
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 78, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
3 read as follows:

4 "§78- Knowledge of Hawaiian language. (a)

5 Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, chapter 76, and
6 chapter 89, knowledge of and ability to communicate in the
7 Hawaiian language shall be a desirable but not mandatory
8 qualification in the hiring of all officers and employees.

9 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), all officers and
10 employees whose primary duties involve public relations or the
11 dissemination of information to the general public shall have
12 basic skills and ability to communicate in the Hawaiian
13 language.

14 (c) The director of human resources development shall
15 develop rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement this section."



1 SECTION 2. Pursuant to article XV, section 4, of the
2 Hawaii State Constitution, English and Hawaiian are the official
3 languages of the State. The legislature finds that it is
4 important that public documents, including the Hawaii State
5 Constitution, be translated into the Hawaiian language.

6 SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii shall develop and
7 implement a program to translate public documents, including the
8 Hawaii State Constitution, into the Hawaiian language.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
12 University of Hawaii to develop and implement a program to
13 translate public documents, including the Hawaii State
14 Constitution, into the Hawaiian language.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
16 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
18 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
19 begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
2 provided that section 4 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
3 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Reid. Lewis

JAN 23 2018



H.B. NO. 2438

Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; State Employees; Public Information Officers;
University of Hawaii; Public Documents; Appropriation

Description:

Makes knowledge of the Hawaiian language a desirable qualification for all state positions. Requires all public information officers of the State to have basic skills in the Hawaiian language. Requires the University of Hawaii to develop and implement a program to translate public documents, including the State Constitution, into the Hawaiian language. Makes an appropriation.

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