

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3607

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 08 2026

RE: S.R. No. 190
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Education and Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.R. No. 190 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO ALLOW AN OLELO HAWAII PATHWAY UNDER THE NIIHAU DIALECT,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the University of Hawaii to allow an Olelo Hawaii Pathway concentrating specifically on Olelo Niihau.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from two individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the University of Hawai'i System.

Your Committees find that Olelo Hawaii is a unique marker of Hawaiian identity and the proud heritage of the Hawaiian people, and the isolation of the Niihau community has allowed Olelo Niihau to flourish as its own dialect, significantly distinct from the Olelo Hawaii commonly found in immersion schools and mainstream educational settings. Your Committees further find that offering educational pathways in unique, culturally significant dialects, such as Olelo Niihau, is critical to preserving those languages. Your Committees note concerns regarding whether specific campuses may be able to offer such a specific pathway, due to available



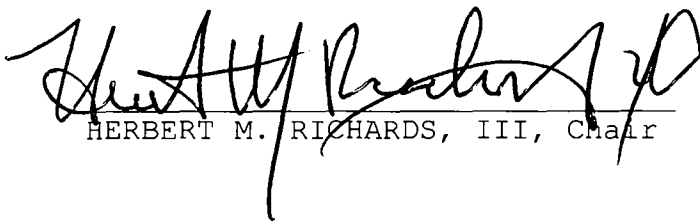
faculty expertise, resources, and student interest. Therefore, amendments to this measure are necessary to grant the University of Hawaii the latitude to effectively develop and implement the proposed offering.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the University of Hawaii is requested to consider offering Olelo Hawaii micro-credentials focusing on the Niihau dialect, rather than an Olelo Hawaii Pathway concentrating specifically on Olelo Niihau;
- (2) Amending its title accordingly; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Education and Hawaiian Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 190, as amended herein, and recommend its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 190, S.D. 1.

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



HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III, Chair



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
 Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
 HWN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SR 190	Committee Referral: EDU/HWN	Date: 4/8/26
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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)	✓			
LAMOSAO, Rachele (VC)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les				✓
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett				✓
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	2

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes