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Division of Student Affairs
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

January 6, 2017

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

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Chair Luke,

It is with enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for the GIA application being submitted by the Stone Soup Leadership Institute (Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative) for the **Sustainable Resolution Implementation Education Toolkit**. For the past three years, I have met with SHYLI leaders and had the opportunity to meet several of the SHYLI students from Hawai'i Island.

Although I currently serve as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH), I first started interacting with SHYLI leaders and students while I served as Director for the North Hawai'i Education and Research Center (NHERC), an outreach center of UHH located in Honoka'a. One of the missions for the center was to provide lifelong opportunities for residents in the North Hawai'i region of Hawai'i Island. On a broader scale now and in keeping with our commitment to educate and train individuals in our community, UHH clearly sees the value in collaborating to share resources to provide as wide a variety as possible of activities and opportunities for residents and visitors to our island.

Several years ago, I met Trevor Tanaka who helped research, draft and lobby for the passing of Sustainability Resolutions (HRS 178 & SCR 192), which helps to ensure Hawaii's students gain an understanding of the principles of sustainability and its importance to their future. Despite passing of the resolutions, it has yet to be implemented. The Toolkit currently being proposed has potential to become a free, easy-to-use resource for Hawaii's public school educators to integrate into the Sustainability Resolution into their education curriculum.

The UHH is committed to continuing our working relationship with SHYLI and more specifically, in helping with the planning stages to provide feedback and assisting with shaping a toolkit that can help prepare and inspire Hawaii's youth to fulfill the workforce needs of the future. We previously participated in SHYLI's programs and look forward to working more together in the future. I encourage the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Finance to carefully consider and fully support the Stone Soup Leadership Institute and SHYLI Education Toolkit proposal. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (808) 932-7445.

Sincerely,

Farrah-Marie Gomes, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs