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 'Olelo Hawai'i resources for
- 17 the judiciary. The task force report made several findings

H.B. NO. 267

- 1 including that 'Olelo 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 'Olelo 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

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 \$300,000 or so much
7	thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
8	same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9	2024-2025 to support the judiciary's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i projects as
10	follows:
11	(1) \$100,000 for a program coordinator; and
12	(2) \$200,000 for implementation, including translation
13	services, website upgrades, preparation of materials,
14	and educational efforts.
15	The sums appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary
16	for the purposes of this Act.
17	SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.
18	INTRODUCED BY:
	JAN 1 9 2023

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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