

---

---

# 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  
8 states, "[t]he State shall promote the study of Hawaiian  
9 culture, history 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 and interpreter and translation services to the  
13 public. To advance this work, in 2015, the legislature adopted  
14 a concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution No. 217,  
15 Senate Draft 1, Regular Session of 2015, that requested the  
16 judiciary to convene a task force to examine and report on  
17 establishing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i resources for the judiciary. The



1 task force report made several findings, including that 'Ōlelo  
2 Hawai'i "possesses appropriate specificity, sophistication, and  
3 technical breadth of terminology to accurately translate legal  
4 terminology from English into 'Ōlelo Hawai'i". Additionally,  
5 according to the United States Census Bureau's 2009-2013  
6 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i  
7 ranks number five in languages other than English spoken at home  
8 in the State. Further, the task force found that as an  
9 independent branch of government, the judiciary could  
10 effectively serve as a focused model to demonstrate the use of  
11 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

12 While the judiciary has continued its efforts to make  
13 resources and services available in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, it is time  
14 for more attention and funding to move these efforts forward.  
15 The task force report made several recommendations and  
16 identified projects that can serve as a guide to the judiciary.

17 The legislature notes that this Act should not be viewed as  
18 groundbreaking. Other countries that recognize more than one  
19 official language provide access to government services and  
20 documents in all official languages, and the United Nations  
21 operates in six official languages.



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 \$                    or so  
7   much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to  
8   support the judiciary's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i projects.

9           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for  
10   the purposes of this Act.

11          SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Judiciary; Olelo Hawaii Initiatives; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Judiciary to support the Olelo Hawaii Initiatives. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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

