
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaiian
2 language was established by law as the native language of
3 Hawai'i more than twenty-five years ago. Despite this law,
4 numerous publications, signs, and other items produced by the
5 State of Hawai'i are not produced in the Hawaiian language, and
6 our own state name continues to be incorrectly spelled by
7 omitting the glottal stop required in the word Hawai'i.

8 The purpose of this Act is to require that state signs
9 indicating sites and place names, and other publications use
10 both the Hawaiian and English languages, and that the glottal
11 stop in the word Hawai'i be used properly in state signs
12 indicating sites and places and other publications.

13 SECTION 2. Section 1-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "**§1-13 Official languages.** (a) English and Hawaiian are
16 the official languages of Hawaii. Whenever there is found to
17 exist any radical and irreconcilable difference between the
18 English and Hawaiian version of any of the laws of the State,



1 the English version shall be held binding. Hawaiian shall not
2 be required for public acts and transactions[~~-~~] except as
3 provided in subsection (b).

4 (b) All state signs in state buildings, parks, and other
5 state public facilities designating place names and site names
6 shall be in English and the Hawaiian language; provided that on
7 the effective date of this Act:

8 (1) Existing signs not in compliance with this section
9 shall comply when a replacement for the existing sign
10 is required;

11 (2) Existing signs subject to this section that are only
12 in the Hawaiian language shall not, upon replacement,
13 be required to be in English in addition to the
14 Hawaiian language; and

15 (3) Signage in the Hawaiian language shall include okina
16 and kahako, where appropriate, to reflect the proper
17 use of the Hawaiian language.

18 This section shall not apply to official traffic-control devices
19 as defined in section 291C-1."

20 SECTION 3. Section 1-13.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended to read as follows:



1 "[+]§1-13.5[+] **Hawaiian language; spelling.** (a)
2 [~~Macrons and glottal stops~~] Glottal stops and macrons may be
3 used in the spelling of words or terms in the Hawaiian language
4 in documents prepared by or for state or county agencies or
5 officials[~~-~~]; provided that the word Hawai'i shall be properly
6 spelled to include the required glottal stop in any publication,
7 signage designating places and sites, or other item produced by
8 the State after the effective date of this section. This
9 requirement shall not apply to:

10 (1) Signs, publications, or other items produced by the
11 State before the effective date of this section, until
12 such time that they are updated or otherwise replaced;
13 or

14 (2) Official traffic-control devices, as defined in
15 section 291C-1.

16 (b) Any rule, order, policy, or other act, official or
17 otherwise, that prohibits or discourages the use of [~~these~~
18 symbols] glottal stops and macrons shall be void.

19 (c) All signs subject to section 1-13 shall use glottal
20 stops and macrons to reflect the proper use of the Hawaiian
21 language."



1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



HB 2169 HD 1

Report Title:

State Signs; Hawaiian Language

Description:

Requires signs designating places and sites in state buildings, parks, facilities, and other state public sites to be in Hawaiian and English. Requires use of okina and kahako on signs in the Hawaiian language to reflect proper use of the language. Requires all documents prepared by the State to include the required glottal stops and macrons, subject to some exceptions. (HB2169 HD1)

