

SB 409

	OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS	SUPPORT
Jalna Keala	ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS	SUPPORT
Juanita Kawamoto Brown		SUPPORT
Troy Abraham		SUPPORT



SB409
RELATING TO MAHINA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I
Senate Committee on Tourism & Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Technology & the Arts

February 11, 2013

2:45 p.m.

Room: 224

Eia au kekahi 'elele o ke Ke'ena Kuleana Hawai'i (OHA) ke **PAIPAI** nei i ka SB409, 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 kāmāwai 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 kāmāka 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 Kumukāmāwai '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 kāmāka 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. 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, 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. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

SB409

Submitted on: 2/8/2013

Testimony for THA/TEC on Feb 11, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jalna Keala	Assn. of Hawaiian Civic Clubs	Support	Yes

Comments: Testifying will be president Soulee Stroud

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SB409

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for THA/TEC on Feb 11, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juanita Brown Kawamoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I strongly support this bill. The need to understand the Hawaiian history and soul of the culture and values can only be achieved in its correct and intended purpose through the senses of the Kanaka Maoli and our mother tongue. We should also acknowledge Princess Ruth Ke`elikolani for her true stand to show the haole of her day civilized conversation and true intentions only lived through the voices and language of her Hawaiian people and their mana`o. We should have Hawaiian olelo as the required first language of our State everyday.

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SB409

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for THA/TEC on Feb 11, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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