



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
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By
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HB 2491 HD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2491 HD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 2491 HD1 that proposes to establish a standard for the spelling and punctuation of Hawaiian names and words as they appear in official State and County documents, letterheads, and signage.

UH Hilo is home to Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language, that has been leading efforts to revitalize the Hawaiian language while also serving as a model to national and international Indigenous communities who also seek to revive their endangered languages.

The college has translation expertise among faculty, M.A. and Ph.D students and the Hale Kuamo'o Hawaiian Language Center at UH Hilo. Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani has also established minimum qualifications (MQs) for demonstrated Hawaiian language proficiency of faculty and staff positions of the college.

We see the bill as an important step towards strengthening the vitality of Hawaiian through increasing government documents, functions, services and a growing workforce community of Hawaiian speakers as a critical effort to ensure the revitalization of the Hawaiian language for generations to come.

Mahalo for allowing UH Hilo to testify on this issue.