
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 take steps at the national and
5 international levels to preserve, revitalize, and promote
6 indigenous languages; 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 serve as 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 there is an urgent need
17 to preserve, promote, and revitalize endangered languages; and
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19 WHEREAS, 'ōlelo Hawai'i is an indigenous language of Hawai'i
20 and recognized by the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i as one
21 of the State's official languages; and
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23 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i, in upholding the spirit of
24 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, and in
25 recognition of the numerous achievements over the past 35 years
26 in preserving and revitalizing 'ōlelo Hawai'i, has proclaimed
27 2019 the Year of the Indigenous Language; and
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29 WHEREAS, there is a need to first and foremost acknowledge
30 the Niihau Language Commission and native Hawaiian speakers who,
31 within their families, are preserving, protecting, and
32 promulgating the indigenous Hawaiian language in a fully



1 comprehensive manner in the family setting from the earliest
2 ages with all traditional subtlety and nuance; and
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4 WHEREAS, for the past 35 years, 'Aha Pūnana Leo along with
5 other Hawaiian language movement leaders, including Ka Haka 'Ula
6 O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, Hawai'inuiākea
7 School of Hawaiian Knowledge, and all Hawaiian language programs
8 throughout the University of Hawai'i System, the Department of
9 Education Office of Hawaiian Education, Kamehameha Schools, the
10 Hawaiian medium and Hawaiian immersion schools, and all other
11 Hawaiian language programs at all public schools including
12 charter schools, have collectively worked to reverse the
13 language loss that occurred at the turn of the 20th century and
14 to preserve, revitalize, and promote this indigenous language
15 through cooperative efforts to raise speakers of 'ōlelo Hawai'i,
16 to educate learners in immersive settings, to normalize 'ōlelo
17 Hawai'i in its homeland, and to drive and inspire change to
18 ensure a living language in Hawai'i and beyond; and
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20 WHEREAS, the specific outcomes and results of these
21 collective efforts include:
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- 23 (1) Consulting extensively with and acknowledging the
24 invaluable expertise of first-language native Hawaiian
25 speakers whose families have never lost the language
26 at any time in history;
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- 28 (2) Reestablishment of the Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for
29 Education Hawaiian medium pathway of education from
30 the Pūnana Leo preschools to the State's Hawaiian
31 medium and Hawaiian immersion programs up through the
32 graduate degrees offered at Ka Haka 'Ula o
33 Ke'elikōlani, which serves over 4,000 students annually
34 at over 40 different sites throughout the State;
35
- 36 (3) The Hawaiian language being offered as a world
37 language at over two-thirds of Hawai'i Department of
38 Education high schools;
39
- 40 (4) Hawaiian language broadcast media initiative in
41 partnership with 'Aha Pūnana Leo and 'Ōiwi TV; and



1
 2 (5) A generation of graduates from Hawaiian medium and
 3 Hawaiian immersion programs that grew up speaking
 4 Hawaiian and are raising their own keiki to speak and
 5 live 'ōlelo Hawai'i; and
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7 WHEREAS, to build upon these successes and to further
 8 accelerate the normalization of 'ōlelo Hawai'i, the development
 9 of a Hawaiian Language Plan is necessary to advance the use of
 10 'ōlelo Hawai'i in government services and transactions, private
 11 sector activity, and tourism, in addition to education; now,
 12 therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 15 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that this body
 16 supports the development of a Hawaiian Language Plan to build
 17 upon accomplishments and to accelerate the normalization of
 18 'ōlelo Hawai'i; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the next two years, the
 21 'Aha Pūnana Leo is urged to coordinate a coalition to develop the
 22 Hawaiian Language Plan, including aspirational goals,
 23 benchmarks, strategies, and outcomes for the next 35 years; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coalition to develop the
 26 Hawaiian Language Plan may include representatives of the 'Aha
 27 Pūnana Leo, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani Hawaiian Language
 28 College, Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, Department
 29 of Education Office Of Hawaiian Education, Kamehameha Schools,
 30 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, 'Ōiwi TV, the Association of Hawaiian
 31 Civic Clubs, 'Aha Kauleo, Kanaeokana, Keomālamalama, native
 32 speakers who are first language speakers and whose families
 33 never lost the Hawaiian language, and other organizations as
 34 appropriate to ensure collective and equitable representation in
 35 the development of the Plan; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Language Plan,
 38 including any proposed legislation, be submitted to the
 39 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 40 the Regular Session of 2021; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, members of Hawai'i's
3 congressional delegation, Chief Executive Officer of 'Aha Pūnana
4 Leo, Director of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani Hawaiian Language
5 College, Dean of the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge,
6 Director of the Department of Education Office of Hawaiian
7 Education, Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools, and
8 'Ōiwi Television Network.
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