



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2736, HD 1
RELATING TO BALLOTS

February 18, 2016

Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 2736, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to require a Hawaiian language ballot to be available upon request by a voter.

Our current voting system cannot provide an electronic ballot in Hawaiian at this time. Specifically, the Hawaiian language has not been federally certified for use on our electronic voting machines. The inability to provide access to all authorized ballots on our electronic voting machines may run afoul of the Help America Vote Act. For example, if a voter without a disability has a right to vote on a Hawaiian ballot, then not providing a voter with a disability the ability to vote on a Hawaiian ballot would put us in violation of the law.

In order to accommodate a Hawaiian language ballot as required by this bill, the voting system vendor would need to reprogram system, and an independent testing authority would need to certify the voting system for this purpose. The cost of which is unknown at this time. As such, we believe it would be more efficient and economical to postpone the effective date to add this specification to our next procurement. Our current voting system contract is set to expire following the 2020 election cycle.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2736, HD 1.



96 Pu'uhonu Place
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 935-4304
(808) 969-7512
www.ahapunanaleo.org

Ka Papa Alaka'i
Board of Directors

Kauanoē Kamanā,
Pelekikena

'Alohilani Rogers,
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Ka'iu Kimura,
Pu'ukū

Larry Kimura

William H. Wilson

Ki'ope Raymond

Huililau Wilson

Keawe Lopes

Ka Luna Ho'okele
Executive Director

M. 'Ekekela Aiona

Nā Papahana
Pūnana Leo

Pūnana Leo Programs

Nā Kula Pūnana Leo
Pūnana Leo Family-Based
Preschool Program

Pūnana Leo o Hilo

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Maui

Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i

Pūnana Leo o Honolulu

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa

Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i

Niulahiki

Hawaiian Language Online

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2016
Time: 2:00PM
Place: Conference Room 325

*Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Non-Profit Educational
Organization
Dedicated to the Revitalization of the Hawaiian Language*

HB 2736 HD1 RELATING TO BALLOTS: **OPPOSE**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the
Committee:

My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The
'Aha
Pūnana Leo is **OPPOSED to HB 2736 HD1** in its current form.

**The 'Aha Pūnana Leo asks that HB 2736 HD1 track the language in its
original form in HB 2736.**

HB 2736 reads, "All information required or allowed to be included on the ballot
pursuant to this title shall be in both English and Hawaiian." HB 2736 HD1, now
before us, reads, "(g) An alternate ballot, containing the information set forth in
this section and written in the Hawaiian language, shall be made available upon
request."

HB 2736 affirms the status of Hawaiian as an official language of Hawai'i while
HB2736 HD1 does not. Resources for both versions will be required. It appears
the difference is the bill in its original form promotes and affirms Hawaiian as an
official language of Hawai'i as provided for in the Hawai'i State Constitution.
The State must encourage and advance the use and utility of the Hawaiian
language because article X, section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution provides
that "[t]he State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and
language." In addition, article XV, section 4, of the Hawai'i State Constitution
affirms that "English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawaii."

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo respectfully submits testimony to affirm Hawaiian as an
official language of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,
M. 'Ekekela Aiona



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Judiciary Committee

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: February 18, 2016

Where: State Capitol Room 325

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 2736, HD1 Relating to Ballots**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Rhoads, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua San Buenaventura a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'okolokolo, aloha mai! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

House Bill 2736, HD1, relating to ballots, requires that Hawaiian language ballots be made available in each election upon voter request.

Driven by the third goal of our strategic plan for 2015-2020, which guides our educational institution to cultivate a strong Native Hawaiian identity to instill confidence and resiliency in learners, Kamehameha Schools stands in strong **support** of HB 2736, HD1. We prefer the original version of this measure which would have required that ballots be published in both Hawaiian and English language.

Native Hawaiians have a rich, oral culture that also embraced the written and printed word. We recognize however, that the 'ōlelo makuahine o Hawai'i, or Hawaiian language remains highly endangered even after decades of dedicated revitalization efforts and an ever-growing population of Hawaiian language speakers. Kamehameha Schools strongly supports measures that promote Hawaiian language.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian learners. We believe that by continuing to engage in dialog around Hawaiian language policies and proposals, we can contribute in a positive and meaningful way. **Please advance this measure.**
Mahalo nui.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 11:35 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2736 on Feb 18, 2016 14:00PM

HB2736

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 18, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The approach by HD1 is reasonable and the bill supports the second language recognized by this state.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 8:44 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2736 on Feb 18, 2016 14:00PM*

HB2736

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 18, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 12:15 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: dkapua@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2736 on Feb 18, 2016 14:00PM

HB2736

Submitted on: 2/18/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 18, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: STRONG SUPPORT HB2736 HD1 - RELATING TO BALLOTS. Requires that Hawaiian language ballots be made available in each election upon voter request. Aloha kakou, Mahalo nui no keia Pila HB2763 HD1. Mai ka makahiki 1978 ke kūhelu ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i i ka fakestate Hawai'i. No laila, he pono no kakau i ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma ka pāloka. E holomua i ka Pila HB2763 HD1 ke 'olu'olu. Mahalo. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII, ARTICLE XV, STATE BOUNDARIES; CAPITAL; FLAG; LANGUAGE AND MOTTO, Section 4. English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawaii, except that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions only as provided by law. [Add Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978] Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai Wai'anae Concerned Resident

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov