



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs  
February 6, 2018 at 9:45 a.m.

By  
Marcia Y. Sakai  
Interim Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### HB 2438 – RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Chair Ing, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2438. The bill proposes, among other things, that the University of Hawai'i develop and implement a program to translate public documents, including the State Constitution, into the Hawaiian language.

The University of Hawaii has no position on Section 1 of the bill and defers to the Department of Human Resources Development for this section.

The University does support and appreciate the inclusion of UH Hilo in Section 3 of this bill as it relates to the translation of the State Constitution into the Hawaiian language. Through the UH Hilo College of Hawaiian Language, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, we are well positioned to develop and implement a program that trains highly skilled individuals, while utilizing the expertise of our faculty and staff to assist in translating the Hawaii State Constitution into the Hawaiian language.

The University has concerns on the lack of a definition of "public documents" as identified in Section 3 of the bill. The University is unsure of the magnitude of such an undertaking and cannot support this part of the bill as currently written. The University supports the intent of Section 3 of this measure if the appropriation is adequate to implement such a program and that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2438. Aloha.