



## HCR221

### REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, OR DEATH CONTAINING NAMES IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AS ACCURATELY AND TIMELY AS CERTIFICATES CONTAINING NAMES THAT ARE NOT IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

House Committee on Health

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs

March 27, 2013

11:15 a.m.

Room 329

---

The Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment (BAE) Committee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HCR221, which requests the Department of Health (DOH) to issue records containing Hawaiian language as accurately and timely as records containing names that are not in the Hawaiian language.

The Hawaiian language is the native language of Hawai‘i and is recognized by Hawai‘i’s Constitution as one of the two official languages of the state. Access to DOH records is critical to Native Hawaiians because these records are needed to verify ancestry for certain programs offered by the OHA, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Kana‘iolowalu and Kamehameha Schools. Having these DOH records issued in a timely manner with the accurate spelling of Hawaiian names speaks to fairness and justice and will further the perpetuation of the host culture of Hawai‘i.

Therefore, OHA’s BAE Committee urges the committees to **PASS** HCR221. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.