



SR18 SD1

URGING THE USE OR INCORPORATION OF THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INTO THE VOCABULARY USED TO IDENTIFY LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA AND INTO SAFETY WARNINGS AND ENCOURAGING THE IMPROVED PRONUNCIATION OF WORDS IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 3, 2018

10:20 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SR18 SD1, which urges the use or incorporation of the Hawaiian Language (‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i) into the vocabulary used to identify local flora and fauna and into safety warnings, and which encourages the improved pronunciation of words in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. This measure will encourage the State and its people to further the constitutional provision recognizing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as an official language of the State, and assist in the revitalization and normalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is the native language of the Native Hawaiian people and was the predominant language in Hawai‘i up until the end of the 19th century, when it was used by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike. However, by the late 20th century, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i was pushed to the brink of extinction due to a number of factors, including an 1896 law that functioned to ban the speaking of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in Hawai‘i schools. Fortunately, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i was saved by several historic initiatives, such as the 1978 State constitutional amendment recognizing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as an official language of the State;¹ the establishment and development of both the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo preschool program in 1983 and the Ka Papahana Kaiapuni K-12 Hawaiian language medium program in 1987; and the increased offering of college-level classes in Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies, including at Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani and other venues. OHA has long supported efforts to revitalize and normalize ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, and appreciates SR18 SD1’s potential to further such efforts.

OHA also notes that its strategic priority of Mo‘omeheu seeks to increase the appreciation for and value placed on Native Hawaiian history and culture, and to increase the number of Native Hawaiian residents participating in cultural activities. OHA believes that this resolution will likewise support this strategic priority, through the further use and normalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in our everyday environment.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SR18 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹HAW. CONST. art. XV, § 4.

SR-18-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 10:31:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:20:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: