

SCR 207/ SR

121

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller

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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119**

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEES
ON
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND
TOURISM AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ON
April 2, 2008

S.C.R 207 / S.R. 121

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO
DEVELOP A PLAN TO HAVE ALL SIGNS AT THE STATE CAPITOL PRINTED
IN ENGLISH AND HAWAIIAN.

Chair Tokuda, Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. 207 and S.R. 121.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the desire to preserve the native Hawaiian language and culture. However, DAGS has questions about requiring all State signs in the State Capitol to be printed in both Hawaiian and English.

These questions are aimed at more clearly defining the task that this SCR/SR would direct DAGS to undertake. Are signs and printing limited to paper and ink or paint? Do the materials include wood, ceramic, plastic, and metal? Does printing include etching, glazing and casting? Do signs include seals and emblems? Do signs include inscriptions on

sculptures and artwork? Do they include electronic signs, involving LCD, LED and flat panel displays?

Aside from media used for the signs, are the SCR's/SR's provisions applicable to temporary signs? Must the signs be ADA compliant? Will dual translations into braille be required?

DAGS recommends that if this SCR/SR is to be passed out of committee, it be amended to respond to the questions DAGS has raised.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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SCR 207

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL
SERVICES TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO HAVE ALL SIGNS AT THE STATE
CAPITOL PRINTED IN ENGLISH AND HAWAIIAN.**

Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Date: April 2, 2008

Time: 1:45pm

Room: 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) supports the resolution to have all signs at the State Capitol printed in English and Hawaiian. Article XV, section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i designates English and Hawaiian as the official languages of Hawai'i. Moreover, Hawaiian is the first language of these islands and the first language of the indigenous people of Hawai'i, k̄naka Hawai'i, and it stands to reason that it be given prominence in our state's seat of power. OHA commends the Legislature for promoting the Hawaiian language in this way and also offers our support and technical assistance if needed. We urge you to pass this measure. Mahalo nui loa.