



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

I am transmitting herewith SB1409 SD2 HD1 CD1, without my approval and with the statement of objections relating to the measure.

SB1409 SD2 HD1 CD1

RELATING TO TRAINING IN NATIVE  
HAWAIIAN RIGHTS.

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 6, 2021

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1409

Honorable Members  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 1409, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Training in Native Hawaiian Rights."

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit newly appointed or reappointed members of certain State councils, boards, and commissions from serving if the member has not completed the Native Hawaiian rights training course required by section 10-42, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). This bill further requires the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to record the training course and make the recording available to those who were unable to attend.

This bill is objectionable because it imposes punitive measures on volunteer members of several boards. The vast majority of board members impacted by this bill have already completed a Native Hawaiian rights training course offered by the University of Hawaii. A review of records of forty-three board and commission members across the five boards and commissions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (not including new or retired members or vacancies, and including two who took the class before section 10-42, HRS, became law) revealed that only two individuals had not yet completed the training. In-person course offerings have been limited to once or twice a year, which may impact quorum requirements. Any gaps in training can be covered by more in-person course offerings and online course offerings, where the members can take the class on their own schedule, including workdays and weekends, rather than only on set days.

Additionally, my Administration supports providing board members with the flexibility to choose from more than one provider of Native Hawaiian rights training.

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For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 1409 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Y. Ige", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor of Hawai'i