



January 2, 2017

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

Dear Senator Tokuda and Representative Luke:

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

In 2013 the passing of the Sustainability Resolution (HRS 178 & SCR 192) was an exceptional and forward-thinking effort led by one of Hawaii's high school seniors, Trevor Tanaka, Senator Tokuda and former Rep. Denny Coffman. The resolution requires every Hawaii student to take a course in sustainability to ensure students gained an understanding of the principles of sustainability and its importance to their future.

This important resolution yet to be implemented. Stone Soup Leadership Institute has developed a Toolkit that is a free, easy-to-use resource for Hawaii's public school educators to integrate into the Sustainability Resolution into their education curriculum.

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. The Stone Soup Leadership Institute GIA request for funding would go towards working with Hawaii's educators 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.

I have been a strong supporter of SHYLI's programs in Hawaii as I have witnessed the impact their program has on Hawaii's youth empowering them to be leaders and go on to college. SHYLI has helped a number of students who may have fallen through the cracks to develop goals and develop sustainability projects that their fellow students can participate in. The Institute's work with Hawaii's young people, educators, and companies is inspiring. Seeing the excellent work that 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. I strongly support this GIA grant proposal.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robbie Melton", is written over the typed name.

Robbie Melton  
Executive Director & CEO