

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 19** , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2046  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2046 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I COMMISSION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission to coordinate and promote initiatives that support the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission; and four individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that establishing the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission will help provide statewide coordination and leadership to promote, protect, and strengthen the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i as one of the State's official languages.. Your Committee further finds that a dedicated commission can support language revitalization efforts by aligning public and private initiatives, encouraging education and daily use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, and ensuring the language continues to evolve to meet contemporary needs.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending the membership of the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission to:
  - (A) Delete inclusion of the chairs of the standing committees of the Legislature with subject matter jurisdiction encompassing Hawaiian affairs or their designees; and
  - (B) Include a native speaker of the Niihau dialect;
- (2) Inserting a sunset date of December 2, 2030, to coincide with the end of the next Governor's term;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2046, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2046, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary &  
Hawaiian Affairs,



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DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



