
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE PLAN AND
REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A COALITION TO DEVELOP THE
PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly, as part of an
2 effort to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous
3 languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and
4 promote indigenous languages and take further urgent steps at
5 the national and international levels, has declared that 2019 is
6 the International Year of Indigenous Languages; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the United Nations acknowledges that indigenous
9 languages represent complex systems of knowledge that have been
10 developed and accumulated over thousands of years and are
11 repositories of diversity and key resources for understanding
12 the environment and utilizing it to the best advantage of local
13 populations; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the United Nations has expressed deep concern
16 about the vast number of endangered languages, particularly
17 indigenous languages, and stresses that, despite continuing
18 efforts, there is an urgent need to preserve, promote and
19 revitalize endangered languages; and

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21 WHEREAS, ʻōlelo Hawaii, or the Hawaiian language, is the
22 indigenous language and, as recognized as by article XV, section
23 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, an official
24 language of the State; and

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26 WHEREAS, the State, in upholding the spirit of the
27 International Year of Indigenous Languages, and in recognition
28 of the numerous achievements over the past thirty-five years in
29 preserving and revitalizing ʻōlelo Hawaii, has proclaimed that
30 2019 is the Year of the Indigenous Language; and



1 WHEREAS, for the past thirty-five years, Hawaiian language
2 movement leaders; including Aha Punana Leo, Ka Haka Ula O
3 Keelikolani College of Hawaiian Language; Hawaiiinuiakiea School
4 of Hawaiian Knowledge; the Hawaiian language programs throughout
5 the University of Hawaii System; the Department of Education's
6 Office of Hawaiian Education, including its Hawaiian medium and
7 Hawaiian immersion schools, and all other Hawaiian language
8 programs at all public schools, including charter schools; and
9 Kamehameha Schools have collectively worked to reverse the
10 language loss that occurred at the turn of the twentieth
11 century; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the aforementioned entities have taken efforts to
14 preserve, revitalize, and promote olelo Hawaii through
15 cooperative efforts to raise speakers of this indigenous
16 language, educate learners in immersive settings, normalize the
17 language in its homeland, and drive and inspire change to ensure
18 a living language in Hawaii and beyond; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the specific outcomes and results of these
21 collective efforts include:

- 22
23 (1) The reestablishment of a P-20 Hawaiian medium pathway
24 of education from the Punana Leo preschool; the
25 State's Hawaiian medium and Hawaiian immersion
26 programs; and the graduate degrees offered at Ka Haka
27 Ula o Keelikolani, which serves over four thousand
28 students annually at over forty different sites
29 throughout the State;
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31 (2) The availability of courses in the Hawaiian language
32 at over two-thirds of the Department of Education's
33 high schools, which recognize the language as a world
34 language;
35
36 (3) The Hawaiian language broadcast media initiative in
37 partnership with Aha Punana Leo and OIwi Television
38 Network; and
39
40 (4) A generation of graduates from Hawaiian medium and
41 Hawaiian immersion programs that grew up speaking



1 Hawaiian and are raising their own keiki to speak and
2 live olelo Hawaii; and
3

4 WHEREAS, to build upon these successes and further
5 accelerate the normalization of olelo Hawaii beyond the
6 educational realm, the development of a Hawaiian Language Plan
7 is necessary to advance use of olelo Hawaii in government
8 services and transactions, private sector activity, and tourism;
9 now, therefore,
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
13 2019, that this body supports the development of a Hawaiian
14 Language Plan to accelerate the normalization of the use of
15 olelo Hawaii; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Executive Officer of
18 Aha Punana Leo, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee, is
19 requested to convene and serve as the Chair of a Hawaiian
20 Language Plan Coalition to develop a Hawaiian Language Plan; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officials, or
23 their respective designees, are requested to serve as members of
24 the coalition:
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- 26 (1) The Director of the Office of Hawaiian Education,
27 Department of Education;
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- 29 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office
30 of Hawaiian Affairs;
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- 32 (3) The Dean of the Hawaiiinuiakea School of Hawaiian
33 Knowledge, University of Hawaii at Manoa;
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- 35 (4) The Director of the Ka Haka Ula O Keelikolani College
36 of Hawaiian Language, University of Hawaii at Hilo;
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- 38 (5) The Chairperson of the Executive Council of Aha
39 Kauleo;
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- 41 (6) The President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic
42 Clubs;



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- 2 (7) The Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools;
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- 4 (8) The President of Kanaeokana;
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- 6 (9) The President of Keomalalamalama;
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- 8 (10) The Chief Executive Officer of Oiwi Television
- 9 Network; and
- 10
- 11 (11) Officials of other appropriate entities, as invited by
- 12 the chair of the coalition, to ensure a collective
- 13 representation in the development of the plan; and
- 14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coalition is requested to
 16 develop an effective Hawaiian Language Plan that:

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- 18 (1) Builds upon past accomplishments to normalize the use
- 19 of olelo Hawaii and accelerates further normalization;
- 20 and
- 21
- 22 (2) Includes aspirational goals, benchmarks, strategies,
- 23 and outcomes for the next thirty-five years; and
- 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Language Plan
 26 Coalition is requested to submit to the Legislature its plan,
 27 including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days
 28 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Language Plan
 31 Coalition shall cease to exist after June 30, 2021; and

32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of the
 35 Office of Hawaiian Education, Department of Education;
 36 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
 37 Affairs; Dean of the Hawaiiinuiakea School of Hawaiian Knowledge,
 38 University of Hawaii at Manoa; Director of the Ka Haka Ula O
 39 Keelikolani College of Hawaiian Language, University of Hawaii
 40 at Hilo; Chief Executive Officer of Aha Punana Leo; Chairperson
 41 of the Executive Council of Aha Kauleo; President of the
 42 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; Chief Executive Officer of



1 Kamehameha Schools; President of Kanaeokana; President of
2 Keomalamalama; and Chief Executive Officer of Oiwi Television
3 Network.
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