

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3381**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 20 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2046
H.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
H.B. No. 2046, H.D. 2, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission to coordinate and promote initiatives that support the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i; and
- (2) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Department of 'Ōiwi Resources of the County of Maui, Association of Hawaii Civic Clubs, Kuini Pi'olani Hawaiian Civic Club, Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club, Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, and fifteen individuals.

Your Committee finds that Ōlelo Hawai'i is foundational to the culture and identity of Native Hawaiians and plays an important role in the everyday lives of many of the State's residents. It is essential for the State to support these residents by reducing

language barriers in the provision of public services and preventing unequal treatment resulting from language inaccessibility. While the State has made important progress revitalizing Ōlelo Hawai'i and addressing some of these issues, further action is necessary. Accordingly, this measure establishes an Ōlelo Hawai'i Commission to ensure expanded support for Ōlelo Hawai'i in the State.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2046, H.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III, Chair



