

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

EFFICIENCY SOLUTIONS AND CIRCULAR SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

December 23, 2024

**Committee
Report No.** _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems Committee, having met on December 4, 2024, makes reference to Bill 127 (2024), entitled “A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT CHARTER SECTION 13-17 REQUIRING THE COUNTY TO OPERATE AS A BILINGUAL GOVERNMENT AND TO PUBLISH OFFICIAL MEETING AGENDAS IN ENGLISH AND ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I.”

Bill 127’s purpose is to implement Section 13-17, Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, to require that: 1) the County operate as a bilingual government; and 2) official meeting agendas of the County be published in English and ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i.

Your Committee notes Charter Section 13-17 provides that the County’s official writings be prepared and made available in both official State languages, English and Hawaiian, as determined by ordinance.

Your Committee further notes the Charter amendment was designated as Charter Commission Proposal 2 and approved by the electorate at the 2022 General Election.

Your Committee further notes the Chair of your Committee requested that its meeting agendas, as required under Part I, Chapter 92, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, be published in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i as a pilot project since July 1, 2024.

The Director of ‘Ōiwi Resources shared historical background on restoring ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i in government operations. He said ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i was the primary language of the State’s public education system in 1840,

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banned as a medium of public instruction in 1896, and constitutionally reinstated as an official State language in 1978.

The Managing Director said that the enactment of Bill 127 would require hiring personnel proficient in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and its translation.

Your Committee agreed to revise Bill 127’s effective date to September 1, 2025, to allow time for hiring personnel and standardizing agenda formats.

Your Committee voted 6-0 to recommend passage of Bill 127, CD1 (2024), on first reading. Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair Paltin, and members Cook, Kama, Lee, and Sugimura voted “aye.” Committee member Sinenci was excused.

Your Committee is in receipt of Bill 127, CD1 (2024), approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel, incorporating your Committee’s recommended revision.

Your Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems Committee **RECOMMENDS** that Bill 127, CD1 (2024), as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled “A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT CHARTER SECTION 13-17 REQUIRING THE COUNTY TO OPERATE AS A BILINGUAL GOVERNMENT AND TO PUBLISH OFFICIAL MEETING AGENDAS IN ENGLISH AND ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I,” be **PASSED ON FIRST READING** and be **ORDERED TO PRINT**.

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This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Chair

escs:cr:24007aa:ebm

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BILL NO. 127, CD1 (2024)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT CHARTER SECTION 13-17
REQUIRING THE COUNTY TO OPERATE AS A BILINGUAL GOVERNMENT AND
TO PUBLISH OFFICIAL MEETING AGENDAS IN ENGLISH AND ‘ŌLELO
HAWAI‘I

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI:

SECTION 1. This Ordinance’s purpose is to implement the Charter amendment designated as Charter Commission Proposal 2, approved by the electorate at the 2022 General Election, to affirm that the County will operate as a bilingual government.

SECTION 2. Title 2, Maui County Code, is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“Chapter 2.02

BILINGUAL GOVERNMENT

Sections:

- 2.02.010 Official writings.
- 2.02.020 Public meeting agendas.

2.02.010 Official writings. This chapter is intended to implement charter section 13-17, which provides that the County must operate as a bilingual government, and to promote the use of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. Charter section 13-17 also provides that official writings of the County must be prepared and made available in both official State languages, English and ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, as determined by ordinance.

2.02.020 Public meeting agendas. All official public meeting agendas required under part I, chapter 92, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, must be published in English and 'ōlelo Hawai'i."

SECTION 3. This Ordinance takes effect on September 1, 2025.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Andrew Tebor

Department of the Corporation Counsel
County of Maui
escs:misc:007abill01

INTRODUCED BY:

Keani Rawlins-Fernandez

KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ