



HB1984
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

21 Malaki 2012

2:45 p.m.

Lumi: 224

Eia au kekahi 'elele o ke Ke'ena Kuleana Hawai'i (OHA) ke **PAIPAI** nei i ka HB1984, kekahi pila i loko o ka pū'olo kau 'aha 'ōlelo 2012 o OHA. Na ke kaiāulu 'ōlelo Hawai'i i mālama i ka mahina 'o Pepeleuli i Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i a na lākou i paipai i ke kia'āina e ho'onoho a e kuahaua 'o ka mahina 'o Pepeleuli 'o ia ka Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i ma ka makahiki 1994 a ma ka 1995.

'Oiai ua 'ōlelo 'ia ka 'ōlelo makuahine e nā 'ōiwi me nā malihini like 'ole ua 'ane halapohe 'o ia ma ka hiki 'ana i ka makahiki 1980 a ua koe paha ma kahi o kanalima mau mānaleo ma lalo o ka piha makahiki he 18. 'O ke kumu o kēia emi o ka 'ōlelo 'o ia ke kānāwai 1896 nāna i ho'opāpā i ka'ōlelo 'ōiwi o ka 'āina ma na kula aupuni.

Akā nō na'e, ma muli o ka hana huliama hō'ala kānaka i o ka papahana Pūnana Leo o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo, ka papahana kula kaiapuni o ke Ke'ena Ho'ona'auao a me nā papa 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma nā kulan ui ua holomua nui ka ho'ōla 'ana o ka 'ōlelo. Eia kekahi, ma ka makahiki 1978 ua ho'opāku'ī 'ia ka ke Kumukānāwai 'o Hawai'i a 'ike 'o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i kekahi o nā 'ōlelo kūhelu o ka Moku'āina.

'Oiai ua holo pono ka 'aukahi 'ōlelo Hawai'i ua pono nō ka nui o nā kānaka e 'ōlelo aku, 'ōlelo mai i ua 'ōlelo hiwahiwa. Inā e ho'onoho ana ka ma'ihina 'o Pepeleuli 'o ia ka Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i a laila e ho'onui ana a e hō'ike ana i ke ko'iko'i o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i no Hawai'i nei.

No laila, eia kekahi 'elele o ke Ke'ena Kuleana Hawai'i e koi ha'aha'a nei iā 'oukou e nā po'e hanohano o ke kōmike e 'ae, e kāko'o a e HO'OHOLE i kēia HB1984. Mahalo i kēia manawa e ha'i 'ōlelo ma kēia mea i aloha nui 'ia e mākou Hawai'i.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly **SUPPORTS** HB1984, which is a bill in OHA's 2012 Legislative Package. The Hawaiian language community has long considered February "Hawaiian Language Month" and successfully advocated for gubernatorial proclamations designating February 1994 and February 1995 as Hawaiian

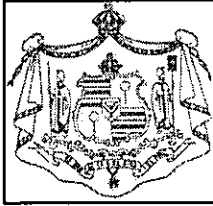
Language Month. This bill would codify this ceremonial designation in statute, making every February 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Month.

While once spoken throughout Hawai'i by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i was considered to be nearly extinct by the 1980s, when fewer than 50 fluent speakers under the age of 18 were left. A major reason for the deterioration of the Hawaiian language was an 1896 law that required English instruction in Hawai'i schools, which essentially banned Hawaiian students from speaking their native tongue.

However, great strides have been made to bring about a renaissance of the Hawaiian language through programs such as 'Aha Pūnana Leo's Hawaiian language immersion schools, the Department of Education's Hawaiian language immersion program and the Hawaiian language programs of the University of Hawai'i system. Also, in 1978, the Hawai'i Constitution was amended to recognize the Hawaiian language as one of the two official languages of the State.

Although there is much momentum in the revitalization of the Hawaiian language, for 'Ōlelo Hawai'i to thrive rather than simply survive, more people need to speak the language. The designation of February as "'Ōlelo Hawai'i Month" will perpetuate the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and emphasize the importance of the Hawaiian Language in Hawai'i's society today.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS HB1984. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

HOUSE BILL 1984(HSCR8-12) RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

JOINT SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

And

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, March 21, 2012; 2:45pm; Room 224

Aloha Chairman Galuteria, of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and Madam Chair Fukunaga of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology. I am Soulee Stroud, president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and it gives me great pleasure to support House Bill 1984(HSCR8-12) that will designate February as "Olelo Hawaii Month" to celebrate and encourage the use of Hawaiian language.

I represent and speak for sixty component Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Hawaii, and eleven states on the continent. There are twenty six clubs on Oahu, as well as clubs on each of the neighbor islands. Several of our clubs are dedicated to all aspects of the Hawaiian language, and we are very proud that some Hawaiian language teachers in schools today were provided educational scholarships through our clubs.

We strongly support this bill and the others before you today relating to Hawaiian language as the rejuvenation of the language has long been part of the Association agenda. When our organization began in 1918 the meetings were conducted in olelo Hawaii. Later, as the language was lost, leaders of our organization worked diligently to bring it back, and to see the language coming to life again is gratifying.

We urge passage of this measure. Mahalo.

Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

galuteria1 - Davis

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:48 PM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Subject: Testimony for HB1984 on 3/21/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 3/21/2012 2:45:00 PM HB1984

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hardy Spoehr
Organization: Papa Ola Lokahi
E-mail: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:
POL strongly supports this legislation

galuteria1 - Davis

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:48 AM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: kaluhiokalanik@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1984 on 3/21/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 3/21/2012 2:45:00 PM HB1984

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Lu Faborito
Organization: Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club
E-mail: kaluhiokalanik@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

In addition to the Club's support, we would like to thank Sen. Galuteria and committee for helping to forward this issue.

Jeannine Johnson

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March 16, 2012

Aloha mai kākou,

My ancestors were lawai'a and canoemakers from Kapalilua since 1777. My makua kāne was a lawai'a from Miloli'i and I spent many summers growing up there. Although he spoke 'ōlelo Hawai'i as did my kūpuna, it was not spoken in our hale. It is only after living half a century, long after my kūpuna have passed away, that I have learned my mother tongue. The disenfranchising of Kanaka Maoli from their language happened in almost every household, including mine. I offer the following excerpts from the article "Ola Ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i" by T. Ilihia Gionson that appeared in Honolulu Weekly on May 28, 2008:

The use of Hawaiian in the classroom began to diminish as early as the 1840s. The Hawaiian elite began enrolling their children in schools such as Punahou and 'Iolani to promote a higher standard of English among Hawaiians. Even at Kamehameha Schools (which opened in 1887), communicating in English was strongly encouraged. Still the majority of Hawaiian students attended public schools, which taught in the Hawaiian language.

That all changed in 1896, three years after the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. The Republic of Hawai'i Legislature passed into law Act 57 regarding the public education system. Following the model of United States policy on the use of Native American languages in schools, that act decreed "the English language shall be the medium and basis of instruction in all public and private schools."

Michael L. Forman, professor of linguistics at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa, says the act declaring English the one medium of instruction was "major." Although parents may have wanted their children to learn in Hawaiian following the ban, he says "parents also wanted their kids to have schools" and were forced to send children to English language schools. A 1911 revision of the laws concerning education in the Territory of Hawaii went further, stating that a child's attendance at any school where English was not the medium of instruction would not be recognized.

"The ban was especially vigorous in the schools. Children were physically and psychologically punished for using the native tongue," says William "Pila" Wilson, one of the founders of the 'Aha Punana Leo and a professor at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani, the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai'i-Hilo.

Unfortunately for the Hawaiian language, many parents bought into the "mystique of monolingualism" and soon chose not to speak or teach Hawaiian to their children.

Please kōkua and support HB1984. E ola mau ka 'ōlelo makuahine!

'O au iho nō me ka mahalo,



galuteria1 - Davis

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:20 AM
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Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Iolani Kuoha
Organization: Individual
E-mail: peepuhala@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:
I strong support HB 1984