## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE PERIOD BETWEEN 2022 AND 2032 AS THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES.

WHEREAS, in 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/71/178, proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, in response to concern that forty percent of the world's estimated 6,700 languages were in danger of disappearing; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019 the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution A/RES/74/396, which proclaimed 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages as part of an effort to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to take steps at the national and international levels to preserve, revitalize, and promote indigenous languages; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations acknowledges that indigenous languages represent complex systems of knowledge developed and accumulated over thousands of years and serve as repositories of diversity and key resources for understanding and utilizing the environment to the best advantage of local populations; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has expressed deep concern about the vast number of endangered languages, in particular indigenous languages, and stresses that there is an urgent need to preserve, promote, and revitalize endangered languages; and

WHEREAS, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is an indigenous language of Hawai'i and recognized by the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i as one of the State's official languages; and

WHEREAS, in upholding the spirit of the International Year of Indigenous Languages and in recognition of the numerous achievements over the past thirty-five years in restoring and revitalizing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor

of the State of Hawaii proclaimed 2019 the Year of Indigenous Languages; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, that this body recognizes the period between 2022 and 2032 as the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of State; members of Hawai'i's congressional delegation; Governor; Director of the Department of Education's Office of Hawaiian Education; Director of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language, University of Hawai'i at Hilo; Dean of Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools; and Chief Executive Officer of 'Aha Pūnana Leo.

OFFERED BY:

MAR 1 1 2022