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Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i

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Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

**Niuolahiki**  
*Hawaiian Language Online*

House Committee on Education  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2017  
Time: 3:00 P.M.  
Place: Room 309

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

**HCR 37 / HR 16** URGING PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN HAWAII TO CONSIDER OFFERING OR CONTINUE OFFERING HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AS AN OPTION OR AN ELECTIVE IN THEIR ACADEMIC CURRICULUM. **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

'O 'Ekekela Aiona ko'u inoa. 'O wau ka Luna Ho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo. **Kāko'o Pīha** ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo i ka 'ōlelo ho'oholo HCR 37 / HR 16. My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, submitting testimony in **strong support** of HCR 37 / HR 16.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo, with 13 preschools and 2 infant-toddler programs statewide, appreciates that this resolution will promote and support the teaching of Hawaiian language in Hawai'i's private schools. Offering Hawaiian language instruction in all of Hawai'i's schools will allow access to learning an official language available to all of Hawai'i's students. Many of our Pūnana Leo keiki have siblings attending private schools who are either learning or would love the opportunity to learn the language being spoken in their homes. This resolution will make multigenerational use of Hawaiian truly inclusive.

There is an ever-growing increase in the desire to learn Hawaiian, an official language of this state, and the 'Aha Pūnana Leo appreciates that HCR 37 / HR 16 will ensure accessibility of Hawaiian language instruction for all of Hawai'i's students.

**The 'Aha Pūnana Leo strongly supports HCR 37 / HR 16 and urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to approve this important resolution.**

Mahalo nui,  
*'Ekekela Aiona*  
Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo

**E O I a K a ' Ō l e l o H a w a i ' i**

BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Hawaii State Legislature  
March 22, 2017

House Concurrent Resolution 37  
Relating to Hawaiian Language in Private Schools

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Har, Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem and Members of the Committees,

The Ka Lāhui Hawaii Political Action Committee (KPAC) supports HCR 37 urging private schools in Hawai‘i to consider offering or continue offering Hawaiian language instruction as an option or an elective in their academic curriculum.

Hawaiian Language is the first language of the Hawaiian archipelago and has been an official language of the State of Hawai‘i for nearly 40 years. Therefore, it is a travesty that of the 107 private schools in Hawai‘i the majority of them fail to offer Hawaiian language instruction or curriculum despite many free resources and learning aids readily available .

There are now approximately 3,000 students enrolled in Hawaiian Immersion schools from pre-k to grade 12 and hundreds more students enrolled in post-secondary Hawaiian Language courses. According to the Kamehameha Schools study "Culture Based Education and Its Relation to Student Outcomes" (2010), culture based education (including Hawaiian Language) have positive outcomes that translate into higher math and reading scores for all students, especially Kanaka Maoli students.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Kawaihuelani school currently offer Bachelor and Master degrees in Hawaiian Language while the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani college currently offer Master and PhD degrees in Hawaiian Language creating a viable workforce for the growing need for Hawaiian instruction.

HCR 37 is a first step in raising the status of the native language of the Hawaiian Archipelago, in providing job opportunities for a growing number graduates with college degrees in Hawaiian, and most importantly will raise the overall wellbeing of the Kanaka Maoli people.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale  
Chair, KPAC

**ROBERT LANDAU**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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1585 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1212  
Honolulu, HI 96814-4527  
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rlandau@hais.us

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March 6, 2017

Dear Representative Sharon Har,

This letter is to offer my support for measures HCR37/HR16.

As we know, the resolution reads: RESOLUTION URGING PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN HAWAII TO CONSIDER OFFERING OR CONTINUE OFFERING HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AS AN OPTION OR AN ELECTIVE IN THEIR ACADEMIC CURRICULUM.

First and foremost, many private schools in Hawaii already offer robust and relevant Hawaiian language and culture programs. Many employ full-time teachers to ensure an on-going and successful curriculum and program. I have personally visited many schools across the state where I saw rich and vibrant language and culture programs in action.

Many native Hawaiian families send students in private schools, most notably, Kamehameha Schools where they value and appreciate a wide variety of language and culture programs. As we all know, Kamehameha Schools consider Hawaiian Culture-Based Education to be the cornerstone of their mission.

As the resolution clearly uses the words “consider offering” and “continue offering” there is no question, in my mind, that following the resolution optional and elective.

As an international educator with 40 years of experience in 8 countries, I am a strong advocate for the following statements:

- Everyone acknowledges, communicated, and works effectively across cultures;
- Students respect the perspectives of people from other cultures when working together while reflecting on one’s own core beliefs and one’s own culture;
- Students explore different cultures, languages, and perspectives;
- Teachers adapt behavior, management or teaching styles to be sensitive to cultural variations;
- Schools work effectively with to develop breadth and depth of cultural references in curriculum content and resources;
- Culturally knowledgeable students are well grounded in the cultural heritage, language, and traditions of their community.

As the Executive Director of a private schools’ association in such a culturally diverse environment, I am pleased to lend my full support for this resolution.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Robert Landau*

Robert Landau  
Executive Director

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:57 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** nakoolaniw@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nākoʻolani Warrington	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.

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 3:28 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kaulanad@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 11:14 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** hapagurl7669@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theodora Akau Gaspar	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 11:16 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** stephmanera@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Manera	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 12:08 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** maryalicekaiulani@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Alice Ka'iulani Milham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I stand in strong support of HCR37 urging private schools in Hawai'i to offer courses in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i; the native tongue of these islands. After nearly a century of suppression, and near extinction, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, the language of the Kanaka Maoli, the first people of this land, has become a beacon of hope for many peoples throughout the world whose native languages are currently facing extinction. Yet here in Hawai'i (despite being an official language of the State of Hawai'i) 'Ōlelo Hawai'i still faces enormous challenges in being widely adopted and offered as an elective in our schools. If our keiki have the option of learning foreign languages - like French, German, Japanese and Spanish - in Hawai'i's private schools, surely they deserve the option to learn the native language of Hawai'i and their own ancestors. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i has yet to be adopted in meaningful ways in various sectors of our communities, where we commonly see various foreign languages used for things like ATM machines, card readers etc. After all the years of government suppression of our beautiful native tongue, that the State of Hawai'i should do everything it can to promote the perpetuation of Hawai'i's original language.

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 12:19 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** alohaaina9@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM  
**Attachments:** image.jpg

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kupono Ana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha everyone, My name is Kupono Ana and I stand in strong support of this bill to have all public schools teach the Hawaiian Language. Since the Hawaiian language is the first official Language of Hawaii and English is second that it should automatically be a course here in Hawaii because the aboriginals of this island are Hawaiian ancestry. I would like my future kids to learn their native tongue language in whatever school I choose. Please do the right thing and help to keep our Hawaiian culture alive for all our people of Hawaii. Mahalo Nui loa. sincerely Kupono Ana

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 6:53 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** hokuokekai50@msn.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 7:19 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** begoniabarry@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:19 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** cushmanzoo@hawaiiintel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharron Cushman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HCR37.

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:45 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** ponosize@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pono Kealoha	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:57 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** skekawa@live.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR37 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HCR37

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shalee Kuuiponohealani Kekawa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: 'Olelo Hawai'i should be a) the official language of the Hawaiian Islands and b) offered at all levels of Education at all Private and Public schools.

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# LATE TESTIMONY

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/22/2017  
**Time:** 03:00 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Education  
House Higher Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 037 URGING PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN HAWAII TO CONSIDER OFFERING OR CONTINUE OFFERING HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AS AN OPTION OR AN ELECTIVE IN THEIR ACADEMIC CURRICULUM.

**Purpose of Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education would like to provide comments and suggest an amendment to HCR 37/HR 16.

Currently, the Department provides various opportunities for Hawaiian language learning and encourages efforts that will lead to a broadening context for engagement in both of the official languages of the State. We are encouraged at the interest to urge private schools to include Hawaiian language as an option for their students.

We are hopeful that the interest in Hawaiian language education will continue expand in all homes, schools, communities that we collectively serve. The Department would however like to suggest the removal of line 18 to line 21 on page 3, specifically, that language that says,

*"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education support the curriculum and instruction of 'olelo Hawai'i in private schools in Hawai'i that express interest in adding Hawaiian to their curriculum and instruction; and"*