



# MĀLAMA HONUA WORLDWIDE VOYAGE

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

January 6, 2017

Aloha Senators Jill Tokuda and Sylvia Luke,

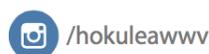
I'm writing to express my support of the GIA application for the Stone Soup Leadership Institute (Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative), and their funding request for the **Sustainable Resolution Implementation Education Toolkit**.

Founded on a legacy of Pacific Ocean exploration, the Polynesian Voyaging Society seeks to perpetuate the art and science of traditional Polynesian voyaging and the spirit of exploration through experiential educational programs that inspire students and their communities to respect and care for themselves, each other, and their natural and cultural environments.

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.

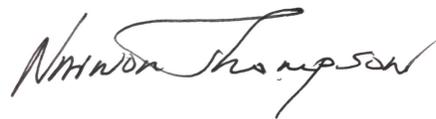
Hawaii's educators and non-profit organizations realize that ALL citizens should be knowledgeable about sustainability so our people will be better prepared to make sustainable decisions in our daily lives – at the supermarket as well as in the voting booths. We also must be prepared for the increasing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

Polynesian Voyaging Society's Nā Kelamoku Youth Leadership Program has previously participated in The Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development. The Institute's work with Hawaii's young people, educators, 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nainoa Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nainoa" being more prominent and the last name "Thompson" following in a similar style.

Nainoa Thompson  
President  
Polynesian Voyaging Society