
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY'S 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I INITIATIVES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that article XV,
2 section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution affirms that English
3 and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, the Hawaiian language, are the official
4 languages of the State. The legislature also finds that the
5 Hawaii State Constitution provides for the preservation and
6 promotion of Hawaiian culture, history, and language in various
7 provisions, including article X, section 4, which states, "[t]he
8 State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and
9 language".

10 The legislature further finds that the judiciary has
11 already taken initial steps to explore ways of providing 'Ōlelo
12 Hawai'i resources and interpreter and translation services to the
13 public. To advance this work, in 2015, the legislature adopted
14 House Concurrent Resolution No. 217, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, Regular
15 Session of 2015, that requested the judiciary to convene a task
16 force to examine and report on establishing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i
17 resources for the judiciary. The task force report made several



1 findings, including that 'Ōlelo Hawai'i "possesses appropriate
2 specificity, sophistication, and technical breadth of
3 terminology to accurately translate legal terminology from
4 English into 'Ōlelo Hawai'i". Additionally, according to the
5 United States Census Bureau's 2009-2013 American Community
6 Survey Five-Year Estimates, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i ranks number five in
7 languages other than English spoken at home in the State.
8 Further, the task force found that as an independent branch of
9 government, the judiciary could effectively serve as a focused
10 model to demonstrate the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

11 While the judiciary has continued its efforts to make
12 resources and services available in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, it is time
13 for more attention and funding to move these efforts forward.
14 The task force report made several recommendations and
15 identified projects that can serve as a guide to the judiciary.

16 The legislature notes that this Act should not be viewed as
17 groundbreaking. Other countries that recognize more than one
18 official language provide access to government services and
19 documents in all official languages, and the United Nations
20 operates in six official languages.



1 The purpose of this Act is to support the judiciary's 'Ōlelo
2 Hawai'i initiatives. It is not the legislature's intent that the
3 requested funds supplant the judiciary's existing funding or
4 budget requests.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
9 year 2024-2025 to support the judiciary's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i
10 projects.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary
12 for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Judiciary; 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Initiatives; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the judiciary to support the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Initiatives. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

