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# 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 Hawaii State Constitution provides for the preservation and  
6 promotion of native Hawaiian culture, history, and language in  
7 various provisions including article X, section 4, which states,  
8 "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history  
9 and 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.





# S.B. NO. 781

**Report Title:**

Olelo Hawaii Initiatives; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to support the Olelo Hawaii Initiatives.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

