



SB409 SD1
RELATING TO MAHINA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I
House Committee on Finance

March 27, 2013

4:45 p.m.

Room 308

Eia au kekahi 'elele o ke Ke'ena Kuleana Hawai'i (OHA) ke **PAIPAI** nei i ka SB409, SD1 kekahi pila i loko o ka pū'olo kau 'aha 'ōlelo 2013 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 huliamaahi 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'OHOLO** i kēia SB409, SD1. 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** SB409 SD1 which is a bill in OHA's 2013 Legislative Package. The Hawaiian language community has long considered February "Hawaiian Language Month" and successfully advocated for gubernatorial proclamations designating February 1994, 1995, and 2013 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** SB409 SD1. 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 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

SENATE BILL 409, SD1 RELATING TO MAHINA 'OLELO HAWAI'I

Wednesday, March 27, 2013; 4:45pm; Room 308

Aloha Madam Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson and members of the House Finance Committee.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports this measure as an affirmation of Hawaii's indigenous language as one of this State's two official languages.

We are grateful that the delegates to the 1978 Hawaii State Constitutional Convention had the aloha and foresight to make this a reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

SB409

Submitted on: 3/25/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 27, 2013 16:45PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Nelsen	Kuakini Hawaiian Civic Club of Kona	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Chair Luke and Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, We strongly support SB 409 SD1 (HSCR 1021). The importance and need to continue the language is supported by the fact that we rely heavily on cultural wisdom alongside western science. The Hawaiian language does more for not just the Native Peoples of Hawaii, but for all individuals. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and we urge that the Finance Committee supports SB 409 SD1 (HSCR 1021).

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Junedale Palacat	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Godfrey Palacat	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Palacat	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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