



SCR87 SD1
**REQUESTING A REVIEW OF THE STATE'S FUNDING FOR EXISTING ENGLISH AS A
SECOND LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES AND HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE
PROGRAMS OFFERED IN HAWAII AND ANY DISPARITIES IN FUNDING FOR THE STATE'S
TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 11, 2012

9:35 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR87 SD1, which requests the University of Hawai'i to review the state's funding for existing English as a Second Language (ESL) programs offered in Hawai'i and any disparities in funding for the state's two official languages.

OHA has long advocated for increased funding for the state's Hawaiian Language Immersion Program (HLIP) and other Hawaiian language programs. However, we want to ensure that, if HLIP receives funding reserved specifically for ESL programs, the Hawaiian language's special legal status as both an indigenous language and an official language of the state is recognized and reaffirmed. Unlike ESL, HLIP is intended to perpetuate and preserve a non-English language--the native language of our ancestors, which was on the verge of extinction 20 years ago. We ask that the University of Hawai'i carefully consider important factor this when writing the report requested by this resolution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.