
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I COMMISSION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

4 "CHAPTER

5 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I COMMISSION

6 § -1 Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter:

7 "Commission" means the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i commission.

8 "Office" means the office of the governor.

9 "'Ōlelo Hawai'i" means the indigenous language of Hawai'i and
10 one of the official languages of the State.

11 § -2 'Ōlelo Hawai'i commission; established. There is
12 established the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i commission within the office on a
13 temporary basis for administrative and certain other special
14 purposes.

15 § -3 'Ōlelo Hawai'i commission; membership. The
16 commission shall consist of the following:



(1) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian affairs or the officer's designee, who shall serve as chair of the commission;

(2) The chairs of the standing committees of the legislature with subject matter jurisdiction encompassing Hawaiian affairs or their designees; and

(3) A representative from the office of Hawaiian education of the department of education;

(4) A representative from the Kawaihuelani center for Hawaiian language at the university of Hawai'i at Mānoa;

(5) A representative from the Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani college of Hawaiian language at the university of Hawai'i at Hilo; and

(6) Other subject matter stakeholders as recommended by the chair.

§ -4 Powers and duties of the commission. The commission shall:

(1) Coordinate efforts by the State, office, and counties, to promote the teaching and learning of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i;



- 1 (2) Encourage the speaking of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i through
2 regular campaigns, activities, and educational
3 resources;
- 4 (3) Support private and public organizations in developing
5 and evaluating their own 'Ōlelo Hawai'i language plans;
- 6 (4) Conduct and commission research to support the
7 revitalization of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i; and
- 8 (5) Ensure that 'Ōlelo Hawai'i remains a living language by
9 developing new words that reflect changing social and
10 cultural norms and contemporary language usage.

11 § -5 **Annual report.** The commission shall submit an
12 annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
13 to the convening of each regular session. The report shall
14 include:

- 15 (1) A description of the activities conducted by the
16 commission; and
- 17 (2) Any relevant data regarding the impact of the
18 commission's activities on the preservation and growth
19 of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i usage."

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
2 the establishment and operation of the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i commission.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the
4 governor for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

6

INTRODUCED BY:

120 III

JAN 23 2026



H.B. NO. 2046

Report Title:

'Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission; Office of the Governor; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates funds for the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission to coordinate and promote initiatives that support the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

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

