



# United States Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Box 50165, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850



February 7, 2023

Dear Native Hawaiian Community Leader:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) has developed internal guidance for the Department's bureaus and offices for the respectful and proper use of 'ōlelo Hawai'i by personnel whose primary language is not 'ōlelo Hawai'i. Such guidance will support and enhance existing efforts to promote the use of 'ōlelo Hawai'i when preparing Federal documents and other communications that reference people, places, plants, and animals in Hawai'i.

The Department's Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (Office) invites Native Hawaiian Community leaders, staff, and members to a virtual consultation during which the Office will provide an overview of the internal guidance and the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback and comments. The draft internal guidance on the use of 'ōlelo Hawai'i would be added to the Departmental Manual (DM) at 513 DM 3 or chapter 3 of Part 513 pertaining to the Department's intergovernmental relations with the Native Hawaiian Community.

To assist in your review, we present the following framing questions:

- Chapter 3.6 of the draft DM chapter references a small number of 'ōlelo Hawai'i standard works (standard reference). Are there additional references considered standards by the Native Hawaiian Community that we should list? If so, which references would you recommend?
- Are there additional steps or measures the DM chapter should include to support the use of 'ōlelo Hawai'i within the Department? For example, when the Department receives oral and written testimony and comments in 'ōlelo Hawai'i, should the Department undertake to record, transcribe, and translate those comments for the administrative record and reports?
  - How can the Department best ensure that testimony and comments submitted in 'ōlelo Hawai'i are accurately translated into English?
  - If transcribing oral remarks from 'ōlelo Hawai'i to English, should the Department include 'okina and kahakō in the written record?
  - How should the Department acknowledge different dialects and usage?
- Are there other activities, situations, or circumstances that would further support the Department's use of 'ōlelo Hawai'i in its communication with the Native Hawaiian Community? For example, what kind of 'ōlelo Hawai'i training or resources should be offered to Department staff.

The Office will host a virtual Native Hawaiian Community consultation session on Monday, February 27, 2023, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm Hawai‘i Standard Time. Please register for the session by using the following link: <https://blm.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItD-yrDIpHLsifG09UxxpPVWMSqqddhM>.

We anticipate utilizing breakout rooms to address the framing questions as well as provide greater opportunity for oral comments. The consultation session, including all breakout rooms, will be recorded and may be aired or made available online at a later date. If your Native Hawaiian organization would instead like to discuss the ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i guidance directly with the Office, please contact us at [doi\\_onhr\\_hhl@ios.doi.gov](mailto:doi_onhr_hhl@ios.doi.gov) to set up a time.

Please send all written comments to [doi\\_onhr\\_hhl@ios.doi.gov](mailto:doi_onhr_hhl@ios.doi.gov). All comments must be sent to the Office by 11:59 p.m., March 31, 2023. Comments received may be posted, with or without redactions, on the DOI.GOV website and in the Office’s consultation report on the DM chapter, so submit only information you wish to make publicly available. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your written comments, distinct from a transmittal email, cover letter, or envelope, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available.

While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with you.

Me ka ‘ōia‘i‘o,



Ka‘i‘ini Kaloi  
Director, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations