

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE PLAN,
INCLUDING GOALS, BENCHMARKS, STRATEGIES, AND OUTCOMES, TO
BUILD UPON ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TO ACCELERATE THE
NORMALIZATION OF 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I.

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly has declared
2 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages as part of
3 an effort to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous
4 languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize, and
5 promote indigenous languages and to take further urgent steps at
6 the national and international levels; and

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8 WHEREAS, the United Nations acknowledges that indigenous
9 languages represent complex systems of knowledge developed and
10 accumulated over thousands of years and are repositories of
11 diversity and key resources for understanding and utilizing the
12 environment to the best advantage of local populations; and

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14 WHEREAS, the United Nations has expressed deep concern
15 about the vast number of endangered languages, in particular
16 indigenous languages, and stresses that, despite the continuing
17 efforts, there is an urgent need to preserve, promote, and
18 revitalize endangered languages; and

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20 WHEREAS, 'ōlelo Hawai'i is an indigenous language of Hawai'i
21 and recognized by the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i as one
22 of the State's official languages; and

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24 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i, in upholding the spirit of
25 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, and in
26 recognition of the numerous achievements over the past 35 years
27 in preserving and revitalizing 'ōlelo Hawai'i, has proclaimed
28 2019 the Year of the Indigenous Language; and

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30 WHEREAS, for the past 35 years, 'Aha Pūnana Leo along with
31 other Hawaiian language movement leaders, including Ka Haka 'Ula
32 O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, Hawai'inuiākea
33 School of Hawaiian Knowledge, and all Hawaiian language programs



1 throughout the University of Hawai'i System, the Department of
2 Education Office of Hawaiian Education, the Hawaiian medium and
3 Hawaiian immersion schools and all other Hawaiian language
4 programs at all public schools including charter schools, and
5 Kamehameha Schools have collectively worked to reverse the
6 language loss that occurred at the turn of the 20th century and
7 to preserve, revitalize, and promote this indigenous language
8 through cooperative efforts to raise speakers of 'ōlelo Hawai'i,
9 to educate learners in immersive settings, to normalize 'ōlelo
10 Hawai'i in its homeland, and to drive and inspire change to
11 ensure a living language in Hawai'i and beyond; and

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13 WHEREAS, the specific outcomes and results of these
14 collective efforts include:

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16 (1) Reestablishment of the Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for
17 Education Hawaiian medium pathway of education from
18 the Pūnana Leo preschools to the State's Hawaiian
19 medium and Hawaiian immersion programs up through the
20 graduate degrees offered at Ka Haka 'Ula o
21 Ke'elikōlani, which serves over 4,000 students annually
22 at over 40 different sites throughout the State;

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24 (2) Hawaiian language being offered as a world language at
25 over two-thirds of Hawai'i Department of Education high
26 schools;

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28 (3) Hawaiian language broadcast media initiative in
29 partnership with 'Aha Pūnana Leo and 'Ōiwi TV; and

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31 (4) A generation of graduates from Hawaiian medium and
32 Hawaiian immersion programs that grew up speaking
33 Hawaiian and are raising their own keiki to speak and
34 live 'ōlelo Hawai'i; and

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36 WHEREAS, to build upon these successes and to further
37 accelerate the normalization of 'ōlelo Hawai'i, the development
38 of a Hawaiian Language Plan is necessary to advance the use of
39 'ōlelo Hawai'i in government services and transactions, private
40 sector activity, and tourism, in addition to education; now,
41 therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that this body supports the development of a Hawaiian Language Plan to build upon accomplishments and to accelerate the normalization of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the next two years, the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo is urged to coordinate a coalition to develop the Hawaiian Language Plan, including aspirational goals, benchmarks, strategies, and outcomes for the next 35 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coalition to develop the Hawaiian Language Plan may include representatives of the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo, Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani Hawaiian Language College, Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, Department of Education Office Of Hawaiian Education, Kamehameha Schools, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, ‘Ōiwi TV, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, ‘Aha Kauleo, Kanaeokana, Keomālamalama, and other organizations as appropriate to ensure collective representation in the development of the Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Language Plan, including any proposed legislation, be submitted to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, members of Hawai‘i's congressional delegation, Chief Executive Officer of ‘Aha Pūnana Leo, Director of Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani Hawaiian Language College, Dean of the Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian

1 Knowledge, Director of the Department of Education Office of
2 Hawaiian Education, Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha
3 Schools, and 'Ōiwi Television Network.
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OFFERED BY:











