

**SB2175**



**SB2175**  
**RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE**  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

February 22, 2012

1:15 a.m.

Room: 016

Eia au kekahi ‘elele o ke Ke‘ena Kuleana Hawai‘i (OHA) ke PAIPAI nei i ka SB2175, 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 Pepeluali i Mahina ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i a na lākou i paipai i ke kia‘āina e ho‘onoho a e kuahaua ‘o ka mahina ‘o Pepeluali ‘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 kula nui ua holomua nui ka ho‘ōla ‘ana o ka ‘ōlelo. Eia kekahi, ma ka makahiki 1978 ua ho‘opāku‘i ‘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 mahina ‘o Pepeluali ‘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 SB2175. 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** SB2175, 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 SB2175. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Council Chair  
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair  
Joseph Pontanilla

Council Members  
Gludys C. Baisa  
Robert Carroll  
Elle Cochran  
Donald G. Couch, Jr.  
G. Riki Hokama  
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Mike White



Director of Council Services  
Ken Fukuoka

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov/council](http://www.mauicounty.gov/council)

February 21, 2012

MEMO TO: The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

F R O M: Elle Cochran  
Council Member

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elle Cochran".

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2175, RELATING TO HAWAIIAN  
LANGUAGE

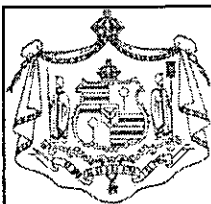
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure, which designates the month of February as "Olelo Hawaii Month" to celebrate and encourage the use of Hawaiian language. I offer my support for this bill as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I feel strongly that the State of Hawaii should perpetuate and uphold the traditional attributes of our host culture. It is our responsibility to preserve these customary practices so that they may be passed on in the time-honored manner that they were originally intended.

I can appreciate the intent of this legislation and do feel that it is a step in the right direction. One can only hope that by placing emphasis on the importance of the Hawaiian language within Hawaii every February, it will eventually lead to emphasis on the importance of the Hawaiian language within Hawaii, every month of the year.

For the for mentioned reasons, I strongly support the intent of this bill and respectfully urge the committee to pass SB 2175.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



## **Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs**

P. O. Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
&  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

SENATE BILL 2175 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE  
Wednesday; February 22, 2012; 1:15 pm; Room 016

Aloha Chairman Galuteria of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and Madam Chair Fukunaga of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports this legislation as the realization of the recovery of the Hawaiian language.

It was the language of our founders when the first Civic Club held its meetings in 1918. Through the years our clubs have supported the education of Hawaiian students and especially encouraged those who wanted to know the language of their ancestors. We can proudly point to former civic club scholarship students who speak and teach Olelo Hawaii today in Hawaii schools and will continue to support students of the future.

We urge the passage of this bill. Mahalo nui.  
Contact: [jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net)

KUAKINI HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB OF KONA  
82-6026 Manini Beach Road, Captain Cook, HI 96704

**SENATE BILL 2175  
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE**

Before the Senate  
COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday February 22, 2012 1:15 p.m. Room 016

Aloha Chair Galuteria and members of the committee on Hawaiian Affairs, and Madame Chair Fukunaga and members of the committee on Economic Development & Technology. I am Shane Nelsen a resident of Kealahou Bay, President of Kuakini Hawaiian Civic Club of Kona, and here to testify in support of **SB 2175 Relating to Hawaiian Language**.

The Kuakini Hawaiian Civic Club of Kona is a chartered club of the Association of Hawaiian Civic clubs. We are committed to uphold the traditions of our kupuna and most importantly Prince Kuhio, a non-voting Delegate of Congress in the early 1900's. We are firm advocates in the community and are concerned about the welfare of the Native Hawaiian community.

As a third generation Hawaiian from the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, I and most others of my generation did not have the opportunity to speak our mother tongue as our great-grandparents did. The actions of the Republic of Hawaii denied those rights, and just three generations later, it has nearly gone to extinction. However through legislative action we were given those privileges back. What we are facing here now, is the VALUE of the Hawaiian language.

The value of the Hawaiian language goes far beyond culture and identity; it reaches into socio-economic concerns relating to Public Safety and Prisoners Rehabilitation, Astronomy on Mauna Kea, Conservation and environment, and most important Ahupua'a and Resource Management of Land and Water for sustainability. Not only Hawaiian cultural programs need to understand the language, but Government, Public Agencies, and Private Organizations need to understand Hawaiian language, to be able to work harmonious in the community. This is not only building bridges between Hawaiians and Non-Hawaiians, but it is making a long-held connection that has been disconnected between humans and environment. We already know that language is the foundation of any culture, but more than that, it is the VALUE of the language that we here to perpetuate.

We believe SB 2175, is a measure for perpetuation of the Hawaiian language by creating value for the Hawaiian language.

Mahalo nui loa, I am humbled) for your consideration of our testimony. We urge your support of this measure.

‘O wau iho no,

Shane Akoni Nelsen  
President

For further information please contact Shane Nelsen, President of Kuakini Hawaiian Civic Club of Kona at [shane.nelsen@gmail.com](mailto:shane.nelsen@gmail.com) .

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** info@schha.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2175 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2175

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kamaki Kanahele, Chairman  
Organization: SCHHA  
E-mail: [info@schha.com](mailto:info@schha.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:



**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:44 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** info@schha.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2175 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2175

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mike Kahikina, Legislative Chairman  
Organization: SCHHA  
E-mail: [info@schha.com](mailto:info@schha.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
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**Subject:** Testimony for SB2175 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2175

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Annie Au Hoon, President  
Organization: Kewalo Hawaiian Homestead Community Assn., SCHHA  
E-mail: [info@schha.com](mailto:info@schha.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:46 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** info@schha.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2175 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2175

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Beatrice Hew Len, Secretary  
Organization: Kewalo Hawaiian Homestead Community Assn., SCHHA  
E-mail: [info@schha.com](mailto:info@schha.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:48 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** info@schha.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2175 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2175

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Herbert Hew Len, President  
Organization: Waianae Kai Homestead Community Assn, SCHHA  
E-mail: [info@schha.com](mailto:info@schha.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:50 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** info@schha.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2175 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2175

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kimo Kelii, Vice President  
Organization: Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Community Assn., SCHHA  
E-mail: [info@schha.com](mailto:info@schha.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

Comments:

## galuteria1 - Davis

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** pililua@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2175 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/EDT 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2175

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Pililuaikekaiohilo Keala-Quinabo  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [pililua@yahoo.com](mailto:pililua@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2012

**Comments:**

As a Hawaiian Immersion teacher and one who speaks Hawaiian at home with their family. I view this bill as highly supportive of Hawaiian Language and Ike Hawaii and I strongly support this bill.