
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE PLAN,
INCLUDING GOALS, BENCHMARKS, STRATEGIES, AND OUTCOMES, TO
BUILD UPON ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TO ACCELERATE THE
NORMALIZATION OF 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I.

1 WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly has declared
2 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages as part of
3 an effort to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous
4 languages and the urgent need to take steps at the national and
5 international levels to preserve, revitalize, and promote
6 indigenous languages; and
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8 WHEREAS, the United Nations acknowledges that indigenous
9 languages represent complex systems of knowledge developed and
10 accumulated over thousands of years and serve as repositories of
11 diversity and key resources for understanding and utilizing the
12 environment to the best advantage of local populations; and
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14 WHEREAS, the United Nations has expressed deep concern
15 about the vast number of endangered languages, in particular
16 indigenous languages, and stresses that there is an urgent need
17 to preserve, promote, and revitalize endangered languages; and
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19 WHEREAS, 'ōlelo Hawai'i is an indigenous language of Hawai'i
20 and recognized by the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i as one
21 of the State's official languages; and
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23 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i, in upholding the spirit of
24 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, and in
25 recognition of the numerous achievements over the past 35 years
26 in preserving and revitalizing 'ōlelo Hawai'i, has proclaimed
27 2019 the Year of the Indigenous Language; and



1 WHEREAS, there is a need to first and foremost acknowledge
2 the Niihau Language Commission and native Hawaiian speakers who,
3 within their families, are preserving, protecting, and
4 promulgating the indigenous Hawaiian language in a fully
5 comprehensive manner in the family setting from the earliest
6 ages with all traditional subtlety and nuance; and
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8 WHEREAS, for the past 35 years, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo along with
9 other Hawaiian language movement leaders, including Ka Haka ‘Ula
10 O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, Hawai‘inuiākea
11 School of Hawaiian Knowledge, and all Hawaiian language programs
12 throughout the University of Hawai‘i System, the Department of
13 Education Office of Hawaiian Education, Kamehameha Schools, the
14 Hawaiian medium and Hawaiian immersion schools, and all other
15 Hawaiian language programs at all public schools including
16 charter schools, have collectively worked to reverse the
17 language loss that occurred at the turn of the 20th century and
18 to preserve, revitalize, and promote this indigenous language
19 through cooperative efforts to raise speakers of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i,
20 to educate learners in immersive settings, to normalize ‘ōlelo
21 Hawai‘i in its homeland, and to drive and inspire change to
22 ensure a living language in Hawai‘i and beyond; and
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24 WHEREAS, the specific outcomes and results of these
25 collective efforts include:
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27 (1) Consulting extensively with and acknowledging the
28 invaluable expertise of first-language native Hawaiian
29 speakers whose families have never lost the language
30 at any time in history;
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32 (2) Reestablishment of the Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for
33 Education Hawaiian medium pathway of education from
34 the Pūnana Leo preschools to the State's Hawaiian
35 medium and Hawaiian immersion programs up through the
36 graduate degrees offered at Ka Haka ‘Ula o
37 Ke‘elikōlani, which serves over 4,000 students annually
38 at over 40 different sites throughout the State;



- 1 (3) The Hawaiian language being offered as a world
- 2 language at over two-thirds of Hawai'i Department of
- 3 Education high schools;
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- 5 (4) Hawaiian language broadcast media initiative in
- 6 partnership with 'Aha Pūnana Leo and 'Ōiwi TV; and
- 7
- 8 (5) A generation of graduates from Hawaiian medium and
- 9 Hawaiian immersion programs that grew up speaking
- 10 Hawaiian and are raising their own keiki to speak and
- 11 live 'ōlelo Hawai'i; and
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13 WHEREAS, to build upon these successes and to further
 14 accelerate the normalization of 'ōlelo Hawai'i, the development
 15 of a Hawaiian Language Plan is necessary to advance the use of
 16 'ōlelo Hawai'i in government services and transactions, private
 17 sector activity, and tourism, in addition to education; now,
 18 therefore,

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 20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 21 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
 22 Representatives concurring, that this body supports the
 23 development of a Hawaiian Language Plan to build upon
 24 accomplishments and to accelerate the normalization of 'ōlelo
 25 Hawai'i; and

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the next two years, 'Aha
 28 Pūnana Leo is urged to coordinate a coalition to develop the
 29 Hawaiian Language Plan, including aspirational goals,
 30 benchmarks, strategies, and outcomes for the next 35 years; and

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 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 'Aha Pūnana Leo is requested to
 33 select and invite an equal number of native speakers of Hawaiian
 34 as a first or primary language and Hawaiian speakers who have
 35 acquired the language as a second or subsequent language through
 36 academic or other study to participate in the coalition; and

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 38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Language Plan,
 39 including any proposed legislation, be submitted to the
 40 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 41 the Regular Session of 2021; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, members of
3 Hawai'i's congressional delegation, Chief Executive Officer of
4 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Director of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani Hawaiian
5 Language College, Dean of the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian
6 Knowledge, Director of the Department of Education Office of
7 Hawaiian Education, Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha
8 Schools, and 'Ōiwi Television Network.

