaiians as well as other residents of primarily Native Hawaiian communities. Ho'okulāiwi has a multi-faceted mission that strives to prepare leaders for Hawaiian communities by recruiting members of those communities and preparing them to become excellent teachers, scholars, curriculum developers, and community advocates. Ho'okulāiwi's educational programs prepare teachers for English medium schools in predominantly Hawaiian communities, Hawaiian language immersion schools, and Hawaiian charter schools. They also support in-service training and professional development for teachers on Kaua'i and Ni'ihau.

The funds provided in this bill will enable Ho'okulāiwi to extend its support to other areas of the State and to expand its capacity to "home grown" teachers and educational leaders. The bill will also support much needed research projects designed to inform Hawaiian language immersion education as well as Hawaiian education in general, and will help to solidify Ho'okulāiwi's status at the University as an autonomous center.

For the reasons outlined above, and for the fact that my eldest son is a graduate of the Ho'okulāiwi Masters in Education Teaching program and is now teaching in a Hawaiian language immersion school, I reiterate my strong support for Senate Bill 2391. It represents the remarkable vision of its authors and reveals their genuine intent to invest in the future of Hawaiian children.

Mahalo a nui,

Laiana Wong, Parent of a Ho'okulāiwi Graduate
2734 Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI 96819

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Date: January 27, 2010

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2391: Relating to State Finances

Dear Senators Hee and Tokuda:

I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 that provides funds to support critically needed Native Hawaiian educational and cultural programs and initiatives—this includes support for the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education Hookulaiwi; Aha Hoonaaauo Oiwi (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education); the provision of legal services and representation for Native Hawaiians; support for the Achieving a Dream Initiative at the Hawaii Community College; and support for the establishment of a research and training program for Native Hawaiians at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

In particular, I support Section 9A, which includes the provision of funds to support the building, operating, and personnel expenses of Hookulaiwi. In keeping with legislative findings, I believe that there is a critical need for excellent teachers, curriculum developers, researchers, teacher educators, and educational leaders, especially to work with Native Hawaiian communities. I have been fortunate to have worked at Nanaikapono Elementary School, Nanakuli and Waianae Complex Schools and now continue to work with Nanaikapono. I see the need, on a daily basis for us to continue our work in the public schools, as well as our work with our graduate students who are committed to bettering the education of Native Hawaiian students. This need is of the utmost importance as we look to improving the lives and education of our future students, as well as their future teachers. Now, more than ever, a concerted effort is needed to raise educational opportunities for Native Hawaiians. This type of concerted effort is reflected in the goals of Hookulaiwi:

- o To prepare teachers for Title I schools with large numbers of Hawaiian children (especially those schools in Hawaiian Homestead communities);
- o To prepare Native Hawaiian educational leaders in areas such as curriculum research, school administration, and teacher education through study at the master's and doctoral levels

Hookulaiwi has a proven history of preparing excellent educators who are well grounded in both the Hawaiian and Western languages and cultures and who are committed to ensuring the educational well-being of Hawaii's diverse population of children, especially Native Hawaiian children. This effort will grow exponentially if Hookulaiwi is established as a permanent part of the University of Hawaii system. Lasting systemic changes in the quality of education and in the academic outcomes for Hawaii's children in Hawaii's public schools must be given the highest priority by Hawaii's lawmakers.

In conclusion, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 and send my sincere aloha to the senators who introduced this bill. Their unwavering advocacy for public education in Hawaii marks them as outstanding lawmakers.

Name: _____ Stephanie H. Furuta _____

Organization: _____ Ho'okulaiwi: Aha Aha Hoonaaauo Oiwi _____

Address: _____ 2749 Poelua Street, Honolulu, HI 96822 _____

Signature: _____ Stephanie H. Furuta *Stephanie Furuta* _____



To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Jay M. Taniguchi, President of Ka Hui Heluhelu (Oahu chapter of the International Reading Association) and faculty member of Hookulaiwi: Aha Hoonaaauao Oiwi

Date: January 27, 2010

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2391: Relating to State Finances

Dear Senators Hee and Tokuda:

I strongly support Senate Bill 2391 that provides funds to support critically needed Native Hawaiian educational and cultural programs and initiatives—this includes support for the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education Hookulaiwi: Aha Hoonaaauao Oiwi (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education); the provision of legal services and representation for Native Hawaiians; support for the Achieving a Dream Initiative at the Hawaii Community College; and support for the establishment of a research and training program for Native Hawaiians at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

In particular, I support Section 9A, which includes the provision of funds to support the building, operation, and personnel expenses of Hookulaiwi. In keeping with legislative findings, I believe that there is a critical need for excellent teachers, curriculum developers, researchers, teacher educators, and educational leaders, especially to work with Native Hawaiian communities. Now, more than ever, a concerted effort is needed to raise educational opportunities for Native Hawaiians. This type of concerted effort is reflected in the goals of Hookulaiwi:

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- o To prepare teachers for Title I schools with large numbers of Hawaiian children (especially those schools in Hawaiian Homestead communities);
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In particular, literacy education is crucial in achieving systemic change. With future educators and current educators on the Waianae Coast, it is imperative to help people to understand literacy pedagogy and be able to translate it into classroom practice. Through my work with the Hookulaiwi program, I have come to realize that this is happening through the partnership between Hookulaiwi and Nanaikapono.

Hookulaiwi has a proven history of preparing excellent educators who are well grounded in both Hawaiian and Western languages and cultures and who are committed to ensuring the educational well-being of Hawaii's diverse population of children, especially Native Hawaiian children. This effort will grow exponentially if Hookulaiwi is established as a permanent part of the University of Hawaii system. Lasting systemic changes in the quality of education and in the academic outcomes for Hawaii's children in Hawaii's public schools must be given the highest priority by Hawaii's lawmakers.

In conclusion, I strongly support of Senate Bill 2391 and send my sincere aloha to the senators who introduced this bill. Their unwavering advocacy for public education in Hawaii marks them as outstanding lawmakers.

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Date: January 28, 2010

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2391: Relating to State Finances

Aloha mai Senators Hee and Tokuda:

I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 that provides funds to support critically needed Native Hawaiian educational and cultural programs and initiatives—this includes support for the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education Hookulaiwi: Aha Hoonaaauao Oiwī (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education); the provision of legal services and representation for Native Hawaiians; support for the Achieving a Dream Initiative at the Hawaii Community College; and support for the establishment of a research and training program for Native Hawaiians at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

In particular, I support Section 9A, which includes the provision of funds to support the building, operating, and personnel expenses of Hookulaiwi. In keeping with legislative findings, I believe that there is a critical need for excellent teachers, curriculum developers, researchers, teacher educators, and educational leaders, especially to work with Native Hawaiian communities. Now, more than ever, a concerted effort is needed to raise educational opportunities for Native Hawaiians. This type of concerted effort is reflected in the goals of Hookulaiwi:

- To prepare teachers for the Department of Education Hawaiian Language Immersion Program;
- To prepare teachers for Title I schools with large numbers of Hawaiian children (especially those schools in Hawaiian Homestead communities);
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- To prepare Native Hawaiian educational leaders in areas such as curriculum research, school administration, and teacher education through study at the master's and doctoral levels

Hookulaiwi has a proven history of preparing excellent educators who are well grounded in both the Hawaiian and Western languages and cultures and who are committed to ensuring the educational well-being of Hawaii's diverse population of children, especially Native Hawaiian children. This effort will grow exponentially if Hookulaiwi is established as a permanent part of the University of Hawaii system. Lasting systemic changes in the quality of education and in the academic outcomes for Hawaii's children in Hawaii's public schools must be given the highest priority by Hawaii's lawmakers.

One of the primary strengths of Hookulaiwi is that this initiative is focused on meeting the needs of our students, schools and communities, and not mandating their needs to them. In that we are fortunate to have formed strong partnerships in many schools with large populations of Hawaiian students. Some such examples of this are Kula Kaiapuni o Anuenue, Nanaikapono Elementary,

Nanakuli High School, Waianae High School, and several others. Working in these diverse schools has been an excellent opportunity for use to work with the schools to assess and meet the needs of students.

As a math educator in the «GreetingLine», I have seen first hand the positive initiatives that Hookulaiwi has forged through its dedication and partnerships in the community. One such example of this partnership that I was fortunate to engage in a course offered by Nanaikapono, one of our partnership schools, which examined the critical link of language arts with mathematics education. In addition to the motivational ideas learned in class, there was an additional opportunity for the teachers in the class to tutor students at Nanaikapono Elementary School, using the concepts learned. In addition three of our Niihau cohort students were also able to attend the course and exchange ideas with the teachers at Nanaikapono and as result all are better teachers committed to teaching our keiki. This is the kind of innovation by Hookulaiwi in conjunction with our DOE schools that benefit children, families, and communities.

In conclusion, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 and send my sincere aloha to the senators who introduced this bill. Their unwavering advocacy for public education in Hawaii marks them as outstanding lawmakers.

Me Ke Aloha,

Eomailani K. Bettencourt

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Date: January 28, 2010

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2391: Relating to State Finances

Aloha mai Senators Hee and Tokuda:

I am a parent whose child is a student at Iliahi Elementary. I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 that provides funds to support critically needed Native Hawaiian educational and cultural programs and initiatives—this includes support for the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education Hookulaiwi: Aha Hoonaaauao Oiwi (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education); the provision of legal services and representation for Native Hawaiians; support for the Achieving a Dream Initiative at the Hawaii Community College; and support for the establishment of a research and training program for Native Hawaiians at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

In particular, I support Section 9A, which includes the provision of funds to support the building, operating, and personnel expenses of Hookulaiwi. In keeping with legislative findings, I believe that there is a critical need for excellent teachers, curriculum developers, researchers, teacher educators, and educational leaders, especially to work with Native Hawaiian communities. Now, more than ever, a concerted effort is needed to raise educational opportunities for Native Hawaiians. This type of concerted effort is reflected in the goals of Hookulaiwi:

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Hookulaiwi has a proven history of preparing excellent educators who are well grounded in both the Hawaiian and Western languages and cultures and who are committed to ensuring the educational well-being of Hawaii's diverse population of children, especially Native Hawaiian children. This effort will grow exponentially if Hookulaiwi is established as a permanent part of the University of Hawaii system. Lasting systemic changes in the quality of education and in the academic outcomes for Hawaii's children in Hawaii's public schools must be given the highest priority by Hawaii's lawmakers.

In conclusion, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 and send my sincere aloha to the senators who introduced this bill. Their unwavering advocacy for public education in Hawaii marks them as outstanding lawmakers.

Name: Kimo A. Cashman

Kuleana: Parent of child who attends a public school

Address: 2173 California Avenue, Wahiawa

Signature: 

**Sovereign Councils
of the**



**Hawaiian Homelands
Assembly**

89-188 Farrington Highway
Wai'anae, Hawai'i 96792
Phone & Fax: (808) 696-2955

Kamaki A. Kanahela
Chair
O'ahu

Leah K. Pereira
Vice-Chair
Kaua'i

M. Kammy Purdy
Secretary
Moloka'i

M. Kanani Kapuniai
Treasurer
Hawai'i

Rev. N. Tasha Kama
Executive Officer
Maul

G. Pūkake Pelekai
Executive Director
O'ahu

January 27, 2010

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and
Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture,
and Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha mai Senator Hee and Senator Tokuda:

Our Sovereign Councils of Hawaiian Homelands Assembly (SCHHA) is heartened by the introduction Senate Bill 2391 that provides funds to support critically needed Native Hawaiian educational and cultural programs and initiatives—this includes support for our SCHHA/Hawaii Department of Education/University of Hawaii at Manoa Hookulaiwi: Aha Moonaauao O'iwi (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education) Partnership; the provision of legal services and representation for Native Hawaiians; support for the Achieving a Dream Initiative at the Hawaii Community College; and support for the establishment of a research and training program for Native Hawaiians at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

As we are all aware, the statistics on our Native Hawaiian people are damning—in terms of student achievement, our children as a group score in the bottom quartile on standardized tests of reading and mathematics, are overrepresented in special education, and have the highest school drop out rate. Long term effects of this educational failure can be seen in the social indicators of our wellbeing—our Native Hawaiian people experience the worst health, have the highest rates of homelessness (in our own ainal), are in the lowest socio-economic group, have a high rate of drug use, and are over represented in the prison population. Of special concern to us is that among our Native Hawaiian youth, the suicide rate is greater than found for any other population in Hawaii.

Yet, this situation is nothing new. Research dating back decades has highlighted the social and educational challenges faced by our people. During this time, our Hawaiian homestead communities have had visited on us by “outside experts”, a range educational programs and initiatives, all of which have two things in common—the majority did not seek our input and the majority have failed. While we realize that there is no immediate nor easy solution to this situation, we take the stand that, from this point on, all programs and initiatives for the educational advancement of our Native Hawaiian people in our Hawaiian homesteads must involve community participation in all stages of conceptualization, planning, implementation, and assessment.

I think we can all agree that the work of our Hookulaiwi Partnership is ground-breaking and critically needed. Never before have we seen a largely Native Hawaiian driven initiative of this caliber. Educators who have strong backgrounds in Hawaiian language, culture, and education; who are well-versed in English language, culture, and education; and who have the expertise to research and develop new theories, pedagogy, and curricula that reflect the needs of Hawaiian communities are the key to raising the educational achievement of Native Hawaiians.

As such, Hookulaiwi's goals to:

- o to prepare teachers for Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) Title I schools with large numbers of Hawaiian children
 - o to prepare teachers for the Hawaii DOE Hawaiian Language Immersion Program
 - o to prepare teachers for Hawaiian charter schools
 - o to prepare Native Hawaiian educational leaders in areas such as research, school administration, and teacher education through study at the master's and doctoral levels
- are critical to the success of Native Hawaiians.

Please permit me to cut to the chase: We want our children to live their dreams. We want educational opportunities for our children that focus energies and resources on guiding and supporting them as they journey towards success in life. We want to ensure that our children receive rich educational opportunities that prepare them for good jobs, to be good people who live healthy lives and who raise healthy families, to be good citizens, and to have passions for learning beyond their formal educations. And, most important, we want to be self-determining in this process. It is with this in mind that I strongly support Senate Bill 2391.

Mahalo nui to those legislators who are prioritizing the wellbeing of our children through this bill.

Owau me ka haahaa,



Kamaki Kanahale, Chair



Dr. Agnes K. Cope, Executive Director
Waianae Coast Culture & Arts Society

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Date: January 27, 2010

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2391: Relating to State Finances

Aloha mai Senators Hee and Tokuda:

I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 that provides funds to support critically needed Native Hawaiian educational and cultural programs and initiatives—this includes support for the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education Hookulaiwi: Aha Hoonaaauao Oiwi (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education); the provision of legal services and representation for Native Hawaiians; support for the Achieving a Dream Initiative at the Hawaii Community College; and support for the establishment of a research and training program for Native Hawaiians at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

In particular, I support Section 9A, which includes the provision of funds to support the building, operating, and personnel expenses of Hookulaiwi. In keeping with legislative findings, I believe that there is a critical need for excellent teachers, curriculum developers, researchers, teacher educators, and educational leaders, especially to work with Native Hawaiian communities. Now, more than ever, a concerted effort is needed to raise educational opportunities for Native Hawaiians. This type of concerted effort is reflected in the goals of Hookulaiwi:

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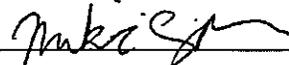
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In conclusion, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 and send my sincere aloha to the senators who introduced this bill. Their unwavering advocacy for public education in Hawaii marks them as outstanding lawmakers.

Name: Ricky-lee Miki'i Souza

Organization: University of Hawaii Student

Address: 1816 Dole St. #204B, Honolulu, 96822

Signature: 

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Date: January 27, 2010

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I am writing this testimony not only as a faculty member of Hookulaiwi, but also as a parent of children who attend Hawaiian immersion schools. I am one of a team of people who prepare students to become teachers for our children – but this is not just rhetoric as my child is currently being taught by one of our graduates. This makes our initiative (and the funding that supports it) critically important to me professionally and personally. I have a vested interest in making sure that we can continue to provide these types of programs for the benefit of my children as well as many other Hawaiian children across the state.

In conclusion, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 and send my sincere aloha to the senators who introduced this bill. Their unwavering advocacy for public education in Hawaii marks them as outstanding lawmakers.

Name: Pohai Kukua - Shultz

Organization: Hookulaiwi: Aha Hoonaaauo O'iwi

Address: 1776 University Ave, Everly 221, Honolulu 96822

Signature: 

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Date: January 27, 2010

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In conclusion, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 and send my sincere aloha to the senators who introduced this bill. Their unwavering advocacy for public education in Hawaii marks them as outstanding lawmakers.

Name: Marshall Joy

Organization: Student

Address: 1415 Punahou St. apt 705 Honolulu HI 96822

Signature: 

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
 Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Myron K. Brumaghim, Education Chair for Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Assembly (SCHHA)

Date: January 27, 2010



Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2391: Relating to State Finances

Aloha mai Senator Hee, Senator Tokuda, and Committee Members:

As the Sovereign Councils of Hawaiian Homelands Assembly's (SCHHA) Chair of the Committee on Education, I write in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 which provides funds to support critically needed Native Hawaiian educational and cultural programs and initiatives—this includes support for our SCHHA/Hawaii Department of Education/University of Hawaii at Manoa Hookulaiwi: Aha Hoonaaauao OIwi (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education) Partnership; the provision of legal services and representation for Native Hawaiians; support for the Achieving a Dream Initiative at the Hawaii Community College; and support for the establishment of a research and training program for Native Hawaiians at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

During my service as the principal of a Nanaikapono Elementary school, my mission was to provide the best educational environment for our students. Realizing that our school would never have sufficient funds and other resources to accomplish this mission, my staff and I were able to develop a partnership with the University of Hawaii, College of Education Hookulaiwi Center for Hawaiian and Indigenous Education. This partnership has done and continues to do wonders in helping teachers to develop an exciting educational environment for our students. Currently, our Hookulaiwi Partnership is creating a partnership with the NFL Youth Education Town Center (Boys and Girls Club) to broaden the educational opportunities for our Nanakuli children in the areas of art, music, drama, dance, and physical education.

We believe that our Hookulaiwi Partnership is the first step in bringing about systemic reform to public education in Hawaii that will provide enhanced educational opportunities for Native Hawaiians. That the community is central to this initiative—in the conceptualization, planning, implementation, and assessment—brings a “never-before-attempted” element to educational reform in Hawaii. Our goal is to make significant progress in addressing the critical need to prepare;

- o To prepare teachers for the Department of Education Hawaiian Language Immersion Program;
- o To prepare teachers for Title I schools with large numbers of Hawaiian children (especially those schools in Hawaiian Homestead communities);
- o To prepare teachers for Hawaiian charter schools; and
- o To prepare Native Hawaiian educational leaders in areas such as curriculum research, school administration, and teacher education through study at the master's and doctoral levels

As such, I stand in strong support of Senate Bill 2391 and send my sincere aloha to Senators Hanabusa, Hee, and Kim for introducing this bill. Their unwavering advocacy for public education in Hawaii marks them as outstanding lawmakers.

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
 Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
 Members, Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Margie Maaka, Director, Hookulaiwi: Aha Hoonaaauao O'iwi (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education) Partnership which includes the Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homelands Assembly, Hawaii Department of Education, and the University of Hawaii

Date: January 27, 2010

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2391: Relating to State Finances

Aloha mai kakou

First, my aloha to Senators Hee, Hanabusa, and Kim for their commitment to Hawaiian educational and cultural initiatives through the introduction of Senate Bill 2391. It goes without saying, then, that my testimony is written in strong support of the bill's intent to allocate funds

- to our SCHHA/Hawaii Department of Education/University of Hawaii at Manoa Hookulaiwi: Aha Hoonaaauao O'iwi (Center for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education) Partnership;
- for the provision of legal services and representation for Native Hawaiians;
- to the Achieving a Dream Initiative at the Hawaii Community College; and
- for the establishment of a research and training program for Native Hawaiians at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

With particular reference to Section 9A, Hookulaiwi is a multifaceted effort designed to prepare outstanding teachers and educational leaders, particularly Native Hawaiians. Educators who have strong backgrounds in Hawaiian language and culture, who are well versed in the English language and culture, and who have the expertise to research and develop new theories, pedagogy, and curricula that reflect the needs of the Hawaiian community are the key to raising the school achievement of Native Hawaiian children.

Currently, we have several initiatives underway—I include a flyer of some of our recent projects. There is also an enormous demand for Hookulaiwi to extend our reach to islands other than Oahu. In particular, Native Hawaiian homestead communities associated with the SCHHA have implored us to offer programs in teacher education and educational leadership—I include a package of petitions from Molokai residents submitted to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs last April 2009 for funds to offer B.Ed, M.Ed, and doctoral degree programs on island. With the funding allocated through SB 2391, Hookulaiwi will be able to meet this request and others like it.

We believe that our Hookulaiwi Partnership is the first step in bringing about systemic reform to public education in Hawaii that will provide enhanced educational opportunities for Native Hawaiians. That the community is central to this initiative—in the conceptualization, planning, implementation, and assessment—brings a "never-before-attempted" element to educational reform in Hawaii. Senate Bill 2391's allocation of funds for operations, the establishment of a building, and for the hire of new personnel will allow Hookulaiwi to support Native Hawaiian communities state-wide in their efforts to provide critically needed educational opportunities for their children.

Again, I write in strong support of SB 2391. Mahalo nui for your support.

TESTIMONY

SB2391

(END)