# Accelerating the revitalisation of te reo Māori with Al

tehiku.nz // @tehiku Peter Lucas Jones // @peterlucasjones Keoni Mahelona // @mahelona



### l ahu mai mātou i hea

- Te Reo Irirangi o Te Hiku o Te Ika (Te Hiku Media) Est. 1990
- Ngāti Kuri, Te Aupōuri, Ngāi Takoto, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kahu.
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi, WAI 11, WAI 150, Wai 2224, Wai 262

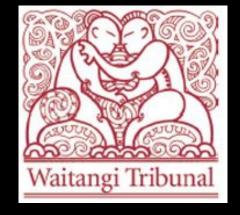


# Te Reo Māori Claim - Wai 11

Lodged by Huirangi Waikerepuru and Ngā Kaiwhakapūmau

Tribunal Report published in 1986. It agreed te reo Māori was a taonga

The report made five recommendations. Tribunal recommendations are generally not binding, and the Crown implemented these recommendations in varying degrees.



In June 1990, claim Wai 150 was lodged by Sir Graham Latimer on behalf of the New Zealand Maori Council.

recognise and protect the Maori interest in radio frequencies REPORT OF THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL ON CLAIMS CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF RADIO FREQUENCIES



WAITANGI TRIBUNAL REPORT 1990

# **Rights to Radio Spectrum Wai 2224**

- 3G, 4G, 5G
- Learn more at <u>thtt.co.nz</u>, Te Huarahi Tika Trust.
- Digital Switchover, 4G replacing terrestrial television, funded our content

• 4G treaty claim funded our speech recognition research

# Te Reo Irirangi o Te Hiku o Te Ika

### Vision

He reo tuku iho, he reo ora

Living language transmitted intergenerationally.

### Mission

Whakatōkia, poipoia kia matomato te reo Māori o ngā haukāinga o Te Hiku o Te Ika

Instill, nurture and proliferate the Māori Language unique to haukāinga of Te Hiku o Te Ika

### E hoki whakamuri kia anga whakamua



### **30 years of corpus gathering trust and accountability**



Te Hiku Radio Te Hiku TV Te Hiku Tech Te Reo Archives About Login



with Heeni Hoterene

Whitiwhiti Short interviews with sharp people

Tautinei

journalism Latest

Kaimaumau Fire

A collection of multimedia, written articles

that promote and sustain public interest

Resilience in Basketball amidst Pandemic Iwi Government collaboration extinguishes

Remembering as an Act of Resistance



### Recently Updated



**Ngā Take** Ngā take o te Tai Tokerau. 5 hours ago in Te Reo



### Kuaka Mārangaranga

Te Hiku talk about what matters in the kāinga, in the rohe and throughout the motu. 2 days ago in Te Hiku Radio

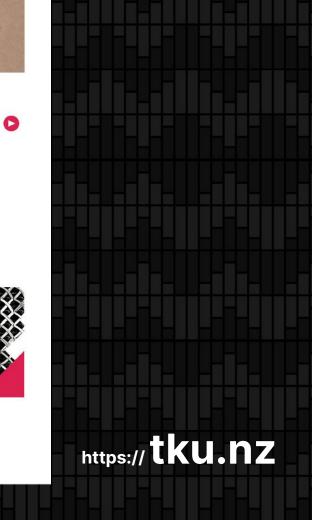


**Pānui** Pānui for Te Hiku 4 days ago in Te Reo

### Live Broadcasts

Q

Te Hiku Radio Te reo irirangi o te hiku o te ika.





Te Hiku Radio Te Hiku TV Te Hiku Tech Te Reo Archives About Login





### Ngā Take

Ngā take o te Tai Tokerau. **Latest** 

Nga Take o Te Taitokerau PM Ngā Take o Te Tai Tokerau PM Ngā Take o te Taitokerau PM

### Live Broadcasts

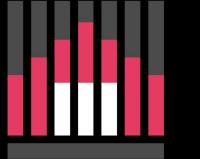
### Te Hiku Radio

Te reo irirangi o te hiku o te ika.



Q

### https:// **Whr.nz**



### Whare Kōrero

He mea tautoko nā



### Nau mai ki te Whare Kōrero

10:34 PM

Carrier 奈

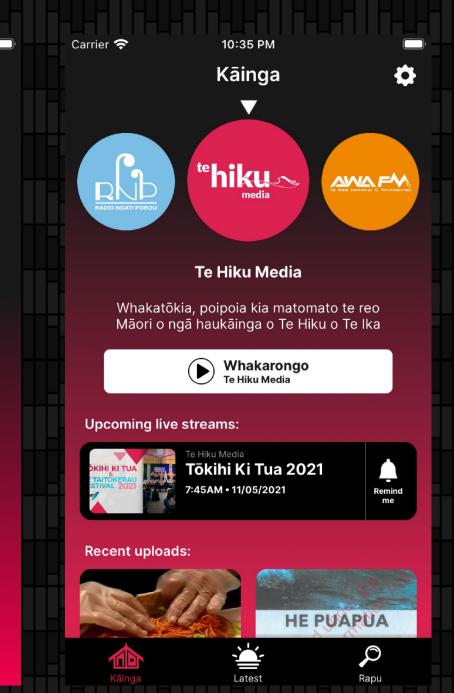
Ko te mana raraunga Māori te tāhuhu ō tēnei whare. Ka noho te mana o ngā taonga kei tēnei whare ki ngā kaitiaki, nō rātou anō ngā taonga. Tiakina ēnei taonga, kaua e takahi, kaua e pokanoa.

### Welcome to the Whare Korero

This whare upholds the principles of Māori data sovereignty. All content remains under the guardianship of the original distributor. Respect this whare and the korero within it.

To learn more you can access the Kaitiakitanga License in the settings.

Tomo Mai



#### 01:04 / 23:44

Te Reo o Te Kāinga Tuhinga

Marau

taputini, nō muri kē i ngā mahinga, e, inā hauhakengia nē. Āe.

Hononga 9 Whakamārama

Taputini

Kupuake

Ko tētahi momo kūmara he taputini te ingoa i matomato te tupu i tēnei kāinga i Te Kao. E hara i te kūmara matatoru, engari he kūmara roroa. He mā tonu te āhua ā ko tōna tupu i rere kē atu i ērā kūmara arā e kore ōna rau, ōna tupu kūmara rānei e haere i runga i te whenua, heoi anō ka tupu tōpu noa iho. He kūmara reka, ā, he pai hoki mō te mahi hei kao.

#### na Toro Ihaka

У f 🔗

https:// tku.nz/p.B2n

keho nei, e te āhua, engari tēnā kōhatu Ko te mea kē, he kānapanapa ana, nē? Āe, kānapanapa ana, tino rerekē tēnā te āhua o tēnā kōhatu, e, kia takoto i runga i te i

Ko te rerekētanga o tēnā, tēnā kūmara, te taputini, arā, te, ka whakatongia. He

rerekē anō tōna whakatupuranga ki ngā kūmara e whakatupungia nei ināianei mō

te hokohoko, he rerekē anō. Ko te ko ngā tikanga i whakatōngia i tēnā kūmara te

Ko ngā mahi ka mahia hei a akuaku ngā hiako Āe, ki te, a, hoi anō rā i ngā wā o ngā

mātua i ngā tūpuna, he mea, ko ngā kota. Ko ngā kota, āe, he aha? Te kūtai. Ko ngā

nei, ina akungia ana ngā hiako Nā, i te kāinga nei he kōhatu, he kōhatu tauhou tēnā

kota kutai, hei akunga ngā, ngā taputini nei, ā, he mā te āhua te tae o te taputini

ki te kāinga nei, kei roto i te, i ngā whārua o Te Kao nei, e pēnei rā, ehara tērā

kōhatu nō te whenua e takoto nei te kōhatu nei, nē? Āe, he pēnei anō i te puke

CC

\*\*

# Kōrero Māori

teaching computers indigenous languages

# Kōrero Māori

### Why

- Revitalisation, preservation, and promotion of te reo
- Create tech opportunities for indigenous people
- Transcribe native speaker radio archives

### How

 Open source tools + Passionate Community ⇒ Automatic speech recognition



hei whakaako i te rorohiko ki ngā reo taketake

### KŌRERO

### WHAKARONGO

### Kōrero Māori on your mobile

Download the Körero Māori app on your mobile! You can read sentences even while you're offline.



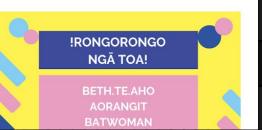
Ka whiriwhiria he komiti mō taua mahi, engari tae noa mai ki nāianei kāhore anō kia tutuki ngā mahi.

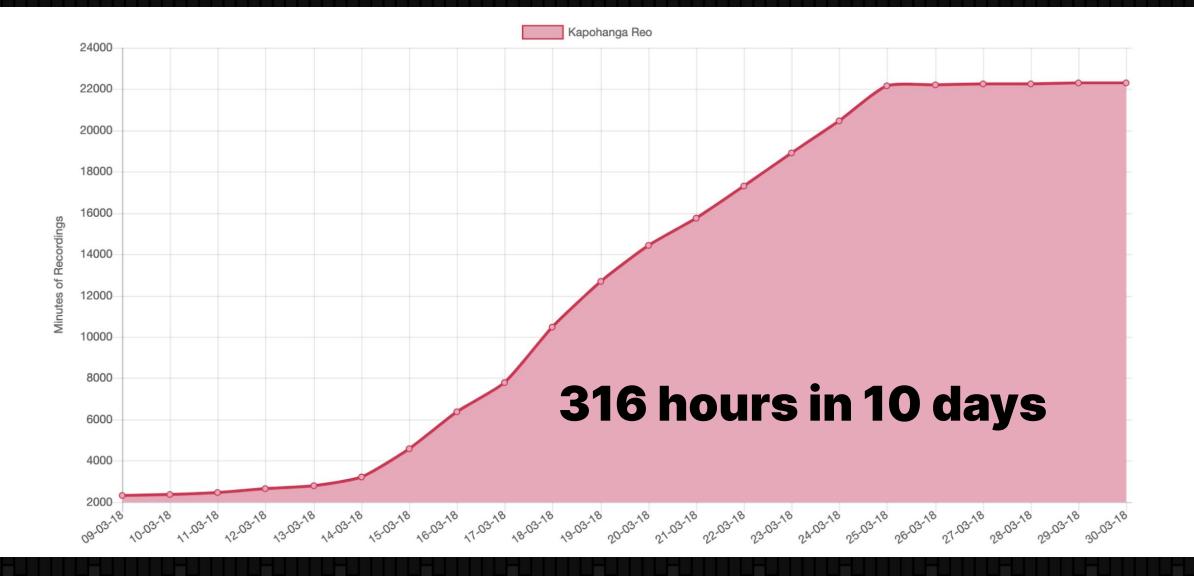
Record

### **Rongorongo Competition**

### Congratulations to our winners!

The Rongorongo Competition has finished. Don't miss out on future competitions. Like our Facebook Page or create an account to stay in touch.





# Stats on "corpus"

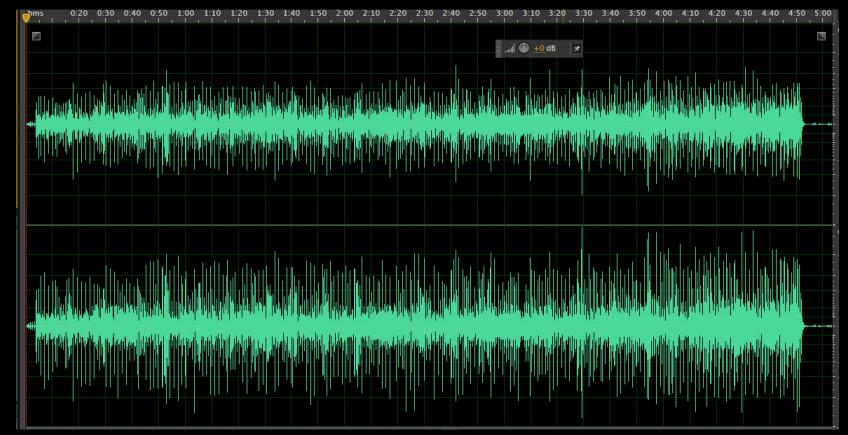
- Whare Korero
  - 3,500 hours of semi-labeled audio since November 2014

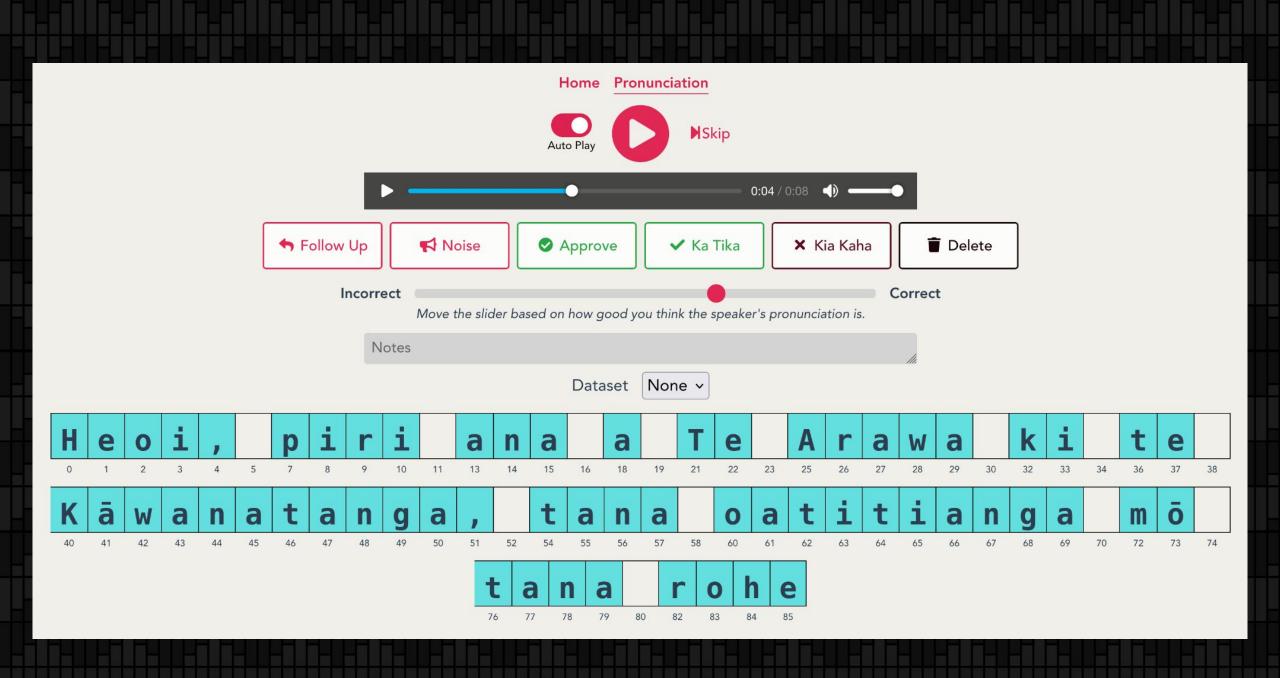
- language, speakers, topics, description
- Archives
  - 50 VHS x 90 minutes
  - 600 DV tapes
  - 100s of cassette tapes
  - ~1600 recordings in total
- Kōrero Māori 550 hours (utterances)

# Using our corpus for revitalisation

### **Oro Tuku Iho** Intergenerational transmission of Sound

- E hoki whakamuri, kia anga whakamua
- The sound of our people, place and Identity
- Evolution vs Assimilation
- Decolonising the sound of our language.
  Recognising the influence of English on pronunciation
- Speaking Native sound into our future.





# Kaitiakitanga License

# Kaitiakitanga License

- Uphold a set of principles that,
  - build Māori capability
  - ensure accountability and benefits back to the community from which the data/knowledge was derived
  - maintain sovereignty
- Prohibit use of data, software, tools etc. for applications that surveil, discriminate, persecute, etc.

• Affirmative action for data, software, etc.

# **Sovereignty for Indigenous Data & Tech**

# **Digital Sovereignty**

- Maintain sovereignty & guardianship over platforms and data
- Create opportunities for indigenous people
- Make indigenous language and culture more ubiquitous
- Promote language and culture from an indigenous world view

If we give corporates access to our data, they will profit from it and we will have the *privilege* of using their products and services.

# Open doesn't always work for us

- Tragedy of the commons
- Privileged groups may benefit more from open/public goods
  - 18th century take artifacts and put them in museums
  - 21st century take data and put it in Common Voice
- National Parks
  - justify taking land from indingeous people for "public good"

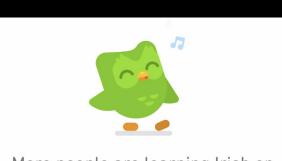
• "We're better at managing natural resources"

# **Big Tech Colonialism/Imperialism**

- Android or iOS
- Apple using "privacy" to maintain its walled garden
- In app & default browsers
- Sign in with \_\_\_\_\_
- xn--wharekrero-v3b.nz







More people are learning Irish on Duolingo than there are native Irish speakers.





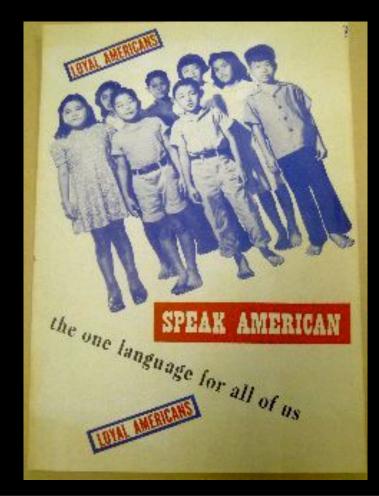


Welcome to the Lionbridge Language Research online registration!



My name is Marc-Antoine, and I am part of the Lionbridge Artificial Intelligence Recruitment Team. I found your contact information from our internal database.

I am contacting you today because we have an ongoing Speech Data Collection project in New Zealand for adults and children who are native or fluent speakers of English that might interest you. The aim of the project will be to help improve a speech and ambient noise collection technology, as you might find



#### https://www.duolingo.com > course > hw > en > Learn-Hawaiian

\_

The world's best way to learn Hawaiian - Duolingo

The world's most popular way to learn **Hawaiian** online Learn **Hawaiian** in just 5 minutes a day with our game-like lessons. Whether you're a beginner starting with the basics or looking to practice your reading, writing, and speaking, **Duolingo** is scientifically proven to work. Bite-sized **Hawaiian** lessons. Fun, effective, and 100% free.

Mãori	-→	English		
kia kaha wāhine mā	×	let white women be strong		
		Open in Google Translate · Feedback		

Māori	* ←	English -		
kiaora wahine mā	×	save white women		
		Open in Google Translate • Feedba		

### Ts & Cs

- "Free" content platforms e.g. <u>https://policies.google.com/terms</u> <u>?hl=en#toc-permission</u>
- Can't share data back to indigenous communities because of "copyright"

#### **Right to Monetize**

You grant to YouTube the right to monetize your Content on the Service (and such monetization may include displaying ads on or within Content or charging users a fee for access). This Agreement does not entitle you to any payments. Starting November 18, 2020, any payments you may be entitled to receive from YouTube

#### Scope

#### This license is:

- worldwide, which means it's valid anywhere in the world
- non-exclusive, which means you can license your content to others
- royalty-free, which means there are no monetary fees for this license

#### Rights

This license allows Google to:

- host, reproduce, distribute, communicate, and use your content for example, to save your content on our systems and make it accessible from anywhere you go
- publish, publicly perform, or publicly display your content, if you've made it visible to others
- modify and create derivative works based on your content, such as reformatting or translating it

### Language as a Service

### Google ASR

Feature	re Standard models (all models except enhanced video call)		d phone Enhanced models (video, phone call)	
	0-60 Minutes	Over 60 Mins up to 1 Million Mins	0-60 Minutes	Over 60 Mins up to 1 Million Mins
Speech Recognition (without Data Logging - default)	Free	\$0.006 / 15 seconds **	Free	\$0.009 / 15 seconds **
Speech Recognition (with Data Logging opt-in)	Free	\$0.004 / 15 seconds **	Free	\$0.006 / 15 seconds **

# Who should profit from indigenous languages as a service?

### **Azure Services**

Instance

	Category	Features	Price
- Web/Container Irrent requests for Base model rent requests for Custom	Speech to Text	Standard <sup>2</sup>	\$1 per audio hour
		Custom	\$1.40 per audio hour Endpoint hosting: \$0.0538 per model per hour
		Conversation Transcription Multichannel Audio PREVIEW	\$2.10 per audio hour <sup>3</sup>
	Text to Speech	Neural <sup>4</sup>	Real-time synthesis: <b>\$16</b> per 1M characters <sup>4</sup> Long audio creation: <b>\$100</b> per 1M characters
		Custom Neural <sup>4, 5</sup>	Training: \$52 per compute hour, up to \$4,992 per training Real-time synthesis: \$24 per 1M characters Endpoint hosting: \$4.04 per model per hour Long audio creation: \$100 per 1M characters
	Speech Translation	Standard	\$2.50 per audio hour
	Speaker Recognition	Speaker Verification	\$5 per 1,000 transactions
		Speaker Identification	\$10 per 1,000 transactions
		Voice Storage	<b>\$0.20</b> per 1,000 voice profiles (10,000 free voice profiles per month)

# A better future for Al

Rather than Big Tech gobbling up our data and selling it back to us, we should empower communities to lead their own platforms and solutions to help move their people forward.

# **Te Hiku Media's Achievements ML**

- Super fast te reo Māori ASR
- Real-time pronunciation feedback on the edge
- Automatic POS
- Te reo Māori Speech Synthesis
- Kaitiakitanga License getting global recognition in AI/ML



DONAVYN COFFEY SECURITY 28.04.2021 06:00 AM

### Māori are trying to save their language from Big Tech

Te Hiku Media gathered huge swathes of Māori language data. Corporates are now trying to get the rights to it



GETTY IMAGES / TIM GRAHAM / CONTRIBUTOR

#### MIT Technology Review

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE A new vision of artificial intelligence for the people

In a remote rural town in New Zealand, an Indigenous couple is challenging what AI could be and who it should serve.



This was a beautiful article to read after spending all weekend reading about the modern day eugenics movement underlying much of the whole AGI stuff. ...

**Distributed Al Research Institute** @DAIRInstitute · May 2 "Data is the last frontier of colonization," Mahelona says.

"In turning to AI to help revive te reo, the Māori language, Mahelona and Jones, who is Māori, wanted to do things differently."

technologyreview.com/2022/04/22/105...

Show this thread

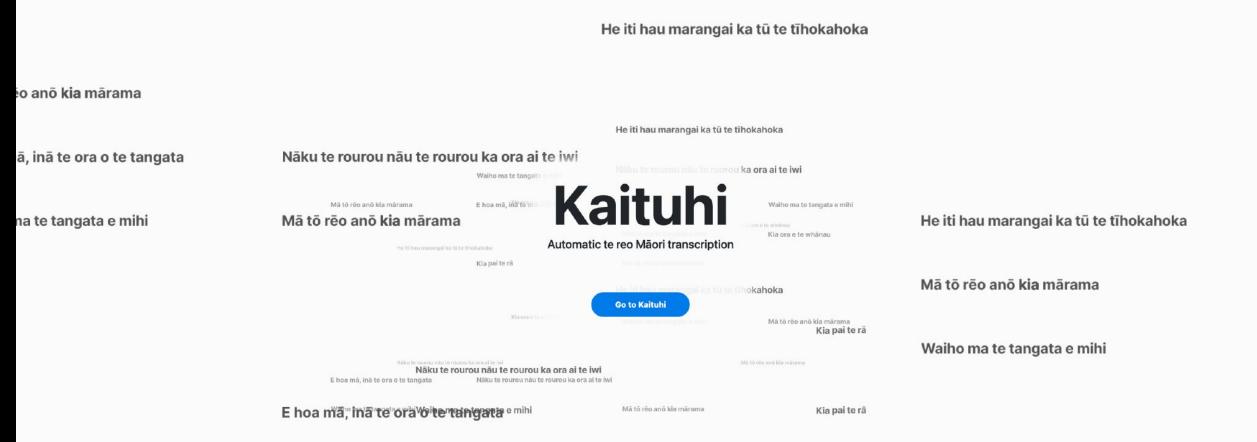
12:59 PM · May 2, 2022 · Twitter Web App

# Māori ASR Applications

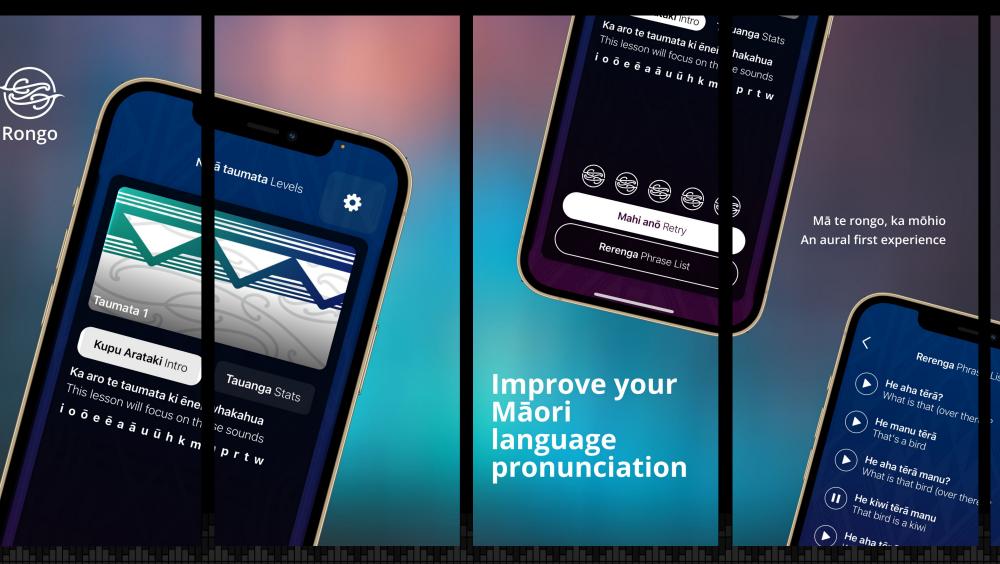
# https://



### Kaituhi - ASR assisted transcription



# **Māori Pronunciation App**



### https:// rongo.app

List

**Real-time** feedback

Practice in a private, comfortable space of your own



Whakapapa Kaitiakitanga Tuhinga Tautoko About Guardianship Documentation (

**Īmēra mai** Contact

# Natural Language Processing tools for te reo Māori.

# tku.nz/p.G75

Links to articles and resources on data sovereignty