

JOSH GREEN. M.D.
GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 1128 HD2 Relating to Support for Traditional Native Speakers of Hawaiian

DATE: February 23, 2023

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

COMMITTEE: Committee on Finance

ROOM: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to provide **COMMENTS on HB1128 HD2** which defines the term Hawaiian language with regard to Hawai‘i’s official languages and requires that every effort shall be made to accommodate Hawaiian speakers and readers. Authorizes Department of Education schools to offer Hawaiian language as the sole indigenous language of the Hawaiian Islands. Appropriates funds to the State Public Charter School Commission to study the Hawaiian language and for the publication of educational resource materials for native speakers of the Hawaiian language. Appropriates funds.

The Commission supports efforts to strengthen the use of the Hawaiian language as an official language of the state, and deeply appreciates the bill’s intent to further that support and understanding of the Hawaiian Language through the proposed study of the Hawaiian language in Section 5 of the bill. However, the State Public Charter School Commission is primarily the authorizer of public charter schools and one of its primary functions is to monitor, in accordance with charter contract terms, the performance and legal compliance of public charter schoolsⁱ. The Commission respectfully asks that the appropriation be made to the University of Hawai‘i to conduct the study of the Hawaiian language and for the publication of educational resource materials for native speakers of the Hawaiian language.

The Commission does not have the capacity nor the expertise to conduct a study on the Hawaiian language, including the variety of the Hawaiian language spoken on Niihau and any other Hawaiian language known to have been perpetuated since 1777 in the Hawaiian archipelago. We would be happy to connect our public charter schools with researchers on such a study, however, the Commission would not be able to conduct such a study.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

ⁱ §302D-5 Authorizer powers, duties, and liabilities. (a) Authorizers are responsible for executing the following essential powers and duties:

- (1) Soliciting and evaluating charter applications;
 - (2) Approving quality charter applications that meet identified educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices;
 - (3) Declining to approve weak or inadequate charter applications;
 - (4) Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter applicant and with existing public charter schools;
 - (5) Monitoring, in accordance with charter contract terms, the performance and legal compliance of public charter schools; and
 - (6) Determining whether each charter contract merits renewal, nonrenewal, or revocation.
- (b) An authorizer shall:
- (1) Act as a point of contact between the department and a public charter school it authorizes;
 - (2) Be responsible for and ensure the compliance of a public charter school it authorizes with all applicable state and federal laws, including reporting requirements;
 - (3) Be responsible for the receipt of applicable federal funds from the department and the distribution of funds to the public charter school it authorizes; and
 - (4) Be responsible for the receipt of per-pupil funding from the department of budget and finance and distribution of the funding to the public charter school it authorizes.
- (c) An authorizer shall have the power to make and execute contracts and all other instruments necessary or convenient for the exercise of its duties and functions under this chapter.
- (d) An authorizer may delegate its duties to officers, employees, and contractors.
- (e) Regulation by authorizers shall be limited to the powers and duties set forth in this section, and shall be consistent with the spirit and intent of this chapter.
- (f) An authorizer, members of the board of an authorizer acting in their official capacity, and employees or agents of an authorizer are immune from civil and criminal liability with respect to all activities related to a public charter school authorized by that authorizer, except for any acts or omissions constituting wilful misconduct. Members of the commission shall be afforded the same protection afforded the members of the board pursuant to section 26-35.5.
- (g) An authorizer shall not provide technical support to a prospective charter school applicant, an applicant governing board, or a charter school it authorizes in cases in which the technical support will directly and substantially impact any authorizer decision related to the approval or denial of the charter application or the renewal, revocation, or nonrenewal of the charter contract. This subsection shall not apply to technical support that an authorizer is required to provide to a charter school pursuant to federal law. [L 2012, c 130, pt of §2; am L 2013, c 159, §5; am L 2014, c 99, §5; am L 2015, c 114, §3; am L 2016, c 113, §1]



HB1128 HD2
KE KĀKO‘O NO KA MANALEO HAWAI‘I
[RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN]
Ke Kōmike no ka Ho‘ona‘auao
[House Committee on Education]

Pepeluali 2, 2023

2:00 PM

Lumi 309

KĀKO‘O LOA ka Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) i ka pila HB1128 HD2, no ka ho‘omākaukau ‘ia ma kēia kānāwai i ke kōkua pono ‘ana i nā po‘e ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i ma nā mea kū kānāwai, ā e ho‘ēmi i nā mea i pilikia ai i nā po‘e Kānaka Maoli i kēia me kēlā mau lā.

[The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB1128 HD2, which would provide the necessary accommodations for Hawaiian language speakers in social and legal services, substantially decreasing the inequity-gap that so many Native Hawaiians face on a daily basis.]

I ka ‘ōlelo no ke ola, i ka ‘ōlelo no ka make – ua ‘ōlelo ‘ia kēia ‘ōlelo no‘eau kaulana i ka wā kahiko no ke kālele mana‘o ai ā no ke kuhikuhi ‘ana he mea ko‘iko‘i loa ka ‘ōlelo. I kēia mau lā, aia ke kauna no kēia, i kupu mai nā hana kaulike ‘ole me nā pono ‘ole ma o ka paiha‘akei ‘ili i ha‘akoi i ke ola o Kānaka Maoli i nā lā āpau. Ua pāpā kānāwai i ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i e ho‘opau ai i ka piko‘u Hawai‘i. ‘A‘ole e hana hou ‘ana i ua mau ho‘imāinoino la.

[I ka ‘ōlelo no ke ola, i ka ‘ōlelo no ka make (in words/language there is life and in words/language there is death) – this ‘ōlelo no‘eau (wise saying) was used i ka kahiko (in a time long ago) to emphasize the importance of words, in teaching that “words matter/what you say, matters.” Today, there is an added meaning to this adage, one that stems from the historical injustices, which established systems of oppression and institutions of racism that force Native Hawaiians to endure inequities in every facet of their lives. ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i was outlawed in an attempt to annihilate Native Hawaiian identity.¹ Such a atrocities shall never happen again.]

Maopopo loa ka waiwai ‘o OHA i kēia manawa kūpono e kāko‘o ai i kēia bila a noi mai i kēia Kōmike **i ka ‘āpono ‘ana i HB1128 HD2.** Mahalo nui loa.

[OHA appreciates this opportunity to support this measure and urges this Committee to **PASS HB1128 HD2.** Mahalo nui loa.]

¹ “If we are ever to have peace and annexation the first thing to do is to obliterate the past,” ua ha‘i ‘o Samuel Mills Damon, kēlā Hope Pelekikena no ka ‘Aupuni Hewa (Provisional Government) a me Hui Ho‘okō no ka ‘Aupuni Hewa Loa (Republic of Hawai‘i), Council of State (Provisional Government of the Hawaiian Islands, 1895). 26 November 1895. Hawaii State Archives Series 424 Vol. 4.



HB1128 HD1
KE KĀKO'O NO KA MANALEO HAWAI'I
[RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN]
Ke Kōmike no ka Ho'ona'auao
[House Committee on Education]

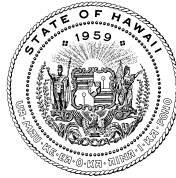
Established by our state's Constitution,² OHA is a semi-autonomous agency of the State of Hawai'i mandated to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. Guided by a board of nine publicly elected trustees, all of whom are currently Native Hawaiian, OHA fulfills its mandate through advocacy, research, community engagement, land management, and the funding of community programs. Hawai'i state law recognizes OHA as the principal public agency in the state responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians.³ Furthermore, state law directs OHA to advocate on behalf of Native Hawaiians.⁴

² HAW. CONST., art. XII, §5 (1978).

³ Haw. Rev. Stat. § 10-3(3).

⁴ Haw. Rev. Stat. § 10-3(4).

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

H. B. 1128, HD2

FEBRUARY 23, 2023, 10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL
RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1128, HD2. The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** this bill and offers the following comments:

1. Literacy amongst the citizens of the Hawaiian Kingdom is reputed to have been amongst the highest of any nation in the world. As a result, millions of pages of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i documents were created throughout the 19th century.
2. The State Archives preserves one of the largest collections of handwritten documents from the Hawaiian Kingdom period.
3. In order to more deeply understand the history of Hawai'i, the ability to not only read these 19th century documents, but understand the deeper meanings and

contexts contained within the language is essential.

4. DAGS strongly supports increase support and education of the Hawaiian Language that includes the form of the language that was taught during the Hawaiian Kingdom so that the rich documentary heritage contained in the State Archives is accessible to more than just the few Native speakers and academics who understand.
5. DAGS respectfully suggests that efforts to more fully support increased fluency in the indigenous language that existed in the early Hawaiian Kingdom should be made throughout Hawai'i and not restricted just to islands with populations of 500 or less so that the rich documentary heritage contained in the many memory institutions throughout Hawai'i can be more widely understood and appreciated.
6. Furthermore, DAGS supports and encourages any study commissioned by the State Public Charter School Commission include an analysis of the ability of the current generation of Hawaiian Language students to fully grasp the depth, breadth, nuances of language contained in the millions of pages of Hawaiian Kingdom newspapers, correspondence, and government documents that are preserved by the memory institutions of Hawai'i and to make recommendations on closing any gaps that were noted.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LATE

KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/23/2023

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1128, HD2 RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN.

Purpose of Bill: Provides that, in any island with a population of five hundred or less, Hawaiian language shall be recognized as the sole indigenous language of the Hawaiian islands; public schools may offer a course in Hawaiian language; and every effort shall be made to accommodate Hawaiian speakers. Requires and appropriates funds for the state public charter school commission to study the Hawaiian language, publish resource materials for native speakers of the Hawaiian language, consult stakeholders, and submit a report to the legislature. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawai'i Department of Education (Department) provides comments on HB 1128, HD2.

The Department requests that Section 2 be removed from HB 1128, HD 2.

Section 2 of the bill has three components. First, it requires that the Hawaiian language be recognized as the sole indigenous language of the Hawaiian islands in any island that has a population of 500 or less; the Department's understanding is that this would only apply to the island of Ni'ihau and as currently written would only apply to the single public school on Ni'ihau. Second, it allows schools to offer Hawaiian language instruction. Third, the section establishes definitions of "Hawaiian language," "native speakers," and "new speakers" in Chapter 302A of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Board of Education established policies that frame the Department's Hawaiian education program: Board Policy 105-7 (Hawaiian Education) and Board Policy 105-8 (Ka Papahana Kaiapuni). Additionally, schools may already offer Hawaiian language courses. Current programming has been informed by various Hawaiian language education experts including native language speakers who were from different islands in the Hawaiian island chain.

The implications of Section 2 of HB 1128, HD 2, for the Department's Hawaiian education programs and plans are unknown at this time. The Department has concerns if the bill were to differentiate Hawaiian language education for different islands or for those whose first language is Hawaiian and for those who gain proficiency in the Hawaiian language through educational programs.

The Department appreciates the contributions made by all Hawaiian language speakers and especially those who worked early in the 1970s to help bring Hawaiian language learning opportunities back into the public education system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure 02/22/2023.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI K. KAAUWAI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of

Nalani K Brun

Office of Economic Development Director, County of Kauai

Before the

House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 10:00AM

Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of

HB1128, HD2

Relating to Support for Traditional Native Speakers of Hawaiian

Aloha Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members:

I am writing in **opposition** of **HB1128, HD2** relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian.

While I wholly support the original intent of the bill, having a stipulation that this bill only affects those islands whose population is fewer than 500 persons precludes the County of Kauai from supporting the intended efforts of this bill on the actual island of Kauai.

Most of the Niihau community live on Kauai and maintain close contact with their ohana who live on Niihau. Kauai must be allowed to participate in supporting all our people equally in the County of Kauai and that includes Niihau.

When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, these Hawaiian speakers need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** of **HB1128, HD2** and suggest to revert to the original draft of the bill.



February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike on Finance,

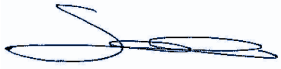
I am writing to ask that you support the original text of HB 1128 relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian. This bill seeks to support kupuna of all islands and members of the Niihau community whose families have never lost the mother tongue of their families until today.

The majority of the Niihau community live on Kauai and maintain close contact with their ohana who live on Niihau, and so the issues addressed by HB1128 affect everyone of the community, and not just the island of Niihau. Others of the Niihau community live on the other islands as well, and please do not forget the kupuna native speakers, who come from essentially the same Hawaiian language background as the people of Niihau, and whose rights to traditional Hawaiian are also protected by this bill. ***Please remove the stipulation that this bill only affects those of islands whose population is fewer than 500 persons.***

When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, these Hawaiian speakers need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best, and not in newly invented language that they do not understand. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

Language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers, and Hawaiian culture has for centuries taught that the younger generations learn from and mimic their cultural and linguistic mentors, and this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,



Sean Andrade
President & Chairman



Treston Caberto
Director, Farm & Land



Mayrose Munar
Chief Operating Officer



Keao NeSmith
Secretary



Anna Baudouin
Director, Programs & Engagement



Wayne Ayudan
Board Member



Kaeo Bradford
Board Member

Ka Leo o na Kupa

Preservina and promotina Hawaii's historical lanauaae – olelo Kanaka

Representative Yamashita, Chair
Representative Kitagawa, Vice Chair and Members
House Committee on Finance

February 22, 2023

RE: Strong Support of HB1128

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members,

Ka Leo o na Kupa is a council of native speakers (L1) of Hawaiian language whose main purpose is to preserve, promote and re-establish Hawaii's historical language with its unique world-view, and to support others in the use of this language – the normalization of Hawaiian language in Hawaii.

Ka Leo o na Kupa is writing in **Strong Support** of **HB1128**'s original text relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian. This bill seeks to support kupuna of all islands and members of the Niihau community whose families have never lost the mother tongue of their ohana until today.

No ka pono o ka aina, a no ke ola o ka lahui,



Kahea Faria

HB-1128-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:06:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuheia Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives

Committee on Finance

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania St

Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike on Finance,

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The majority of the Niihau community live on Kauai and maintain close contact with their ohana who live on Niihau, and so the issues addressed by HB1128 affect everyone of the community, and not just the island of Niihau. Others of the Niihau community live on the other islands as well, and please do not forget the kupuna native speakers, who come from essentially the same

Hawaiian language background as the people of Niihau, and whose rights to traditional Hawaiian are also protected by this bill. Please remove the stipulation that this bill only affects those of islands whose population is fewer than 500 persons.

When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, these Hawaiian speakers need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best, and not in newly invented language that they do not understand. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

Language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers, and Hawaiian culture has for centuries taught that the younger generations learn from and mimic their cultural and linguistic mentors, and this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

Anuheia Young

P.O. Box 1321

Kailua, HI. 96734

HB-1128-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:23:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gail Roberts

Via delle Quattro Fontane 33

00184 Rome, Italy

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives

Committee on Finance

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania St

Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike on Finance,

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The majority of the Niihau community live on Kauai and maintain close contact with their ohana who live on Niihau, and so the issues addressed by HB1128 affect everyone of the community, and not just the island of Niihau. Others of the Niihau community live on the other islands as well, and please do not forget the kupuna native speakers, who come from essentially the same Hawaiian language background as the people of Niihau, and whose rights to traditional Hawaiian are also protected by this bill. ***Please remove the stipulation that this bill only affects those of islands whose population is fewer than 500 persons.***

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Language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers, and Hawaiian culture has for centuries taught that the younger generations learn from and mimic their cultural and linguistic mentors, and this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

Gail Roberts

HB-1128-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:48:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sabra Kauka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of this bill to perpetuate the Hawaiian language. I especially support the native Hawaiian speakers of and from Ni'ihau. They lead the effort to perpetuate the first language of Hawai'i. They are to be congratulated and supported in their efforts.

Maile Kaku
Honolulu, Hawai'i
February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,
Maile Kaku



Mid-Term Participant Evaluation Form

Kupu 'Āina Corps Program 2022-2023

*Guidance, feedback, clear communication, and goal-setting are all necessary to provide participants with the information they need to make improvements in their professional development. Please take some time to have an open, thoughtful, and productive conversation about this participant's performance. Feel free to include all appropriate Host Site staff. The participant will add the mid-term evaluation form to their Participant Portal by **the deadline set**. Mahalo!*

Participant Name: _____ Date: _____

Host Site Staff Present: _____

Host Site Name: _____

Please initial to confirm successful completion (If the participant does not meet performance level, please explain in boxes below)

This participant has satisfactorily completed assignments, tasks, and projects	
This participant has satisfactorily met other performance criteria, which were clearly communicated both orally and in writing at the beginning of their term of service	

Please place an "X" to rate this participant's performance on the following aspects:

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Completes assignments with diligence and proficiency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communicates effectively with others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possesses skills & knowledge to perform job competently	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to work independently and reliably	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Site Manager Name (printed)

Signature

Date

Participant Name (printed)

Signature

Date

Breeze Pavao
P.O. Box 61
Kalāheo, HI 96741

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

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Language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers, and Hawaiian culture has for centuries taught that the younger generations learn from and mimic their cultural and linguistic mentors, and this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Breeze Pavao". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Breeze Pavao

Leinā'ala Pavao Jardin
P.O. Box 61
Kalāheo, HI 96741

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike on Finance,

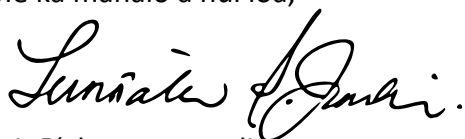
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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,



Leinā'ala Pavao Jardin

Mahealani Contrades-Brun
P.O. BOX 45
Kalaheo, HI 96741
February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

Aloha no e ke Komike on Finance,

I am writing to ask that you support the original text of HB 1128 relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian. This bill seeks to support kupuna of *all* islands and members of the Niihau community whose families have never lost the mother tongue of their families until today.

The majority of the Niihau community live on Kauai and maintain close contact with their ohana who live on Niihau, and so the issues addressed by HB1128 affect everyone in the community, and not just the island of Niihau. Others of the Niihau community live on the other islands as well, and please do not forget the kupuna native speakers, who come from essentially the same Hawaiian language background as the people of Niihau, and whose rights to traditional Hawaiian are also protected by this bill. ***Please remove the stipulation that this bill only affects those of islands whose population is fewer than 500 persons.***

When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, these Hawaiian speakers need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best, and not in newly invented language that they do not understand. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

Language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers, and Hawaiian culture has for centuries taught that the younger generations learn from and mimic their cultural and linguistic mentors, and this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

O wau me ka haahaa,



Mahealani Contrades-Brun

Kāwika Aspili
2358 Paliyahina Place
Honolulu, HI 96816
February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,
Kāwika Aspili

HB-1128-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:21:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernard Carvalho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bernard P. Carvalho

4650 Mailehuna Road

Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives

Committee on Finance

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Conference Room 308

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415 South Beretania St

Honolulu HI 96813

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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

Bernard P. Carvalho

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Hearing Date: 02/23/23
Hearing Time: 10:00 am in 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

By
Ron Kekeha Solis
Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB1128 Relating to Support for Traditional Native Speakers of Hawaiian

Aloha Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, and Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa and members of the
Committee on Finance:

My name is Ron Kekeha Solis, an Associate Professor at Kawaihuelani Center for
Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa


I stand in full support of HB1128 and ask that you support the original text of said bill
relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian. This bill is urgently
needed. Kūpuna of all islands and members of the Ni'ihau community whose families
have never lost the mother tongue of their families until today need to be supported.
This bill is a wonderful start. I plead you to ensure that the Traditional Native Speakers
of Hawaiian are always included in each step.

I also urge you to please remove the stipulation that this bill only affects islands whose
population is fewer than 500 persons. This is due to the fact there has been diaspora of
the Ni'ihau community, the majority of which lives on Kaua'i. Further, there are also
those from that community who now reside on other islands as well. And there are also
other kūpuna who are native speakers whose rights to traditional Hawaiian are also
protected by this bill.

I mention that this is a wonderful start because the approach needs to be multi-faceted
to ensure their needs, social-economical, health, financial, etc., are met. And always
make certain, nothing is forced upon them.

If we want Hawaiian to be revived, we must ensure that our native speakers of
Traditional Hawaiian, those of the greater Ni'ihau community and also kūpuna from the
other islands as well, are well taken care of and supported.

I reiterate my stand supporting HB1128. Mahalo for your consideration.


Ron Kekeha Solis
Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language
University of Hawai'i Mānoa

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
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Reference: HB 1128

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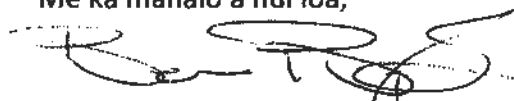
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Language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers, and Hawaiian culture has for centuries taught that the younger generations learn from and mimic their cultural and linguistic mentors, and this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,



Benson Broyles
PO Box 485
Waimea, HI 96796

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
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Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

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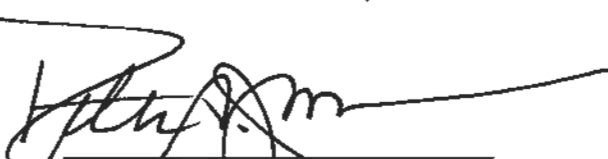
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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,



Peter S. Joffrion

February 21, 2023

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Honolulu HI 96813

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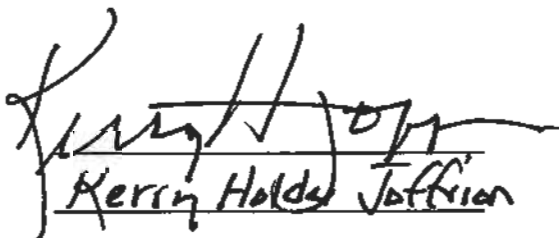
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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,


Kerry Holders Jaffris

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

Santak Karahela
P.O. Box 604
KEKAHA HI
96752

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,



Valerie Matias

P.O. BOX 252, Makaweli, Kauai HI 96749

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
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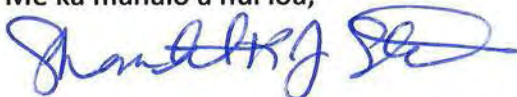
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Shantel K Stevens
PO Box 1005
Lawai, HI 96765

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

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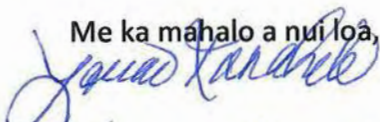
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Laura Kanohelo
P.O. Box 265 Makaweli,
Kauai HI 96969

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
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Conference Room 308
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41S South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

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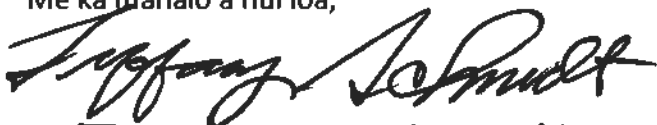
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Tiffany Schmidt
P.O. Box 735
Kekaha HI, 96752

February 21, 2023

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Committee on Finance
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Conference Room 308
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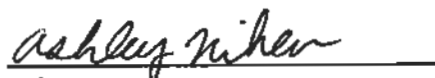
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Ashley Niiheu

P.O. Box 981 Kekaha Hi, 96752

February 21, 2023

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Apryle K. Karahelo
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P.O. Box 490276
Makanihi, HI, 96769

February 21, 2023

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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,

Steven Sullivan



P.O. Box 893
Kekaha HI 96752

February 21, 2023

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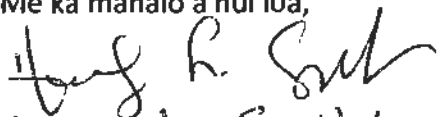
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I am writing to ask that you support the original text of HB 1128 relating to support for traditional native speakers of Hawaiian. This bill seeks to support kupuna of *all* islands and members of the Niihau community whose families have never lost the mother tongue of their families until today.

The majority of the Niihau community live on Kauai and maintain close contact with their ohana who live on Niihau, and so the issues addressed by HB1128 affect everyone of the community, and not just the island of Niihau. Others of the Niihau community live on the other islands as well, and please do not forget the kupuna native speakers, who come from essentially the same Hawaiian language background as the people of Niihau, and whose rights to traditional Hawaiian are also protected by this bill. ***Please remove the stipulation that this bill only affects those of islands whose population is fewer than 500 persons.***

When public notices are created in or translated into Hawaiian, these Hawaiian speakers need these notices in language and orthography that they understand best, and not in newly invented language that they do not understand. Our traditional native speakers have the right to speak for themselves and represent their needs to legislators and do not need to defer to others to speak on their behalf.

Language learners wish to become as competent and fluent as the most competent native speakers, and Hawaiian culture has for centuries taught that the younger generations learn from and mimic their cultural and linguistic mentors, and this bill will help preserve the language of traditional native speakers, while also promoting traditional Hawaiian across Hawaii.

Me ka mahalo a nui loa,


Christopher E. Baker

4166 Manoa St Lihue HI 96766

February 21, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,



Charlotte Kawai

5116 Kawaihan Rd.

Kapee, HI 96744

James K. Armitage
February 21, 2023

House of Representatives Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu HI 96813

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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,
James K. Armitage, PhD

HB-1128-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:45:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keokapukoa Kaohelaulii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

HB-1128-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 5:03:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support (with amendments below) of HB1128 HD2, which provides that Hawaiian language shall be recognized as the sole indigenous language of the Hawaiian islands, public schools may offer a course in Hawaiian language, and every effort shall be made to accommodate Hawaiian speakers, requires and appropriates funds for the state public charter school commission to study the Hawaiian language, publish resource materials for native speakers of the Hawaiian language, consult stakeholders, and submit a report to the legislature.

I urge this committee to amend HB1128 HD2 as follows:

Add requirement that all public schools, DOE and Charter Schools, are required to teach students both of the state's official languages at every grade level.

Return Section 2 to the original HB1128 version, specifically include, "A student who successfully completes a course in Hawaiian language shall be entitled to receive credit for that course toward satisfaction of a world language requirement of the public school."

Return Section 3 to the original HB1128 version; do not limit the application of this bill to "each island with a population of five hundred or less;" this bill deserves to apply to Hawaiian speakers across the state.

Return effective date back to July, 1, 2023, as this has been discussed in three committees in the House and will probably have at least two more in the Senate -- this is sufficient opportunity to discuss without sabotaging the bill with the counter-effective date of June 30, 3000.

HB-1128-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:01:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry SUPPORT HB 1128 RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL NATIVE SPEAKERS OF HAWAIIAN. To include the Waianae community.

Alicia Rozet
2466 California Ave
Wahiawa HI, 96786
February 22, 2023

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu HI 96813

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Me ka mahalo a nui loa,
Alicia Rozet