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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MAHINA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 MAHELE 1. 'O ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i ka 'ōlelo 'ōiwi o ka lāhui  
2 Hawai'i.

3 'Oiai ua 'ōlelo mau 'ia ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i o ka 'āina e nā  
4 kupa o ke aupuni Hawai'i, ua hele a 'ane halapohe ka 'ōlelo 'ana  
5 i ua 'ōlelo la ma ka hiki 'ana aku i ka makahiki 1980 a ua koe  
6 wale mai ma kahi o ke kanalima mau mānaleo o ka 'ōlelo e ola nei  
7 ma lalo o ka piha makahiki he umi kumamawalu. 'O kekahi kumu o  
8 ka emi nui o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i 'o ia nō ke kānāwai o ka makahiki  
9 1896 i ho'onoho i ka 'ōlelo pelekania 'o ia wale nō ka 'ōlelo o  
10 ke kula. Eia na'e ka hopena, ua ho'opāpā 'ia ka 'ōlelo 'ana, ka  
11 heluhelu 'ana, ke kākau 'ana a me ke a'o 'ana i ka 'ōlelo  
12 Hawai'i ma nā kula aupuni.

13 I mea e ho'ōla a'e ai i ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i, ua ho'olana 'ia  
14 aku la kekahi mau hāpai kānāwai ho'ōla 'ōlelo Hawai'i a me nā  
15 hana huliāmahi e ho'oūlu a'e i ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i e like me ka  
16 'aukahi Pūnana Leo, ka papahana Kula Kaiapuni o ke Ke'ena  
17 Ho'ona'auao, a me nā papahana 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma ke Kula Nui 'o  
18 Hawai'i.



1 Eia kekahi, ma ka makahiki 1978, ua pāku'i ho'ololi 'ia iho  
2 ka Palapala Kumukānāwai o ka Moku'āina 'o Hawai'i me ka ho'ololi  
3 'ōlelo pāku'i e hō'ōia'i'o aku i ke kūlana o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i  
4 he 'ōlelo kūhelu i like kona kūlana me ka 'ōlelo pelekania--'o  
5 lāua nā 'ōlelo kūhelu o ka moku'āina.

6 Eia hou kekahi, ua ho'olaha a ho'ohanahanao 'ia a'e la ka  
7 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma loko o 'elua mau palapala kūkala ko'iko'i e ke  
8 kia'āina ma nā makahiki o nā 1990. Ma ka makahiki 1995, ua  
9 ho'opuka 'ia aku la kekahi palapala kūkala mai ke ke'ena  
10 kia'āina mai a ua kākau 'ia mai ma nā 'ōlelo kūhelu 'elua o ka  
11 'āina, Hawai'i me ka Pelekania, 'o ka mahina 'o Pepeluali 1995  
12 ka "Mahina 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma Hawai'i Nei". Ua koi aku kēia  
13 palapala kūkala i ka lehulehu e komo aku, komo mai i nā hanana  
14 'ōlelo Hawai'i like 'ole i mālama 'ia ma ka mahina o Pepeluali.  
15 'O nā hanana Hawai'i i mālama 'ia ma Pepeluali ka Lā 'Ohana, ka  
16 Lā Kūkahekahe, a me ka 'Ahamele 'o Ho'omau ma O'ahu.

17 Ma ka makahiki 1996, ua kūkala 'ia kekahi palapala kuahaua  
18 e ke kia'āina e nānā i ka makahiki 1996 'o ia ka "Makahiki o ka  
19 'ōlelo Hawai'i" i mea e ho'omana'o ai i ka hala 'ana o haneli  
20 mau makahiki ma hope o ke kānāwai 1896 'o ia kānāwai ho'opāpā  
21 'ōlelo kūpuna ma nā kula o Hawai'i nei.



1 'Oiai ua holomua nō kēia 'aukahi ho'ōla 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma  
2 loko o kēia mau makahiki he kanakolu i hala iho nei, he pono nō  
3 ho'i ka ho'onui 'ana i nā kānaka 'ōlelo Hawai'i i mea e  
4 ho'olaupa'i 'ia ai a ola nō ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

5 'O ke kumuhana o kēia kānāwai ka ho'onoho pono 'ana mai i  
6 ka mahina o Pepeluāli 'o ia ka "Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i " a lilo  
7 ia i mea e ho'omaika'i a e paipai a'e mau ai i ka 'ōlelo 'ana i  
8 ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

9 MAHELE 2. Mokuna 8, Nā 'Ōlelo Kūpa'a O Hawai'i, ua  
10 ho'oponopono 'ia me ka ho'opāku'i 'ana i mahele hou e ho'onoho  
11 kūpono a e heluhelu 'ia ana penei:

12 "§8- Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. E 'ike mau a e kapa 'ia ana  
13 ae ka mahina 'o Pepeluāli 'o ia ka "Mahina'Ōlelo Hawai'i" i mea  
14 e ho'omaika'i a e paipai aku ai i ka 'ōlelo 'ana o ua 'ōlelo  
15 makuahine nei la. 'A'ole e kū ana kēia mahina i kapa 'ia ka  
16 "Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i" i lānui o ka moku'āina o Hawai'i.

17 §8- 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Month. The month of February shall  
18 be known and designated as "'Ōlelo Hawai'i Month" to celebrate  
19 and encourage the use of Hawaiian language. This month is not  
20 and shall not be construed as a state holiday."

21 MAHELE 3. Ua kahalina 'ia nā mahele pili kānāwai hou.

22 MAHELE 4. E ka'a ana kēia Kānāwai ma kona 'āpono 'ia 'ana.



1 (English translation)

2 SECTION 1. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, or the Hawaiian language, is  
3 the native language of the Native Hawaiian people.

4 While once spoken throughout Hawai'i by Native Hawaiians  
5 and foreigners alike, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i was considered to be nearly  
6 extinct by the 1980s, when fewer than fifty fluent speakers  
7 under the age of eighteen were left. A major reason for the  
8 deterioration of the Hawaiian language was an 1896 law that  
9 required English instruction in Hawai'i schools. In practice,  
10 this law functioned to "ban" students from speaking 'Ōlelo  
11 Hawai'i at their schools.

12 To save the Hawaiian language, a number of historic  
13 initiatives were launched, including 'Aha Pūnana Leo's Hawaiian  
14 language immersion preschools, the department of education's  
15 Hawaiian language immersion program, and the Hawaiian language  
16 programs of the University of Hawai'i system.

17 In addition, in 1978, the Hawai'i constitution was amended  
18 to recognize the Hawaiian language as one of the two official  
19 languages of the State.

20 Furthermore, several important gubernatorial proclamations  
21 on 'Ōlelo Hawai'i were issued in the 1990s. In 1994 and 1995,  
22 gubernatorial proclamations, written in both Hawaiian and



1 English, were issued recognizing February 1994 and February 1995  
2 as "Hawaiian Language Month in Hawai'i". The proclamations  
3 urged people to participate in the Hawaiian language activities  
4 held in February. Hawaiian language events held in February at  
5 that time included Lā 'Ohana, Lā Kūkahekahe and O'ahu's Ho'omau  
6 concert.

7 The following year, another gubernatorial proclamation was  
8 issued that recognized 1996 as "Year of the Hawaiian Language"  
9 in observance of a century passing since the enactment of the  
10 1896 law that prohibited speaking Hawaiian language in Hawai'i  
11 schools.

12 While the Hawaiian language revitalization movement has  
13 made major strides in the last thirty years, for 'Ōlelo Hawai'i  
14 to not just survive, but to also thrive, more people need to  
15 speak Hawaiian.

16 The purpose of this Act is to designate the month of  
17 February as "'Ōlelo Hawai'i Month" to celebrate and encourage  
18 the use of Hawaiian language.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, is amended  
20 by adding two new sections to be appropriately designated and to  
21 read as follows:



1        "§8- Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. E 'ike mau a e kapa 'ia ana  
2 ae ka mahina 'o Pepeluai 'o ia ka "Mahina'Ōlelo Hawai'i" i mea  
3 e ho'omaika'i a e paipai aku ai i ka 'ōlelo 'ana o ua 'ōlelo  
4 makuahine nei la. 'A'ole e kū ana kēia mahina i kapa 'ia ka  
5 "Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i" i lānui o ka moku'āina o Hawai'i.

6        §8- 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Month. The month of February shall  
7 be known and designated as "'Ōlelo Hawai'i Month" to celebrate  
8 and encourage the use of Hawaiian language. This month is not  
9 and shall not be construed as a state holiday."

10        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

12



**Report Title:**

OHA Package; Hawaiian Language; 'Ōlelo Hawaii Month

**Description:**

Designates the month of February as "'Ōlelo Hawaii Month" to celebrate and encourage the use of Hawaiian language. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

