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# 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  
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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;  
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- 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  
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- 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, the  
28 'Aha 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 the coalition to develop the  
33 Hawaiian Language Plan may include representatives of the 'Aha  
34 Pūnana Leo, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani Hawaiian Language  
35 College, Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, Department  
36 of Education Office Of Hawaiian Education, Kamehameha Schools,  
37 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, 'Ōiwi TV, the Association of Hawaiian  
38 Civic Clubs, 'Aha Kauleo, Kanaeokana, Keomālamalama, native  
39 speakers who are first language speakers and whose families  
40 never lost the Hawaiian language, and other organizations as



1 appropriate to ensure collective and equitable representation in  
2 the development of the Plan; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Language Plan,  
5 including any proposed legislation, be submitted to the  
6 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
7 the Regular Session of 2021; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, members of  
11 Hawai'i's congressional delegation, Chief Executive Officer of  
12 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Director of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani Hawaiian  
13 Language College, Dean of the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian  
14 Knowledge, Director of the Department of Education Office of  
15 Hawaiian Education, Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha  
16 Schools, and 'Ōiwi Television Network.

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