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*January 6, 2017*

Senator Jill Tokuka and Representative Sylvia Luke  
Finance Chairs  
Hawaii State Senate  
415 S Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Senators Jill Tokuda and Representative Sylvia Luke,

I'm writing to express my support of the GIA application for the Stone Soup Leadership Institute (Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative), and their funding request for the **Sustainable Resolution Implementation Education Toolkit**.

The passing of the Sustainability Resolution (HRS 178 & SCR 192) was an exceptional and forward-thinking effort by one of Hawaii's high school seniors, Trevor Tanaka to ensure his Hawaii's students gained an understanding of the principles of sustainability and its importance to their future. Thanks to the leadership of Senator Tokuda and (former) Representative Denny Coffman, the Resolution passed in just six months. However, it has yet to be implemented. The Toolkit is a free, easy-to-use resource for Hawaii's public school educators to integrate into the Sustainability Resolution into their education curriculum.

Creating the Toolkit allows educators to easily integrate lessons on sustainability into their curriculum, and gives them the tools to prepare our youth for a bright future, leading our state in a positive direction towards a more sustainable future. We are committed to helping in the planning stages to provide feedback and assist in shaping a toolkit that can help prepare and inspire Hawaii's youth to fulfill the workforce needs of the future.

Hawaii's educators and non-profit organizations realize that ALL citizens should be knowledgeable about sustainability so our people will be better prepared to make sustainable decisions in our daily lives – at the supermarket as well as in the voting booths. We also must be prepared for the increasing challenges of climate change to our precious islands.

I, and my Castle high school students, have greatly benefited from SHYLI's programs: Job Shadow Day/Design Sustainable Hawaii Forum/Youth Leadership Summit. I am extremely proud of Jackie Noborikawa, our Castle High School representative at the 11<sup>th</sup> Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development at Martha's Vineyard. Jackie returned from her SHYLI adventure with a reinvigorated "can do attitude," a strong desire to improve both our school and influence our community through her Sustainability-In-Action Project and an eagerness to prove that one person CAN make a difference. She was provided opportunities to work with mentors in our community, spread awareness of her project, and lead peers as she enlisted the aid of the Knights of the Round Table Club to aid in research and development of the Sustainability Toolkit prototype at Castle High School.

SHYLI provides a venue in which youth have a chance to discover and follow their passion, expand their horizons through new relationships and travel, and truly widen their worldwide lens. If we keep supporting and cultivating these very genuine, global-minded youth leaders, ready to roll up their sleeves and get out there and get it done, the sustainability of our future world is extremely bright.

The Institute's work with Hawaii's young people, educators, and companies is inspiring. Seeing the excellent work they do connecting youth on the island to real experiences and opportunities for their futures, we are confident that Stone Soup Leadership Institute and SHYLI will create a truly robust and inspiring educational tool for teachers and students alike. We strongly support this GIA grant proposal.

Mahalo and we look forward to your support for this timely initiative.

Respectfully,  
Lisa A. Sbragia  
Social Studies Teacher  
James B. Castle High School