

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

No. 2018 – 28

### **URGING THE HAWAI‘I STATE LEGISLATURE TO AMMEND CHAPTER 78, HAWAI‘I REVISED STATUES, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION RELATING TO KNOWLEDGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE**

WHEREAS, all Kānaka ‘Ōiwi (whether they speak ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, or not) have a genealogical and ethnic connection to ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i establishes ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as one of two official languages of the State of Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 4 Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i provides, in pertinent part, “The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language”; and

WHEREAS, the number of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i speakers have significantly increased since the creation of Pūnana Leo Pre-school, nā kula kaiapuni, and other ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i programs at the university levels and in the community; and

WHEREAS, according to a study entitled “Non-English Speaking Population in Hawai‘i” that was produced by the Research and Economic Analysis Division of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, 18,400 people over the age of five speak ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i at home; and

WHEREAS, according to the same report, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is one of the most common non-English languages spoken at home in Hawai‘i by school age children (ages 5-17); and

WHEREAS, according to the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i shall be required for public acts and transactions only as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, with an increasing presence of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in the day-to-day operations of the State government, there is a need for more State employees with the knowledge of and ability to communicate in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, at its first annual convention on September 3, 2018, the Maui Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs adopted this same resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Kalapaki, Kaua‘i, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of

78, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, by adding a new section relating to knowledge of Hawaiian language; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to amend Chapter 78, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**“§78 - Knowledge of Hawaiian language.**

- (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, chapter 76, and chapter 89, knowledge of and ability to communicate in the Hawaiian language shall be a desirable but not mandatory qualification in the hiring of all public officers and employees.*
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), all public officers and employees whose primary duties involve public relations or the dissemination of information to the general public shall have basic skills and ability to communicate in the Hawaiian language.*
- (c) The director of human resources development shall develop rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement this section.”*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of 'Olepau on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018, at the 59th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Kalanani, Kaua'i.

  
Annelle C. Amaral, President