
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, section
2 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution affirms that English and
3 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language) shall be the official
4 languages of the State. The legislature also finds that the
5 Constitution provides for the preservation and promotion of
6 native Hawaiian culture, history, and language in various
7 provisions including article X, section 4, which states, "The
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, interpreter, and translation services to the
13 public. To advance this work, in 2015, the legislature adopted
14 a concurrent resolution, H.C.R. No. 217, Session Laws of Hawaii
15 2015, that requested the judiciary to convene a task force to
16 examine and report on establishing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i resources for
17 the judiciary. The task force report made several findings



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



H.B. NO. 267

Report Title:

Olelo Hawaii Initiatives; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for staff positions and various services to support the Olelo Hawaii Initiatives.

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