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15 January 2017

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Sustainable Resolution Implementation Education Toolkit

Aloha Chairs Tokuda and Luke:

It is my privilege to submit this letter of support for the grant-in-aid application submitted by the Stone Soup Leadership Institute (SSLI) Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative (SHYLI) for the Sustainable Resolution Implementation Education Toolkit.

This toolkit provides a pathway for introducing and maintaining sustainability as a critical part of Hawaii students' respective and collective curriculum which to date has not been achieved comprehensively in our schools. It is my belief that part of the reason for our failure to date may have to do with the lack of common definition/understanding of "sustainability".

The Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB) recently updated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Hawaii Island and incorporated the definition of sustainability as adopted by the United Nations World Commission on Environmental and Development (aka the Brundtland Commission) which consistent with traditional values states that "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Recognizing the need for integration of both sustainability and "future thinking" to provide the relevant education and workforce in the highly adaptive environment in which we live, the toolkit being proposed combined with the successes of Stone Soup Leadership/SHYLI with students in our community, will clearly provide the necessary pathway to sustainability and flexibility.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I may be of other assistance.

Sincerely,

Jacqui L. Hoover
Executive Director and COO