



## SR18

### 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.

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 20, 2018

1:45 p.m.

Room 016

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** SR18, which urges the use or incorporation of the Hawaiian Language (‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i) into the vocabulary used to identify local flora and fauna and into safety warnings, and which encourages the improved pronunciation of words in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. This measure will enable the State and its people to further the constitutional provision recognizing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as an official language of the State, and assist in the revitalization and normalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is the native language of the Native Hawaiian people and was the predominant language in Hawai‘i up until the end of the 19th century, when it was used by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike. However, by the late 20th century, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i was pushed to the brink of extinction due to a number of factors, including an 1896 law that functioned to ban the speaking of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in Hawai‘i schools. Fortunately, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i was saved by several historic initiatives, such as the 1978 State constitutional amendment recognizing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as an official language of the State;<sup>1</sup> the establishment and development of both the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo preschool program in 1983 and the Ka Papahana Kaiapuni K-12 Hawaiian language medium program in 1987; and the increased offering of college level classes in Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies, including at Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani and other venues. OHA has long supported these efforts to revitalize and normalize ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, and appreciates SR18’s potential to further these efforts.

OHA has also adopted a 2010-2018 Strategic Plan which includes a strategic priority of Mo‘omeheu (Culture), which focuses on increasing the appreciation and value that Hawai‘i residents place on Native Hawaiian history and culture, and increasing the number of Native Hawaiian residents participating in cultural activities, including language.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SR18. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup>HAW. CONST. art. XV, § 4.

**SR-18**

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:37:00 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/20/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Testifying for Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

**SR-18**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 1:45:57 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/20/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**SR-18**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:28:40 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/20/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SR-18**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 4:11:05 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/20/2018 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

Please PASS SR18 out of your committee. The proper pronunciation and extended usage of the Hawaiian Language when referring to local flora & fauna helps to keep Hawaii unique from other American destinations for residents and visitors alike.

Mahalo,

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

For hearing Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Re: SR18 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."