



MAUNA LANI BAY

Hotel & Bungalows

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

January 4, 2017

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.

Members of Hawaii's business community recognize that industry advances and developments in green industries are critical growth areas for Hawaii's future. It is imperative that our students are prepared to pursue educational opportunities and jobs in these fields. Without any basic understanding of sustainability, it becomes unlikely that they are prepared for those opportunities.

I have previously participated in SHYLI's programs: Job Shadow Day/Design Sustainable Hawaii Forum/Youth Leadership Summit. The Institute's work with Hawaii's young people, educators, companies is inspiring. On August 14, 2015, I had the honor of attending an event at the Pu'uwa'awa'a Ranch on Hawai'i Island, to welcome the SHYLI youth delegates and to hear their stories and their dreams. My comment of that experience was that it was invigorating to see how these youth exhibited their interests towards becoming future leaders in global sustainability and in essence, are thus following the footsteps of those great leaders, who have traveled along the ala pono, the righteous path. 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.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Daniel K. Akaka, Jr.

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Director of Cultural Affairs

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