

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/02/2023

**Time:** 07:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1128 RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL  
NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN.

**Purpose of Bill:** Defines the term Hawaiian language with regard to Hawaii's official languages and requires that every effort shall be made to accommodate Hawaiian speakers and readers. Authorizes Department of Education schools to offer Hawaiian language as the sole indigenous language of the Hawaiian Islands. Appropriates funds to the State Public Charter School Commission to study the Hawaiian language and for the publication of educational resource materials for native speakers of the Hawaiian language. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education respectfully provides the following comments for the committee's consideration on HB 1128.

Passage of this bill would have implications to current Department 'ōlelo Hawai'i educational programming and/or policies and the Department would like to engage in discussions to identify and reconcile them.

Additionally, an acknowledgement of the native language voices that helped to inform current Department practices would be necessary and prudent to ensure appropriate recognition. Priority should also be given to affirm the presence or lack of native regional language nuances across Hawaiian language communities.

Finally, discussions should take place within the broader Hawaiian language community to understand the implications of narrowing the definition of a Hawaiian language speaker.

The Department supports community agency and recognizes there is a need to understand how government efforts and resources may be used to support the priorities of specific communities, like those of the Ni'ihau language speaking community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on this measure.

JOSH GREEN. M.D.  
GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION  
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: HB 1128 Relating to Support for Traditional Native Speakers of Hawaiian  
DATE: February 2, 2023  
TIME: 2:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Martin, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to provide **comments on HB1128** which defines the term Hawaiian language with regard to Hawai‘i’s official languages and requires that every effort shall be made to accommodate Hawaiian speakers and readers. Authorizes Department of Education schools to offer Hawaiian language as the sole indigenous language of the Hawaiian Islands. Appropriates funds to the State Public Charter School Commission to study the Hawaiian language and for the publication of educational resource materials for native speakers of the Hawaiian language. Appropriates funds.

The Commission supports efforts to strengthen the use of the Hawaiian language as an official language of the state, and deeply appreciates the bill’s intent to further that support and understanding of the Hawaiian Language through the proposed study of the Hawaiian language in Section 5 of the bill. However, the State Public Charter School Commission is primarily the authorizer of public charter schools and one of its primary functions is to monitor, in accordance with charter contract terms, the performance and legal compliance of public charter schools<sup>i</sup>. The Commission does not have the capacity nor the expertise to conduct a study on the Hawaiian language, including the variety of the Hawaiian language spoken on Niihau and any other Hawaiian language known to have been perpetuated since 1777 in the Hawaiian archipelago. We would be happy to connect our public charter schools with researchers on such a study, however, the Commission would not be able to conduct such a study.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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<sup>i</sup> §302D-5 Authorizer powers, duties, and liabilities. (a) Authorizers are responsible for executing the following essential powers and duties:

- (1) Soliciting and evaluating charter applications;
  - (2) Approving quality charter applications that meet identified educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices;
  - (3) Declining to approve weak or inadequate charter applications;
  - (4) Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter applicant and with existing public charter schools;
  - (5) Monitoring, in accordance with charter contract terms, the performance and legal compliance of public charter schools; and
  - (6) Determining whether each charter contract merits renewal, nonrenewal, or revocation.
- (b) An authorizer shall:
- (1) Act as a point of contact between the department and a public charter school it authorizes;
  - (2) Be responsible for and ensure the compliance of a public charter school it authorizes with all applicable state and federal laws, including reporting requirements;
  - (3) Be responsible for the receipt of applicable federal funds from the department and the distribution of funds to the public charter school it authorizes; and
  - (4) Be responsible for the receipt of per-pupil funding from the department of budget and finance and distribution of the funding to the public charter school it authorizes.
- (c) An authorizer shall have the power to make and execute contracts and all other instruments necessary or convenient for the exercise of its duties and functions under this chapter.
- (d) An authorizer may delegate its duties to officers, employees, and contractors.
- (e) Regulation by authorizers shall be limited to the powers and duties set forth in this section, and shall be consistent with the spirit and intent of this chapter.
- (f) An authorizer, members of the board of an authorizer acting in their official capacity, and employees or agents of an authorizer are immune from civil and criminal liability with respect to all activities related to a public charter school authorized by that authorizer, except for any acts or omissions constituting wilful misconduct. Members of the commission shall be afforded the same protection afforded the members of the board pursuant to section 26-35.5.
- (g) An authorizer shall not provide technical support to a prospective charter school applicant, an applicant governing board, or a charter school it authorizes in cases in which the technical support will directly and substantially impact any authorizer decision related to the approval or denial of the charter application or the renewal, revocation, or nonrenewal of the charter contract. This subsection shall not apply to technical support that an authorizer is required to provide to a charter school pursuant to federal law. [L 2012, c 130, pt of §2; am L 2013, c 159, §5; am L 2014, c 99, §5; am L 2015, c 114, §3; am L 2016, c 113, §1]



**LATE**

**HB1128**  
RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN  
House Committee on Education

February 2, 2023

2:00 PM

Room 309

**KĀKO'O LOA** ka Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) i ka pila HB1128, no ka ho'omākaukau 'ia ma kēia kānāwai i ke kōkua pono 'ana i nā po'e 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma nā mea kū kānāwai, ā e ho'ēmi i nā mea i pilikia ai i nā po'e Kānaka Maoli i kēia me kēlā mau lā.

[ The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB1128, which would provide the necessary accommodations for Hawaiian language speakers in social and legal services, substantially decreasing the inequity-gap that so many Native Hawaiians face on a daily basis. ]

I ka 'ōlelo no ke ola, i ka 'ōlelo no ka make – ua 'ōlelo 'ia kēia 'ōlelo no'eau kaulana i ka wā kahiko no ke kālele mana'o ai ā no ke kuhikuhi 'ana he mea ko'iko'i loa ka 'ōlelo. I kēia mau lā, aia ke kauna no kēia, i kupu mai nā hana kaulike 'ole me nā pono 'ole ma o ka paiha'akei 'ili i ha'akoi i ke ola o Kānaka Maoli i nā lā āpau. Ua pāpā kānāwai i ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i e ho'opau ai i ka piko'u Hawai'i. 'A'ole e hana hou 'ana i ua mau ho'imāinoino lā.

[ I ka 'ōlelo no ke ola, i ka 'ōlelo no ka make (in words/language there is life and in words/language there is death) – this 'ōlelo no'eau (wise saying) was used i ka kahiko (in a time long ago) to emphasize the importance of words, in teaching that “words matter/what you say, matters.” Today, there is an added meaning to this adage, one that stems from the historical injustices, which established systems of oppression and institutions of racism that force Native Hawaiians to endure inequities in every facet of their lives. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i was outlawed in an attempt to annihilate Native Hawaiian identity.<sup>1</sup> Such a atrocities shall never happen again.]

Maopopo loa ka waiwai 'o OHA i kēia manawa kūpono e kāko'o ai i kēia bila a noi mai i kēia Kōmike **i ka 'āpono 'ana i HB1128.**

[OHA appreciates this opportunity to support this measure and urges this Committee to **PASS HB1128.** Mahalo nui loa.]

<sup>1</sup> “If we are ever to have peace and annexation the first thing to do is to obliterate the past,” stated by Samuel Mills Damon, former Vice President of the Provisional Government of Hawai'i and executive council for the Republic of Hawai'i, Council of State (Provisional Government of the Hawaiian Islands, 1895). 26 November 1895. Hawaii State Archives Series 424 Vol. 4.



**HB1128**  
RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN  
House Committee on Education

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Established by our state's Constitution,<sup>2</sup> OHA is a semi-autonomous agency of the State of Hawai'i mandated to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. Guided by a board of nine publicly elected trustees, all of whom are currently Native Hawaiian, OHA fulfills its mandate through advocacy, research, community engagement, land management, and the funding of community programs. Hawai'i state law recognizes OHA as the principal public agency in the state responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, state law directs OHA to advocate on behalf of Native Hawaiians.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> HAW. CONST., art. XII, §5 (1978).

<sup>3</sup> Haw. Rev. Stat. § 10-3(3).

<sup>4</sup> Haw. Rev. Stat. § 10-3(4).

## OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI K. KAAUWAI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of  
**Nalani K. Brun**  
Office of Economic Development Director, County of Kauai

Before the  
**House Committee on Education**  
February 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.  
Room 309 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HB 1128**  
**Relating to Support for Traditional Native Speakers of Hawaiian**

Aloha Honorable Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Martin, and Committee Members:

I am writing in **support** of HB 1128 relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian which defines the term Hawaiian language with regard to Hawai'i's official languages and requires that every effort shall be made to accommodate Hawaiian speakers and readers; authorizes the Department of Education schools to offer Hawaiian language as the sole indigenous language of the Hawaiian Islands; and appropriates funds to the State Public Charter School Commission to study the Hawaiian language and for the publication of educational resource materials for native speakers of the Hawaiian language.

This bill seeks to support kupuna of all islands and members of the Niihau community whose families have never lost their language. When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, native speakers of Hawaiian need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best.

We understand that language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers. For centuries, Hawaiian culture has taught the younger generations to learn via mimic of their cultural and linguistic mentors which this bill helps support. We believe this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 1128.

# **Ka Leo o na Kupa**

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*Preserving and promoting Hawaii's historical language – olelo Kanaka*

## **House Committee on Education**

Representative Woodson, Chair  
Representative Marten, Vice Chair and –  
Members: Representatives Kapela, Martinez, Matayoshi, Perusso, Quinlan, Todd,  
Garcia

February 1, 2023

### **In Strong Support of HB1128**

Ka Leo o na Kupa is a council of native speakers (L1) of Hawaiian language whose main purpose is to preserve, promote and re-establish the Hawaii's historical language with its unique world-view, and to support others in the use of this language – the normalization of Hawaiian language in Hawaii.

Me ke aloha mau no ka aina a makou e waiho aku nei i keia mau manao no ka HB1128 i hoolaha ia maila imua o ka lehulehu. Ke hoomau aku nei no keia ma o ka olelo elua o Hawaii nei.

I am writing to request your support of HB 1128 relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian. This bill seeks to support kupuna of all islands and members of the Niihau community whose families have never lost the mother tongue of Hawaii until today. When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, native speakers of Hawaiian need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best, and not in newly invented language that they do not understand.

Language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers, and Hawaiian culture has for centuries taught that the younger generations learn from and mimic their cultural and linguistic mentors, and this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

No ka pono o ka aina, a no ke ola o ka lahui,



Kahea Faria



Keao NeSmith, PhD  
1216 Wilder Ave 202  
Honolulu HI 96822  
February 1, 2023

House of Representatives  
Committee on Education  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Conference Room 309  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St  
Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike Hoonaaauao (Committee on Education),

I am writing to ask that you support HB 1128 relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian. This bill seeks to support kupuna of all islands and members of the Niihau community whose families have never lost the mother tongue of their families until today. When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, these Hawaiian speakers need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best, and not in newly invented language that they do not understand.

Language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers, and Hawaiian culture has for centuries taught that the younger generations learn from and mimic their cultural and linguistic mentors, and this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,  
Keao NeSmith, PhD  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R.\\_Keao\\_NeSmith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._Keao_NeSmith)

**HB-1128**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:24:50 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kahele Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 1128. I support the bill. More funding for Hawaiian language education and support of native speakers is important to holding up our language as the official language of this place.

Mahalo,

Kahele Cruz

**HB-1128**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:41:28 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1128.

With the progress in learning the Hawaiian language being made by from every level of schooling, from preschool till graduate school, and from the growth of new speakers who raise their children with Hawaiian language being their primary language, I feel the need to update the Hawaii Revised Statues to align to this growth of Hawaiian language speakers is appropriate.

I do also want to express my full support behind the inclusion of the following language into the official state languages section of the Hawaii Revised Statues (from page 5, line 4 of the bill):  
"*...provided that every effort shall be made to accomodate Hawaiian speakers, both native speakers and new speakers in their respective varities and orthographies by translating public documents, notices, and medical records to Hawaiian...*" , as Hawaiian language is an official state language, it should be treated as such.

Mahalo nui for your time

**HB-1128**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:22:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Kahale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 1128. I support the bill as a member of the Niihau ohana and the parent of children who carry on the language. More funding for Hawaiian language education and support of native speakers is important to holding up our language as the official language of this place.

Mahalo,

Andrew Kahale

**HB-1128**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:30:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kailoa Kahale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 1128. I support the bill as a member of the Niihau ohana and a keiki olelo Hawaii. More funding for Hawaiian language education and support of native speakers is important to holding up our language as the official language of this place. My school is underfunded and it affects our quality of life. We do not have a gym to hosts other schools in athletics. It seems as though the state does not support immersion schools, Hawaiian language teachers, or students.

Kailoa Kahale

**HB-1128**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:43:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shauna Springer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o wau! I support!

**HB-1128**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:56:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/2/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kauanoë Kamana	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sorry if this is a duplicate comment: Not sure if it went through

Aloha Chair Woodson and Vice Chair Marten,

I have four grandparents all born in the 1800's who were speakers of Hawaiian. 3 pure Hawaiians, 1 was 50% Hawaiian. My parents could speak Hawaiian, and used phrases and words with us. I speak Hawaiian and my children were raised in our home as speakers of Hawaiian from birth. Who determines what is "an unbroken lineage of speakers of the language?" What is our kuleana in the genealogy and family practices of Hawaiian families? Consider Hawaiians who started the Hawaiian church where only Hawaiian is used until today. Would they think of the text in the Hawaiian Bible as Hawaiian, or not...as the missionaries could be viewed as breaking the lineage of Hawaiian by writing the Bible in Hawaiian?

I hope that we can continue to unite and one 'ohana and support Hawaiian speaking communities. Those Hawaiian speakers that supported language learning in the 1970's and the Pūnana Leo effort from the 1980's came from all over our islands including the 'ohana Ni'ihau. They were positive, encouraging and forward thinking. Mahalo a nui to you all for giving us all the foundation in language and we could build upon for generations to come. I mua kākou!  
Aloha



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language

**LATE**

House Committee on Education  
Representative Woodson, Chair  
Representative Marten, Vice Chair and –  
Members: Representatives Kapela, Martinez, Matayoshi, Perusso, Quinlan, Todd,  
Garcia

February 2, 2023

In Strong Support of HB1128

Aloha e ke Komike Hoonaaauao (Committee on Education)

I am writing to request your support of HB 1128 relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian. This bill seeks to support kupuna of all islands and members of the Niihau community whose families have never lost the mother tongue of Hawaii until today. When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, native speakers of Hawaiian need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best, and not in newly invented language that they do not understand.

Language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers, and Hawaiian culture has for centuries taught that the younger generations learn from and mimic their cultural and linguistic mentors, and this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

Meka mahalo a nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Kanahale Wong".

Dr. A. Kuuipolani Kanahale Wong  
Hope Polopeka & Ke'ena Mānaleo  
Ke Ke'ena Mānaleo  
Kawaihuelani ka Hālau 'Ōlelo Hawai'i



Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Education, the House Committee on Judiciary and  
Hawaiian Affairs, and the House Committee on Finance

Hearing Date: 02/02/23

Hearing Time: 2:00 pm in 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

By

Ron Kekeha Solis and Kerry Laiana Wong  
Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB1128 Relating to Support for Traditional Native Speakers of Hawaiian

Aloha Chairs Michelle N. Kidani, David A. Tarnas and Kyle T. Yamashita, and  
Vice Chairs Donna Mercado Kim, Gregg Takayama, and Lisa Kitagawa and  
members of the committees:

Our names are Ron Kekeha Solis, an Associate Professor at Kawaihuelani  
Center for Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa and Kerry  
Laiana Wong, a Full Professor at Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language at  
the University of Hawai'i Mānoa.

We stand in full support of HB1128. This bill is urgently needed. Traditional  
Native Speakers of Hawaiian definitely need to be supported. And this bill is a  
wonderful start. We plead you to ensure that the Traditional Native Speakers of  
Hawaiian are always included in each step.

We mention that this is a wonderful start because the approach needs to be  
multi-faceted to ensure their needs, social-economical, health, financial, etc., are  
met. And always make certain, nothing is forced upon them.

I reiterate my stand supporting HB1128. Mahalo for your consideration.

Ron Kekeha Solis  
Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language  
University of Hawai'i Mānoa



Kerry Laiana Wong  
Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language  
University of Hawai'i Mānoa

