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# 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 Constitution of  
2 the State of Hawai'i provides for the preservation and promotion  
3 of native Hawaiian culture, history, and language. For example,  
4 article X, section 4, provides that, "[t]he State shall promote  
5 the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language." Article  
6 XII, section 7, Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, provides,  
7 "[t]he State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily  
8 and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and  
9 religious purposes . . ." of native Hawaiians. Because  
10 maintaining a living language is an integral component of  
11 preserving a culture, it is also important to note that article  
12 XV, section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i,  
13 reestablishes that "English and Hawaiian shall be the official  
14 languages of Hawaii . . . ."

15           Since 1978, when the State reaffirmed Hawaiian as one of  
16 its official languages, the legislature has backed efforts to  
17 incorporate the language into official state writings, emblems,



1 and signs. Ensuring that these public inscriptions are  
2 mandatory, accurate, and spelled correctly, and use of the  
3 proper Hawaiian macrons and glottal stops not only shows the  
4 deserved respect for the native language of these islands, but  
5 also fully comports with the intent and words of the state  
6 constitution.

7 The purpose of this Act is to ensure the constitutionally-  
8 and ethically-mandated preservation of the native Hawaiian  
9 language and culture by requiring that all state and county  
10 documents, letterheads, symbols, and emblems, when newly  
11 created, replaced, or reprinted, contain the accurate,  
12 appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language.

13 SECTION 2. Section 1-13.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "~~[-]~~**§1-13.5**~~[+]~~ **Hawaiian language; spelling.** [~~Macrons and~~  
16 ~~glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in~~  
17 ~~the Hawaiian language in]~~ (a) Effective January 1, 2011, all  
18 documents and letterhead prepared by or for state or county  
19 agencies or officials[-] shall include the accurate,  
20 appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language,  
21 including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation, including  
22 but not limited to macrons and glottal stops, printed above the



1 English translation; provided that any revision to conform any  
2 document or letterhead existing on or before January 1, 2011 to  
3 the requirements of this section, may be implemented when the  
4 document or letterhead requires replacement or reprinting, or  
5 otherwise requires revision. Any rule, order, policy, or other  
6 act, official or otherwise, that prohibits or discourages the  
7 use of [~~these symbols~~] proper Hawaiian punctuation or spelling  
8 shall be void.

9 (b) The Hawaiian language shall be accurate, appropriate,  
10 and authentic when printed in conformance with:

11 (1) "Hawaiian Dictionary: Hawaiian-English, English-  
12 Hawaiian", by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert,  
13 University of Hawaii Press, copyright 1986; or

14 (2) "Māmake Kaiao: A Modern Hawaiian Vocabulary",  
15 developed by Kōmike Hua'olelo, the Hawaiian Lexicon  
16 Committee."

17 SECTION 3. Section 5-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 **"[+]§5-6.5[+] State language.** (a) The Hawaiian language  
20 is the native language of Hawaii and [~~may~~], effective January 1,  
21 2011, shall be used on all emblems and symbols representative of  
22 the State, its departments, agencies, and political



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1 subdivisions[-]; provided that for emblems and symbols existing  
 2 on January 1, 2011, conformance with this section may be delayed  
 3 until a replacement for the emblem or symbol otherwise is  
 4 required.

5 (b) The Hawaiian language as used on all emblems and  
 6 symbols shall be in conformance with the requirements of  
 7 subsection 1-13.5(b)."

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Hawaiian Language; Public Documents; Letterhead; Symbols;  
Emblems

**Description:**

Requires that all letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems  
of the State and other political subdivisions include both state  
languages.

