



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

and

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Monday, February 1, 2016 1:40 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

By

Judge Richard Bissen
Second Circuit Court
Chair, Hawaiian Language Web Feasibility Task Force

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2162, Relating to Hawaiian Language; Hawaiian Language Web; Appropriation.

Purpose: Appropriates funds to establish long-term Hawaiian language resources and capacity building to train experts in the Hawaiian language field.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports Senate Bill 2162.

The Judiciary's Hawaiian Language Web Feasibility Task Force, convened by Chief Justice Recktenwald in response to House Concurrent Resolution 217, HD1, SD1 (hereinafter HCR217), submitted its report to the Legislature on December 21, 2015. Link to the report: http://www.courts.state.hi.us/docs/news_and_reports_docs/Final-HawaiianLangTF_report_12-17-15.pdf.



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To give life and validation to Hawai‘i’s co-official language, the Task Force urged in its report that the use of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in State and local government must be broader than token phrases, more accessible in everyday life, and equally valid as the use of English. Of primary importance, the Task Force emphasized that the implementation plan at the Ideal level is structured to serve the needs of *all* government operations throughout Hawai‘i, not just the Judiciary’s website. The attached Ideal implementation plan explains activities and projected costs for the first year of long-term development of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i educational and professional resources through the University of Hawai‘i System.

On January 13, 2016, the Hawaiian Language Web Feasibility Task Force held an informational briefing before a joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs; the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor; the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs, and the House Committee on Judiciary. Task Force members discussed findings and recommendations for three possible plans:

- Core: translation of 21 most-visited pages on Judiciary website;
- Sustainable: educational programs at UH-Mānoa and UH-Hilo and one resource staff position in the Judiciary; or
- Ideal: additional academic personnel for educational programs in above and one resource staff position in the Judiciary.

Following an extensive discussion, Legislative Committee members in attendance expressed support for implementation of the Task Force recommendations at the Ideal level.

As a smaller, independent branch of State government, the Judiciary is positioned to serve as a “test lab” for a lexicon of governmental terms to be used throughout State and county entities. The Task Force Report notes that while a few noteworthy advances have occurred at the State level, including publication and enactment of one law in both Hawaiian and English language, up to now, there has not been sufficient funding available to provide a program that would create an adequate number of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i professionals. The Task Force points to this critical shortage of language experts as the greatest barrier to the use of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in conducting business throughout all of government. Therefore, while SB2162 directs funding to be expended by the Judiciary, we note that the Task Force recommended the largest share of funding would establish a partnership with the University of Hawai‘i System’s existing language programs to provide the expertise needed, see summary on next page (also Task Force Report, page 21).

The Judiciary respectfully requests that if the Legislature approves funding for this project, any appropriation should be in addition to the Judiciary’s current supplemental budget request contained in House Bill No. 1649 and Senate Bill No. 2102.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2162.



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Hawaiian Language Committee Proposed Budget — Ideal Total \$480,200

Item	Originating Committee	Total Cost	Description
Hawaiian Language Center, University of Hawai'i System: Ho'okawowo Māhele 'Ōlelo (Develop Hawaiian Translators)	Hawaiian Language Committee	See total budget below. It is the intent of HLC that funding for Ideal implementation be renewed annually for 3 years.	Establish a program to train Hawaiian translators for the State Department of the Judiciary with the intent to extend the language content to other State agencies.
Two FTE positions dedicated to Hawaiian Lexicon & Translation development (1 at UH Mānoa, 1 at UH Hilo for systemwide collaboration)	Hawaiian Language Committee	2 FTE @ \$70,000 + benefits per year = \$140,000 + benefits \$58,800 Total \$198,800	Administer Hawaiian translation training program consistent with Article 2 of the charter for the Hale Kuamo'o Hawaiian Language Center. Oversee research and development of Judiciary language conventions.
2 Graduate Research Assistants, UH Hilo	Hawaiian Language Committee	2 GRAs @ \$25,000 per year = \$50,000 + benefits \$21,000 Total = \$71,000	Research, translation, and application of Hawaiian with a focus on the Judiciary website.
2 Graduate Research Assistants, UH Mānoa	Hawaiian Language Committee	2 GRAs @ \$25,000 per year = \$50,000 + benefits \$21,000 Total = \$71,000	Research, translation, and application of Hawaiian with a focus on the Judiciary website.
Kōmike Lekikona (Hawaiian Lexicon Committee), Hale Kuamo'o, UH Hilo operational budget	Hawaiian Language Committee	\$40,000	Develop and organize Lexicon Committee and Subcommittees, support Travel, meeting costs, material development, collaboration, etc.
Total UH Budget		\$380,800*	
Item	Originating Committee	Total Cost	Description
Judiciary: Laekahi Ma'i'o Kahuapa'a (Web Content Specialist)	Hawaiian Language Committee and Fiscal and Logistics Committee	\$70,000 + benefits \$29,400 Total: \$99,400	Oversee implementation of translated material into Judiciary websites and collaborate with language development efforts to expand Hawaiian language content on the Judiciary portals.
Total Judiciary Budget		\$ 99,400*	
TOTAL – ALL		\$480,200	

*Benefits based on Budget & Finance Dept. figure of 42% of salary