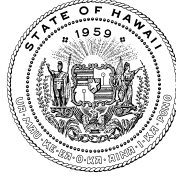


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

H. B. 1128 HD1

FEBRUARY 15, 2023, 2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL
RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1128 HD1. The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports this bill and offers the following comments:

1. Literacy amongst the citizens of the Hawaiian Kingdom is reputed to have been amongst the highest of any nation in the world. As a result, millions of pages of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i documents were created throughout the 19th century.
2. The State Archives preserves one of the largest collections of handwritten documents from the Hawaiian Kingdom period.
3. In order to more deeply understand the history of Hawai'i, the ability to not only read these 19th century documents but understand the deeper meanings and contexts contained within the language is essential.

4. DAGS strongly supports increased support and education of the Hawaiian Language that includes the form of the language that was taught during the Hawaiian Kingdom so that the rich documentary heritage contained in the State Archives is accessible to more than just the few Native speakers and academics who understand.
5. DAGS respectfully suggests that efforts to more fully support increased fluency in the indigenous language that existed in the early Hawaiian Kingdom should be made throughout Hawai'i and not restricted just to islands with populations of 500 or less so that the rich documentary heritage contained in the many memory institutions throughout Hawai'i can be more widely understood and appreciated.
6. Furthermore, DAGS supports and encourages any study commissioned by the State Public Charter School Commission include an analysis of the ability of the current generation of Hawaiian Language students to fully grasp the depth, breadth, nuances of language contained in the millions of pages of Hawaiian Kingdom newspapers, correspondence, and government documents that are preserved by the memory institutions of Hawai'i and to make recommendations on closing any gaps that were noted.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

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.



HB1128 HD1
KE KĀKO‘O NO KA MANALEO HAWAI‘I
[RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN]
Ke Kōmike no ka Ho‘ona‘auao
[House Committee on Education]

Pepeluali 2, 2023

2:00 PM

Lumi 309

KĀKO‘O LOA ka Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) i ka pila HB1128 HD1, 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 HD1, 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 la.

[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.¹ 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.** Mahalo nui loa.

[OHA appreciates this opportunity to support this measure and urges this Committee to **PASS HB1128 HD1.** Mahalo nui loa.]

¹ “If we are ever to have peace and annexation the first thing to do is to obliterate the past,” ua ha‘i ‘o Samuel Mills Damon, kēlā Hope Pelekikena no ka ‘Aupuni Hewa (Provisional Government) a me Hui Ho‘okō no ka ‘Aupuni Hewa Loa (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 HD1
KE KĀKO‘O NO KA MANALEO HAWAI‘I
[RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN]
Ke Kōmike no ka Ho‘ona‘auao
[House Committee on Education]

Established by our state’s Constitution,² 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.³ Furthermore, state law directs OHA to advocate on behalf of Native Hawaiians.⁴

² HAW. CONST., art. XII, §5 (1978).

³ Haw. Rev. Stat. § 10-3(3).

⁴ Haw. Rev. Stat. § 10-3(4).

Ka Leo o na Kupa

Preservina and promotina Hawaii's historical lanauaae – olelo Kanaka

Representative Tarnas, Chair
Representative Takayama, Vice Chair and Members
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 14, 2023

RE: Strong Support of HB1128

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Members,

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.

Ka Leo o na Kupa is writing in **Strong Support** of **HB1128**'s original text 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 ohana until today.

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



Kahea Faria

February 14, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to ask that you support the original text 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 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. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

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.

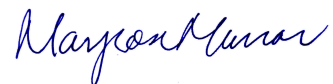
Me ka mahalo a nui loa,



Sean Andrade
President & Chairman



Treston Caberto
Director, Farm & Land



Mayrose Munar
Chief Operating Officer



Keao NeSmith
Secretary



Anna Baudouin
Director, Programs & Engagement



Wayne Ayudan
Board Member



Kaeo Bradford
Board Member

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:45:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Keao NeSmith | Individual | Support | In Person |

Comments:

Aloha no e ke Komike Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to ask that you support the original text 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 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. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

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 Hawai'i.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

Dr Keao NeSmith

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 4:37:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Kailoa Kahale | Individual | Support | In Person |

Comments:

Aloha no e ke Komike [committee],

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. As a member of the Niihau ohana, I support the bill, as it was originally drafted.

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. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

The native speaker style of writing is important today and there are numerous publications that demonstrate the written communication of our language by native speakers.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

Kailoa Kahale

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:50:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Kahele Cruz | Individual | Support | In Person |

Comments:

Aloha no e ke Komike [committee],

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.

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.

Written materials specifically for native speakers will not only benefit native speakers, but all those working towards the restoration of and fluency in the Hawaiian language.

Me ka mahalo,

Kahele Cruz

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:52:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dara Yatsushiro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:48:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Charles-Michael victorino | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Charles-Michael K Victorino

94-550 Mahoe St. Waipahu HI 96797

February 13, 2023

House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. David A.Tarnas, Chair

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania St

Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to ask that you support the original text 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 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. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

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,

Charles-Michael Keao'onohi Victorino

Donna L. "Wai" Victorino
94-550 Mahoe Street
Waipahu, Hawaii 9679
February 13, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to ask that you support the original text 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 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. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

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,
Donna L. Victorino

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:18:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leimomi Khan | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support for the reasons given by the various Native Hawaiian educators in their testimonies. The provisions of the bill would further advance the integrity of the Native Hawaiian language as spoken by our ancestors. I note the testimony of the State Public Charter School Commission and their inability to conduct the study as provided in the bill. Recommend that they contract out this study. Mahalo for your consideration of my comments.

Dr. Ku'ualoha Ho'omanawanui
46-320 Ha'ikū Rd.
Kāne'ōhe, HI 96744
kuaigrxl@gmail.com

February 13, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha nō e ke Komike Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am a Kaua'i native working in Hawaiian education for over thirty years. I am writing to ask that you support the original text of HB 1128 relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian language. This bill seeks to support kūpuna of all islands, including (and perhaps especially) the Ni'ihau community, whose families have never lost their unique, endangered, and highly valued mother tongue of Ni'ihau Hawaiian, a language that they still speak today which has never been lost or needed to be reconstructed.

While Hawaiian is recognized as an official state language, it does not specify any particular way of speaking or writing, and it does not recognize the different ways of speaking across the islands and across different communities. My tutu (grandmother) spoke Hawaiian as a first language, and it was not the Hawaiian of UH Hilo. My family had the opportunity to learn Hawaiian from her and her generation well before I took additional courses at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. These home lessons in Hawaiian supplemented by the Kaua'i and Ni'ihau people I grew up around availed to me a different understanding of our beloved Hawaiian language, and provided more insights than it is possible to learn just in university classes. Thus, when public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, Hawaiian speakers, particularly those who learn Hawaiian as a first language outside a university environment need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best, and not only composed in a newly invented language that they do not understand. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

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.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you. Please consider the diversity of the Hawaiian language community in your deliberation of this bill.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ku'ualoha Ho'omanawanui". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Dr. Ku'ualoha Ho'omanawanui
Professor of Hawaiian Literature
English Department
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:04:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Maile Kaku | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

February 13, 2023

House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. David A.Tarnas, Chair

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania St

Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to ask that you support the original text 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 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. ***Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.***

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,

Maile Kaku

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:40:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Regina Gregory | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The amendments made to this bill are disgraceful and contradictory.

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:57:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ralph Hasegawa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this bill as well as all efforts to increase the number of Hawaiian speakers. I am a resident of 'Aiea. Mahalo, Ralph

Donavan Kealoha
February 14, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to ask that you support the original text 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.

When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, these Hawaiian speakers need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DK', written in a cursive style.

Donavan Kealoha

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 3:08:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keokapukoa Kaohelaulii | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in support of HB1128.

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 3:20:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dana Keawe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Strong support HB1128 HD1.

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:08:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Donavan Kealoha | Individual | Comments | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Donavan Kealoha

February 14, 2023

House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. David A.Tarnas, Chair

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania St

Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to ask that you support the original text 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.

When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, these Hawaiian speakers need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best.

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,

Donavan Kealoha

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:53:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Andrew Kahale | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha no e ke Komike [committee],

As a member of the Niihau ohana, 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.

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.

Written materials specifically for native speakers will not only benefit native speakers, but all those working towards the restoration of and fluency in the Hawaiian language.

Me ka mahalo,

Andrew Kahale

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 12:57:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| J. Hau'oli Lorenzo-Elarco | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

02.15.2023

Auheha oukou e ka Poekohoia, he wahi leo kakoo piha keia i ka pila e kokua ana i na manaleo olelo Hawaii a pau o ka pae aina nei. E like no me na mea i ikeia ma keia wahi leka kakoo nei, he olelo ola ka olelo Hawaii, a ikeia no ia ola ana i kona mau ano e oleloia nei i loko o na kaiaulu like ole. No ua kumu nei, he mea nui a koikoi loa ke konoia ana o na manaleo i ka hoolala me ka hooko pu i na mea e pono ai ko lakou kaiaulu olelo ola. He koikoi no ke kakoo piha ana i ka ohana Niihau ma o keia pila nei, no ka mea, he laana no ua kaiaulu olelo ola la no na kaiaulu eae e hoomahuahua olelo ola ana i ka pae aina nei. He waiwai pu ana nohoi na hua o keia pila nei i ka poe e ao mai nei (a e ao mai ana paha) i ka olelo Hawaii. Ma o ke kakooia o ka pila nei, kakoo pu ia no ke ola mau o ka olelo Hawai'i. Mahalo piha!

Auheha outou e ta Poekohoia, he wahi leo katoos piha teia i ta pila e kotua ana i ta poe manaleo a pau o ta olelo Kanaka o ta pae aina nei. E like no me na mea i iteia ma teia wahi leka katoos nei, he olelo ola ta olelo Kanaka, a ike ia no ia ola ana i kona mau ano e oleloia nei i loko o na kaiaulu like ole. No ua kumu nei, he mea nui a toitoi loa ta kono ana ia o na manaleo i ta hoolala me ta hooto pu i na mea e pono ai to lakou kaiaulu olelo ola. He toitoi no ka tatoo piha ana i ta ohana Niihau ma o teia pila nei, no ta mea, he laana no ua kaiaulu olelo ola la no na kaiaulu eae e hoomahuahua olelo ola ana i ta pae aina nei. He waiwai pu ana nohoi na hua o teia pila nei i ta poe e ao mai nei (a e ao mai ana paha) i ta olelo Kanaka. Ma o ta katoosia o ta pila nei, tatoo puia no te ola mau o ta olelo Kanaka. Mahalo piha!

‘Auheha ‘oukou e ka Po‘ekoho‘ia, he wahi leo kākō‘o piha kēia i ka pila e kōkua ana i nā mānaleo ‘ōlelo Kānaka a pau o ka pae ‘āina nei. E like nō me nā mea i ‘ike ‘ia ma kēia wahi leka kākō‘o nei, he ‘ōlelo ola ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, a ‘ike ‘ia nō ia ola ‘ana i kona mau ‘ano e ‘ōlelo ‘ia nei i loko o nā kaiaulu like ‘ole. No ua kumu nei, he mea nui a ko‘iko‘i loa ke kono ‘ia ‘ana o nā mānaleo i ka ho‘olālā me ka ho‘okō pū i nā mea e pono ai ko lākou kaiaulu ‘ōlelo ola. He ko‘iko‘i nō ke kākō‘o piha ‘ana i ka ‘ohana Ni‘ihau ma o kēia pila nei, no ka mea, he la‘ana nō ua kaiaulu ‘ōlelo ola la no nā kaiaulu ‘ē a‘e e ho‘omahuahua ‘ōlelo ola ana i ka pae ‘āina nei. He waiwai pū ana nō ho‘i nā hua o kēia pila nei i ka po‘e e a‘o mai nei (a e a‘o mai ana paha) i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. Ma o ke kākō‘o ‘ia o ka pila nei, kākō‘o pū ‘ia nō ke ola mau o ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. Mahalo piha!

Aloha! I am in full support of this bill that aims to provide resources for all native speakers of the Hawaiian language. Just as this testimony demonstrates, ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i is a living language—a

marker being that the language thrives through its multiple variations used in different communities. For this reason, it is important to involve native speakers in every step of the planning and implementation process to ensure that the most effective support is provided to meet the specific needs of the native-speaking community/communities. Providing specific support and attention to the ‘ohana Ni‘ihau (the Ni‘ihau community) will serve as a model for other growing communities throughout the islands. Support and resources for native speakers will also benefit contemporary and future learners of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. By supporting this bill, you are also supporting the preservation and growth of the Hawaiian language. Mahalo nui!

I ola ka olelo,

I ola ta olelo,

I ola ka ‘ōlelo,

so that the language will live!

J. Hau‘oli Lorenzo-Elarco, Instructor, Honolulu Community College & PhD Student, Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

HB-1128-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 11:15:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Keoki Faria | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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,

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. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

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.

The preservation and support of the native speaking community to continue their way of life through the language is absolutely essential to the language revitalization movement and the very fabric of our society. What we need to remember here is that this is *the* absolutely last community of intergenerational speakers who through the close knit nature of their community use Hawaiian in *every single* domain of their existence, with exception of those who now live on Kauai and encounter non-Hawaiian speaking people. We, as second language speakers of the language, are still trying to increase and solidfy the language domains that we have fought for so far. The entirety of their experience and knowledge as a community is something that should be supported and protected at all costs.

This is bill represents a very small monetary request in comparison to what the existence of the native speaking community means to us learners of Hawaiian, Hawaii, and the world. With the right gathering of people, this initiative can easily be achieved with this funding.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

Keoki Faria