

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

No. 2018 – 47

URGING THE HAWAI‘I STATE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND CHAPTER 601, HAWAI‘I REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETER SERVICES

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” 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 the most common language spoken at home in Hawai‘i by school aged children (ages 5-17); and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2018, Maui resident Kaleikoa Kā‘eo chose to only speak ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i during his court proceeding; and

WHEREAS, when Judge Blaine Kobayashi asked Kaleikoa Ka‘eo to state his name for the record, Ka‘eo responded in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i saying “Eia wau ke kū nei”; and

WHEREAS, when Judge Blaine Kobayashi asked three times for Ka‘eo to identify himself, Ka‘eo responded in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i each time by saying, “Eia wau ke kū nei”; and

WHEREAS, Judge Blaine Kobayashi marked Kaleikoa Ka‘eo as not present and issued a bench warrant was issued for his arrest because “the court was unable to get a definitive determination for the record that the defendant seated in the court was Kaleikoa Ka‘eo”; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai‘i, as mandated by the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i, has a responsibility to acknowledge and accept public acts and transactions in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, interpreter services should be provided for any party requesting that the court proceeding be conducted 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 59th Annual Convention in Kalapaki, Kaua‘i, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of ‘Olepau, this 17th day of November 2018, urging the Hawai‘i State Legislature to amend Chapter 601, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, by adding a new section relating to Hawaiian language and interpreter services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs urge the Hawai‘i State Legislature to amend Chapter 601, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, by adding a new section to the appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“601- Hawaiian language; interpreter services.

Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a court shall provide Hawaiian language interpreter services upon request by a real party in interest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs urge the Hawaii State Legislature to appropriate out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai‘i the sum of \$75,000 or much thereof, as may be necessary for the next fiscal year to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the judiciary to provide interpreter services in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption of this resolution, a certified copy of it 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 17th day of November 2018, at the 59th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Kalaheki, Kaua'i.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Annelle C. Amaral".

Annelle C. Amaral, President