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Cc: kluuwai2@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB643 on Feb 14, 2017 14:50PM*

SB643

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Feb 14, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulu Lu?uwai	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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Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB643 on Feb 14, 2017 14:50PM*

SB643

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Feb 14, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB643 on Feb 14, 2017 14:50PM

SB643

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HWN/GVO on Feb 14, 2017 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 643 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE. Clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020. Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian. Hawaiian was the first language of these islands and overcame intentional actions causing its demise. Today, due to the dedicated work of many individuals, the Legislature, the Board of Education and others it is beginning to thrive again. Please continue this effort to normalize the usage of Hawaiian in oral and written forms. Mahalo nunui! Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai, E ola mau ka olelo Hawaii!

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 643

Clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020. Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Shanise Kaaikala. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Since 1978, Article 15, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i has stated that "English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai'i." It's been almost 40 years since Hawaiian has been an official language of Hawai'i, however, the State of Hawai'i does not make available government records, papers or documents in the Hawaiian language.
- Since 1978, Article 10, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i has stated that, "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language." Despite this, the State of Hawai'i does not make available opportunities for Hawaiian language speakers to use the language. Requiring official government publications and documents to be available in the Hawaiian language would further promote the language, and give the public the opportunity to use the language.
- In 2016 according to the Hawai'i State Data Center, Hawaiian is the #1 language other than English spoken at home in Hawai'i County. In the State of Hawai'i as a whole, Hawaiian is among the top 5 languages other than English spoken at home. Hawaiian is spoken by thousands of State of Hawai'i residents, and this amount is increasing. More opportunities need to be made to ensure that the language is promoted in the state.
- Over the past 40 years, various educational institutions in the State of Hawai'i have not only expanded, but some have reached exceptional international recognition for promoting the Hawaiian language:
 - o In 2014, 'Aha Pūnana Leo (educational organization in Hawai'i) was awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC). 'Aha Pūnana Leo continues its success in increasing the number of fluent speakers of the Hawaiian language in the State of Hawai'i.
 - o The Hawai'i State Department of Education continues to provide K-12 Hawaiian language education through the public school system.
 - o The University of Hawai'i (UH) offers successful Hawaiian language programs at all 10 campuses across 4 Hawaiian Islands. This has given State of Hawai'i adult residents

opportunities to successfully learn the Hawaiian language and become fluent speakers of the language.

o UH offers bachelor's, masters and doctoral degrees in Hawaiian language. These degree programs have allowed for an increase in the number of individuals with advanced degrees focused on the Hawaiian language.

· The State of Hawai'i is investing a vast amount of resources to increase the number of Hawaiian language students and fluent speakers in Hawai'i; more needs to be done to ensure that those who acquire and speak the language are not acquiring an impractical skill.

· Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Shanise Ka'aikala

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair Senator Brickwood
Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair Senator Russell E. Ruderman,
Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 2:50 PM Conference Room 224

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 643 Clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020. Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Douglas Halili. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Since 1978, Article 15, Section 4 of the Constitution

of the State of Hawai‘i has stated that “English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai‘i.” It’s been almost 40 years since Hawaiian has been an official language of Hawai‘i, however, the State of Hawai‘i does not make available government records, papers or documents in the Hawaiian language.

- Since 1978, Article 10, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i has stated that, "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language." Despite this, the State of Hawai‘i does not make available opportunities for Hawaiian language speakers to use the language. Requiring official government publications and documents to be available in the Hawaiian language would further promote the language, and give the public the opportunity to use the language.

- In 2016 according to the Hawai‘i State Data Center, Hawaiian is the #1 language other than English spoken at home in Hawai‘i County . In the State of Hawai‘i as a whole, Hawaiian is among the top 5 languages other than English spoken at home. Hawaiian is spoken by thousands of State of Hawai‘i residents, and this amount is increasing. More opportunities need to be made to ensure that the language is promoted in the state.

- Over the past 40 years, various educational institutions in the State of Hawai‘i have not only expanded, but some have reached exceptional international recognition for promoting the Hawaiian language:

- In 2014, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo (educational organization in Hawai‘i) was awarded the world’s first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education

Consortium (WINHEC). ‘Aha Pūnana Leo continues its success in increasing the number of fluent speakers of the Hawaiian language in the State of Hawai‘i.

o The Hawai‘i State Department of Education continues to provide K-12 Hawaiian language education through the public school system.

o The University of Hawai‘i (UH) offers successful Hawaiian language programs at all 10 campuses across 4 Hawaiian Islands. This has given State of Hawai‘i adult residents opportunities to successfully learn the Hawaiian language and become fluent speakers of the language.

o UH offers bachelor’s, masters and doctoral degrees in Hawaiian language. These degree programs have allowed for an increase in the number of individuals with advanced degrees focused on the Hawaiian language.

- The State of Hawai‘i is investing a vast amount of resources to increase the number of Hawaiian language students and fluent speakers in Hawai‘i; more needs to be done to ensure that those who acquire and speak the language are not acquiring an impractical skill.

- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by, Douglas Halili.

29th Hawaii State Legislature
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEES

February 14, 2017
Senate Bill 643 HD1-Relating to the Hawaiian Language

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Gauliteria, Chair Kim, Vice Chair Ruderman and Committees Members,

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support with amendments to Senate Bill 643 SD1. My name is Diane or Kiana Marshall and I humbly sit before you as the non Hawaiian who doesn't speak Hawaiian author of the original version of this bill.

The Hawaiian Language was REcognized as an OFFICIAL Language and signed into law by the 1978 State Legislative Constitutional Convention. However, nearly 40 years later, government documents, publications and pamphlets are still NOT available in the Official language.

For example, the 2016 Presidential, State and City & County Election process had information, reminders, ballots and ALL 20 C&C Charter Amendments available in Japanese, Chinese and Ilocano, but NOT “available upon request” in Hawaiian as claimed. The justification that all Hawaiians can understand and speak English!

Currently, there are over 26,000 self reported fluent Hawaiian Speakers nationwide with 18,700 living here in Hawaii (Senate Resolution 97 S.D.1 Informational Briefing 1/10/17). Over 3,075 children are currently enrolled in Hawaiian Immersion Schools. (SR97SD1 Informational Briefing 1/10/17). According to the working group of SR97SD1, the goal at both the University of Hawaii Manoa and UHHilo is to increase the number of Olelo Hawaii speakers both on and off campus thus helping the “move towards normalization of the Hawaiian Language”.

SB643SD1 is a step in the right direction, considering the expected growth of fluent Hawaiian speakers in the academic, professional, media, and labor workforce. Keeping in mind the final goal of PRINTED Hawaiian government documents, publications and pamphlets as the norm. Hopefully, encouraging local mainstream publications to PRINT BOTH English and Hawaiian versions of their materials helping to “normalize” spoken and written Hawaiian.

Thank You very much for your time and consideration

Diane “Kiana” Marshall
kianamar73@gmail.com

KaLahui Political Action Committee
<https://kalahuihawaiipoliticalactioncommittee.org/2016/02/12/ka-lahui-hawaii-political-action-committee/>

SB 643

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

February 14, 2017

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria, Vice-Chair Ruderman, Senator English, Senator Green, and members of the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Government Operations:

I am Suzanne Skjold, submitting testimony as an individual in support of SB 643, Relating to the Hawaiian Language.

I support the intent of this measure because Hawaiian is the indigenous language of the islands and, though recognized as one of two official languages of the State of Hawai'i, its use and status is currently far less than English. Your action is needed to elevate Hawaiian to a more equal status in the State. By increasing official usage, visibility and documents available in Hawaiian, this act will help to further the re-emergence of Hawaiian as a language that can be used in official State business and will allow the growing number of Hawaiian Language speakers to be able to conduct business in their preferred official language.

In the past, it may have been assumed there were not a sufficient number of bi-lingual speakers of English and Hawaiian to implement such a policy, but this is no longer the case. With thousands of students in immersion schools and advanced degree language programs throughout the State, this act can be executed without undue difficulty, and the benefits of promoting Hawaiian as a true official language used in Hawai'i can outweigh the costs of implementation.

In enacting policies that treat Hawaiian as a language on par with English for State documents, I believe this can also send a statement of the commitment our government must have to the increasing the well-being, political involvement and status of the Hawaiian people, and can actively support the ongoing preservation of the Hawaiian language and culture.

Last, this act could help provide new job opportunities for a growing number of graduates with college degrees in Hawaiian, and for younger generations of all backgrounds, elevate the need for fluency in the Hawaiian language and develop a proud bi-lingual community.

I urge your committees to support and advance SB 643. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Skjold
PO Box 1818
Honolulu, HI 96805
sskjold@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 643

Clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020.

Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Yvonne Yoro. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Since 1978, Article 15, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i has stated that “English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai‘i.” It’s been almost 40 years since Hawaiian has been an official language of Hawai‘i, however, the State of Hawai‘i does not make available government records, papers or documents in the Hawaiian language.
- Since 1978, Article 10, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i has stated that, "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language." Despite this, the State of Hawai‘i does not make available opportunities for Hawaiian language speakers to use the language. Requiring official government publications and documents to be available in the Hawaiian language would further promote the language, and give the public the opportunity to use the language.
- In 2016 according to the Hawai‘i State Data Center, Hawaiian is the #1 language other than English spoken at home in Hawai‘i County. In the State of Hawai‘i as a whole, Hawaiian is among the top 5 languages other than English spoken at home. Hawaiian is spoken by thousands of State of Hawai‘i residents, and this amount is increasing. More opportunities need to be made to ensure that the language is promoted in the state.

- Over the past 40 years, various educational institutions in the State of Hawai‘i have not only expanded, but some have reached exceptional international recognition for promoting the Hawaiian language:
 - In 2014, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo (educational organization in Hawai‘i) was awarded the world’s first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC). ‘Aha Pūnana Leo continues its success in increasing the number of fluent speakers of the Hawaiian language in the State of Hawai‘i.
 - The Hawai‘i State Department of Education continues to provide K-12 Hawaiian language education through the public school system.
 - The University of Hawai‘i (UH) offers successful Hawaiian language programs at all 10 campuses across 4 Hawaiian Islands. This has given State of Hawai‘i adult residents opportunities to successfully learn the Hawaiian language and become fluent speakers of the language.
 - UH offers bachelor’s, masters and doctoral degrees in Hawaiian language. These degree programs have allowed for an increase in the number of individuals with advanced degrees focused on the Hawaiian language.

- The State of Hawai‘i is investing a vast amount of resources to increase the number of Hawaiian language students and fluent speakers in Hawai‘i; more needs to be done to ensure that those who acquire and speak the language are not acquiring an impractical skill.

- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Yvonne Yoro

Welina mai e Na Pūlapūla o Hawaii Nei,

My name is Kauhiwaiolaokalani Umiokalani Vierra. I am currently an employee at Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers and I fully support Hawaiian Language in every aspect of life. I have been speaking Hawaiian for 20 years now and it has shaped my life into what it is now. Speaking Hawaiian is not about words, it is about remaining connected to your ancestors through language and culture.

Hawaiian Language has been apart my life as long as I can remember and I believe that incorporating the Hawaiian Language in all that we do will help perpetuate the language and the longevity of our culture.

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

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Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is **Nicole K.G.Y. Chun-Park**. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

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- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Nicole K.G.Y. Chun-Park

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Pearl Haweo Kaiama. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Pearl Haweo Kaiama

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is **Emmalani George**. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

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Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Emmalani George
Keau.george@gmail.com
47-707 Hui ‘Ūlili Street
Kāne‘ohe, HI
96744

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
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Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Kealani Makaiwi. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

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- Since 1978, Article 15, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i has stated that “English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai‘i.” It’s been almost 40 years since Hawaiian has been an official language of Hawai‘i, however, the State of Hawai‘i does not make available government records, papers or documents in the Hawaiian language.
- Since 1978, Article 10, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i has stated that, "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language." Despite this, the State of Hawai‘i does not make available opportunities for Hawaiian language speakers to use the language. Requiring official government publications and documents to be available in the Hawaiian language would further promote the language, and give the public the opportunity to use the language.
- In 2016 according to the Hawai‘i State Data Center, Hawaiian is the #1 language other than English spoken at home in Hawai‘i County. In the State of Hawai‘i as a whole, Hawaiian is among the top 5 languages other than English spoken at home. Hawaiian is spoken by thousands of State of Hawai‘i residents, and this amount is increasing. More opportunities need to be made to ensure that the language is promoted in the state.

- Over the past 40 years, various educational institutions in the State of Hawai‘i have not only expanded, but some have reached exceptional international recognition for promoting the Hawaiian language:
 - In 2014, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo (educational organization in Hawai‘i) was awarded the world’s first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC). ‘Aha Pūnana Leo continues its success in increasing the number of fluent speakers of the Hawaiian language in the State of Hawai‘i.
 - The Hawai‘i State Department of Education continues to provide K-12 Hawaiian language education through the public school system.
 - The University of Hawai‘i (UH) offers successful Hawaiian language programs at all 10 campuses across 4 Hawaiian Islands. This has given State of Hawai‘i adult residents opportunities to successfully learn the Hawaiian language and become fluent speakers of the language.
 - UH offers bachelor’s, masters and doctoral degrees in Hawaiian language. These degree programs have allowed for an increase in the number of individuals with advanced degrees focused on the Hawaiian language.

- The State of Hawai‘i is investing a vast amount of resources to increase the number of Hawaiian language students and fluent speakers in Hawai‘i; more needs to be done to ensure that those who acquire and speak the language are not acquiring an impractical skill.

- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Kealani Makaiwi



BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Hawaii State Legislature
February 14, 2017

Senate Bill 643 HD1
Relating to the Hawaiian Language

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Galuteria, Chair Kim, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committees,

The Ka Lāhui Hawaii Political Action Committee (KPAC) supports SB 643 HD1 which clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020 and requires that make all reasonable efforts to make all government records, papers, or documents available in Hawaiian.

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 many public documents and transactions are only in English and other foreign languages.

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. Having public transactions and acts available only in English and other foreign languages does not address the needs of the growing number of Hawaiian Language speakers.

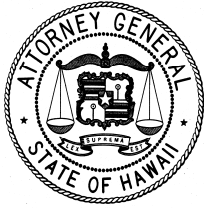
According to the Kamehameha Schools study "Culture Based Education and Its Relation to Student Outcomes" (2010), culture based education (including Hawaiian Language) have positive outcomes that translate into higher math and reading scores for all students, especially Kanaka Maoli students. The University 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 public documents and acts in Hawaiian.

This Bill will help to raise the status of the native language of the Hawaiian Archipelago, address the needs of thousands of Hawaiian language speakers in Hawai‘i, will help provide incentives for State employers to hire a growing number graduates with college degrees in Hawaiian, and most importantly will raise the overall wellbeing of the Kanaka Maoli people.

However, we do have concerns that the State’s interpretation of “reasonable effort” (page 3, line 12) is leaving the matter of requiring public transactions and acts in Hawaiian at the discretion of the “public officer having the care or custody of a government record, paper or document” (page 3, lines 10-11). We would like to suggest an amendment to this section that would strengthen this bill even more by changing “reasonable effort” to “every effort”. Also, because this will require both time and money we hope that this bill could be amended to create a special fund for creating documents in Hawaiian for all State Departments.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Chair, KPAC



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 643, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 **TIME:** 2:50 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Charleen M. Aina, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purposes of this bill are to (1) require “all public acts and transactions be in the Hawaiian language” beginning January 1, 2020, and to (2) require all “public officers” to make all reasonable efforts to provide every member of the public who asks, with the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper or document in the public officer’s custody.

To assure that the provisions of this bill are properly implemented, the Department of the Attorney General suggests that the Committees revise the bill to:

- (1) Define the terms or include examples of what constitute “public acts,” and “transactions” in the amendment to section 1-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS);
- (2) Clarify whether, beginning January 1, 2020, all “laws” or “official government publications and documents,” including “public acts” and contracts, leases, receipts and other “transactions” must be written in Hawaiian and English, or whether all such documents must be written in Hawaiian and English, and all “public acts” and “transactions” conducted in English and Hawaiian under the amendment to section 1-13, HRS;

(3) Clarify whether a Hawaiian version of a government record must be provided at no cost to the member of the public who requests it under section 92-29, HRS.

If Hawaiian versions of government records must be provided at no charge to the public under section 92-29, HRS, we suggest that the bill be amended to establish or designate a state agency to provide translation services for all state agencies, or provide funding for the agencies to procure translation services to make Hawaiian versions of government records available to the public at no cost.

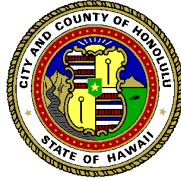
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-4141 • FAX: (808) 768-4242 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GEORGETTE T. DEEMER
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR



**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017; 2:50 PM

**TO: THE HONORABLE MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE BRICKWOOD GALUTERIA, VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**THE HONROABLE DONNA MERCADO KIM, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE RUSSELL E. RUDERMAN, VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS**

**FROM: ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR., MANAGING DIRECTOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO SB643, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

The City and County of Honolulu (City) respectfully opposes SB645, which requires that the Hawaiian language shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020, and that upon request by the public, a public officer having care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

While the City recognizes that Hawaiian is one of the official languages in the State, the cost of translation services for all public acts and transactions after January 1, 2020, are prohibitive. The City does not have sufficient resources to hire Hawaiian language experts to ensure that all of the City's public acts and transaction records are duplicated in Hawaiian. Ensuring the availability of public acts and transaction records in English is already very costly.

Furthermore, this measure does not include any funding for translation services

and constitutes an unfunded mandate as the potential cost of requiring the City to make the many public acts, transactions, and records maintained available in Hawaiian is very high. Many of the City's records are technical which likely increases translation costs, and could result in different interpretations of the English and Hawaiian versions of the same record.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in opposition.

From: [Kaluhi Eldridge](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Subject: Submit Testimony SB643
Date: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:44:16 PM

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 643

Clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020.
Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Kaluhialoha Eldridge. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Since 1978, Article 15, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i has stated that "English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai'i." It's been almost 40 years since Hawaiian has been an official language of Hawai'i, however, the State of Hawai'i does not make available government records, papers or documents in the Hawaiian language.
- Since 1978, Article 10, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i has stated that, "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language." Despite this, the State of Hawai'i does not make available opportunities for Hawaiian language speakers to use the language. Requiring official

government publications and documents to be available in the Hawaiian language would further promote the language, and give the public the opportunity to use the language.

- In 2016 according to the Hawai'i State Data Center, Hawaiian is the #1 language other than English spoken at home in Hawai'i County. In the State of Hawai'i as a whole, Hawaiian is among the top 5 languages other than English spoken at home. Hawaiian is spoken by thousands of State of Hawai'i residents, and this amount is increasing. More opportunities need to be made to ensure that the language is promoted in the state.

- Over the past 40 years, various educational institutions in the State of Hawai'i have not only expanded, but some have reached exceptional international recognition for promoting the Hawaiian language:

- o In 2014, 'Aha Punana Leo (educational organization in Hawai'i) was awarded the world's first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC). 'Aha Punana Leo continues its success in increasing the number of fluent speakers of the Hawaiian language in the State of Hawai'i.

- o The Hawai'i State Department of Education continues to provide K-12 Hawaiian language education through the public school system.

- o The University of Hawai'i (UH) offers successful Hawaiian language programs at all 10 campuses across 4 Hawaiian Islands. This has given State of Hawai'i adult residents opportunities to successfully learn the Hawaiian language and become fluent speakers of the language.

- o UH offers bachelor's, masters and doctoral degrees in Hawaiian language. These degree programs have allowed for an increase in the number of individuals with advanced degrees focused on the Hawaiian language.

- The State of Hawai'i is investing a vast amount of resources to increase the number of Hawaiian language students and fluent speakers in Hawai'i; more needs to be done to ensure that those who acquire and speak the language are not acquiring an impractical skill.

- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Kaluhialoha Eldridge

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

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Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Andrea Hermosura, and I am an Assistant Professor at the Department of Native Hawaiian Health, and a Licensed Psychologist. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Since 1978, Article 15, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i has stated that “English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai‘i.” It’s been almost 40 years since Hawaiian has been an official language of Hawai‘i, however, the State of Hawai‘i does not make available government records, papers or documents in the Hawaiian language.
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- In 2016 according to the Hawai‘i State Data Center, Hawaiian is the #1 language other than English spoken at home in Hawai‘i County. In the State of Hawai‘i as a whole, Hawaiian is among the top 5 languages other than English spoken at home. Hawaiian is spoken by thousands of State of Hawai‘i residents, and this amount is increasing. More opportunities need to be made to ensure that the language is promoted in the state.

- Over the past 40 years, various educational institutions in the State of Hawai‘i have not only expanded, but some have reached exceptional international recognition for promoting the Hawaiian language:
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 - UH offers bachelor’s, masters and doctoral degrees in Hawaiian language. These degree programs have allowed for an increase in the number of individuals with advanced degrees focused on the Hawaiian language.
- The State of Hawai‘i is investing a vast amount of resources to increase the number of Hawaiian language students and fluent speakers in Hawai‘i; more needs to be done to ensure that those who acquire and speak the language are not acquiring an impractical skill.
- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,



Andrea Hermosura, PhD

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 643

Clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020.

Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Shirley Kilborn. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Since 1978, Article 15, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i has stated that “English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai‘i.” It’s been almost 40 years since Hawaiian has been an official language of Hawai‘i, however, the State of Hawai‘i does not make available government records, papers or documents in the Hawaiian language.
- Since 1978, Article 10, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i has stated that, "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language." Despite this, the State of Hawai‘i does not make available opportunities for Hawaiian language speakers to use the language. Requiring official government publications and documents to be available in the Hawaiian language would further promote the language, and give the public the opportunity to use the language.
- In 2016 according to the Hawai‘i State Data Center, Hawaiian is the #1 language other than English spoken at home in Hawai‘i County. In the State of Hawai‘i as a whole, Hawaiian is among the top 5 languages other than English spoken at home. Hawaiian is spoken by thousands of State of Hawai‘i residents, and this amount is increasing. More opportunities need to be made to ensure that the language is promoted in the state.

- Over the past 40 years, various educational institutions in the State of Hawai‘i have not only expanded, but some have reached exceptional international recognition for promoting the Hawaiian language:
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 - UH offers bachelor’s, masters and doctoral degrees in Hawaiian language. These degree programs have allowed for an increase in the number of individuals with advanced degrees focused on the Hawaiian language.

- The State of Hawai‘i is investing a vast amount of resources to increase the number of Hawaiian language students and fluent speakers in Hawai‘i; more needs to be done to ensure that those who acquire and speak the language are not acquiring an impractical skill.

- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,
Shirley Kilborn

From: [Nuikala Koerte](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 643
Date: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:42:58 PM

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

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Conference Room 224
State Capitol
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 643

Clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020. Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Nuikala Koerte. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

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- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,
Nuikala Koerte

Me ka 'oia'io,

Kumu Nuikala

Ka Pua Preschool
87-790 Kulauku St.
Wai'anae, HI 96792
(808) 670-2028

Email:nuikala@koka.org **Website:**www.koka.org



*"Educating Children, Strengthening Families,
Enriching Communities, Perpetuating Culture"
Serving Hawai'i's Families for 20 Years*

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Phone: 808-843-2502 ext. 3003

Fax: 808-843-2572

Email:nuikala@koka.org **Website:**www.koka.org



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Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

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Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Kealani Makaiwi. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Kealani Makaiwi

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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Clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020.

Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is **Jasmine Ka'imipono Medeiros Pagaduan and children Jenna Leilani Ka'imina'aupono Pagaduan and Jace Ku'ulihaumaikalani Pagaduan.** We wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

We support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Since 1978, Article 15, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i has stated that "English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai'i." It's been almost 40 years since Hawaiian has been an official language of Hawai'i, however, the State of Hawai'i does not make available government records, papers or documents in the Hawaiian language.
- Since 1978, Article 10, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i has stated that, "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language." Despite this, the State of Hawai'i does not make available opportunities for Hawaiian language speakers to use the language. Requiring official government publications and documents to be available in the Hawaiian language would further promote the language, and give the public the opportunity to use the language.
- In 2016 according to the Hawai'i State Data Center, Hawaiian is the #1 language other than English spoken at home in Hawai'i County. In the State of Hawai'i as a whole, Hawaiian is among the top 5 languages other than English spoken at home. Hawaiian is spoken by thousands of State of Hawai'i residents, and this amount is increasing. More opportunities need to be made to ensure that the language is promoted in the state.

- Over the past 40 years, various educational institutions in the State of Hawai‘i have not only expanded, but some have reached exceptional international recognition for promoting the Hawaiian language:
 - In 2014, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo (educational organization in Hawai‘i) was awarded the world’s first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC). ‘Aha Pūnana Leo continues its success in increasing the number of fluent speakers of the Hawaiian language in the State of Hawai‘i.
 - The Hawai‘i State Department of Education continues to provide K-12 Hawaiian language education through the public school system.
 - The University of Hawai‘i (UH) offers successful Hawaiian language programs at all 10 campuses across 4 Hawaiian Islands. This has given State of Hawai‘i adult residents opportunities to successfully learn the Hawaiian language and become fluent speakers of the language.
 - UH offers bachelor’s, masters and doctoral degrees in Hawaiian language. These degree programs have allowed for an increase in the number of individuals with advanced degrees focused on the Hawaiian language.

- The State of Hawai‘i is investing a vast amount of resources to increase the number of Hawaiian language students and fluent speakers in Hawai‘i; more needs to be done to ensure that those who acquire and speak the language are not acquiring an impractical skill.

- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Jasmine Ka’imipono Medeiros Pagaduan and

Jenna Leilani Ka’imina’auono Pagaduan

Jace Ku’ulihaumaikalani Pagaduan

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 643

Clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020.

Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is **Williet Hakaleleponi Cockett Medeiros and my husband is William John Medeiros of Wai'ehu, Maui.** We wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

We support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Since 1978, Article 15, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i has stated that "English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai'i." It's been almost 40 years since Hawaiian has been an official language of Hawai'i, however, the State of Hawai'i does not make available government records, papers or documents in the Hawaiian language.
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- In 2016 according to the Hawai'i State Data Center, Hawaiian is the #1 language other than English spoken at home in Hawai'i County. In the State of Hawai'i as a whole, Hawaiian is among the top 5 languages other than English spoken at home. Hawaiian is spoken by thousands of State of Hawai'i residents, and this amount is increasing. More opportunities need to be made to ensure that the language is promoted in the state.

- Over the past 40 years, various educational institutions in the State of Hawai‘i have not only expanded, but some have reached exceptional international recognition for promoting the Hawaiian language:
 - In 2014, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo (educational organization in Hawai‘i) was awarded the world’s first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC). ‘Aha Pūnana Leo continues its success in increasing the number of fluent speakers of the Hawaiian language in the State of Hawai‘i.
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- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Williet Hakaleleponi Cockett Medeiros and

William John Medeiros

From: [Alex Nakamoto](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Subject: SB 643
Date: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:26:15 PM

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 2:50 PM
Conference Room 224
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Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Kim, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Ruderman and members of the committee, my name is Alex Nakamoto. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 643. This bill would require public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language. In addition, this bill would require that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version of a government record, paper, or document, the public officer is required to make all reasonable efforts to make the government record, paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Since 1978, Article 15, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i has stated that “English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai‘i.” It’s been almost 40 years since Hawaiian has been an official language of Hawai‘i, however, the State of Hawai‘i does not make available government records, papers or documents in the Hawaiian language.
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- In 2016 according to the Hawai‘i State Data Center, Hawaiian is the #1 language other than English spoken at home in Hawai‘i County. In the State of Hawai‘i as a whole, Hawaiian is among the top 5 languages other than English spoken at home. Hawaiian is spoken by thousands of State of Hawai‘i residents, and this amount is increasing. More opportunities need to be made to ensure that the language is promoted in the state.
- Over the past 40 years, various educational institutions in the State of Hawai‘i have not only expanded, but some have reached exceptional international recognition for promoting the Hawaiian language:
 - In 2014, ‘Aha Punana Leo (educational organization in Hawai‘i) was awarded the world’s first accreditation of an early education program conducted through an endangered and indigenous language by the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC). ‘Aha Punana Leo continues its success in increasing the number of fluent speakers of the Hawaiian language in the State of Hawai‘i.
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- The State of Hawai‘i is investing a vast amount of resources to increase the number of Hawaiian language students and fluent speakers in Hawai‘i; more needs to be done to ensure that those who acquire and speak the language are not acquiring an impractical skill.
- Requiring public acts and transactions to be in the Hawaiian language, in addition to having Hawaiian language versions of a government record, paper, or document, will not only continue to promote the language, but will increase job opportunities for those that have acquired the Hawaiian language.

In my short life I have been privileged to be taught by people humble enough to want to share their ‘ike (knowledge) with me. Kupuna and Kumu have taught me that we need to look seven generations behind and seven generations ahead. It behooves our local government to give the people of Hawaii the chance to revive their culture so they can honor traditions of the past and educate the generations in the future.

A’ohe pau ka ‘ike I ka halau ho’okahi
 “Not all learning is done in one school”

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by,

Alex Nakamoto

Alex Nakamoto

Case Management Specialist

Ho'omakua Program

**"Second Chance Act Strengthening Relationships
Between Young Fathers and Their Children:
A Reentry Mentoring Project"**



**"Educating Children, Strengthening Families,
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Serving Hawai'i's Families for 20 Years**

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