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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

For hearing Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Re: SR18, SD1 URGING THE USE OR INCORPORATION OF THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INTO THE VOCABULARY USED TO IDENTIFY LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA AND INTO SAFETY WARNINGS AND ENCOURAGING THE IMPROVED PRONUNCIATION OF WORDS IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Hawaiian language is a great treasure for Hawaii's people and for all the world. So I wish the writers of this resolution had exercised a little restraint in their zeal for reviving a nearly dead language and especially their rampant attempt to root out and exterminate well-known English language names for plants and animals.

I described this resolution as urging the EXTERMINATION of English names. That was not an exaggeration. Note the presence of the word "sole" in SR18 which urges "that state offices, including state educational entities and recreational facilities, are urged to use Hawaiian names as the SOLE common names of local flora and fauna, including distinctive Hawaiian names for different sizes or varieties of flora and fauna ..." Such ruthlessness — proposing ethnic cleansing of names — displays an unacceptable ethnic hatred which should not be tolerated in our multi-ethnic society striving for manifestation of the Aloha Spirit.

It is certainly a worthy goal to urge the inclusion of Hawaiian names. It is even reasonable to urge that the Hawaiian name should be listed ahead of the Latin name. But far more Hawaii people are familiar with the English names of plants and animals than could even recognize the Hawaiian names, so the order of listing should be English, then Hawaiian, then Latin.

The penultimate paragraph of SR18 hints that there are some plants and animals for which the Hawaiian names have been lost, and that newly identified species or newly introduced foreign species might never have had Hawaiian names. In such cases the customary international procedures for naming of species should be followed; most notably, that the discoverer has the right to name it, although different names in different languages may also be used secondarily in accord with local custom.

I would also urge that when a committee of Hawaiian language experts at the University of Hawaii invents a new name for an animal, plant, or technological creation, deference should be given to adopting a name which is culturally intuitive rather than mere mimicry of a non-Hawaiian word. For example the primary word for "computer" should be "lolouila" (electronic brain) rather than than the now-more-frequently heard transliteration "kamepiula."

SR-18-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 8:17:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Hawaiian ethnobotanist who studied under Dr. Isabella Aiona Kauaeka Abbott, and the first Native Hawaiian to obtain a doctorate degree in Botany from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I strongly support this measure. "**E ola mau i ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i**" *Allow Hawaiian language to thrive.*

SR-18-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 11:32:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keiki Kawaiaea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the passing of SR18 SD1 that promotes the use of Hawaiian names for fish and fauna.