

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 13 2025**

RE: S.B. No. 781  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 781 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY'S 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I INITIATIVES,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to support the Judiciary's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Initiatives.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from Hoomana Pono, LLC; Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights; Kupuna for the Moopuna; CARES; and eight individuals.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Judiciary.

Your Committees find that article XV, section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution affirms that English and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language) shall be the official languages of the State. Your Committees also find that the Hawaii State Constitution provides for the preservation and promotion of Native Hawaiian culture, history, and language in various provisions, including article X, section 4. Your Committees further find that the



Judiciary has already taken initial steps to explore ways of providing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i resources, interpreter, and translation services to the public. Your Committees believe that it is time for more attention and funding to move the Judiciary's efforts forward. This measure will support the Judiciary's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i program and the efforts to revive the State's co-official language.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of April 23, 2057, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committees note that this measure, as amended, contains an unspecified appropriation amount. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committees respectfully request that it consider inserting an appropriation amount of \$300,000 to support the Judiciary's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i projects.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 781, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 781, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Judiciary and  
Hawaiian Affairs,

  
HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III, Chair

  
KARL RHOADS, Chair





The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**  
**HWN**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 781</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JDC/HWN, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2/7/25</b>
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312    
 Pass, with amendments 2311    
 Hold 2310    
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (C)	/			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (VC)	/			
IHARA, Jr., Les				/
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett				/
DECORTE, Samantha	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>

Recommendation:  Adopted      Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes