

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2025

RE: S.B. No. 781
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, to which
was referred S.B. No. 781 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY'S 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I
INITIATIVES,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate
funds to support the Judiciary's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Initiatives.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from Hoomana Pono, LLC; Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights; Kupuna for
the Moopuna; CARES; and eight individuals.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this
measure from one individual.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the
Judiciary.

Your Committees find that article XV, section 4, of the
Hawaii State Constitution affirms that English and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i
(Hawaiian language) shall be the official languages of the State.
Your Committees also find that the Hawaii State Constitution
provides for the preservation and promotion of Native Hawaiian
culture, history, and language in various provisions, including
article X, section 4. Your Committees further find that the



Judiciary has already taken initial steps to explore ways of providing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i resources, interpreter, and translation services to the public. Your Committees believe that it is time for more attention and funding to move the Judiciary's efforts forward. This measure will support the Judiciary's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i program and the efforts to revive the State's co-official language.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of April 23, 2057, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committees note that this measure, as amended, contains an unspecified appropriation amount. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committees respectfully request that it consider inserting an appropriation amount of \$300,000 to support the Judiciary's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i projects.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 781, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 781, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Judiciary and
Hawaiian Affairs,

 

HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III, Chair

KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">SB 781</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">JDC/HWN, WAM</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">2/7/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; margin-top: 10px;">Mike Gabbard</div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>Original File with Committee Report</div> <div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div>Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Record of Votes
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
HWN

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