

---

---

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

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



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

7 The purpose of this Act is to ensure the constitutionally-  
8 and ethically-mandated preservation of the Hawaiian language and  
9 culture by requiring state and county letterhead, symbols, and  
10 emblems, when newly created, replaced, or reprinted, contain the  
11 accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and  
12 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 documents] (a) Effective January 1,  
18 2011, all letterhead prepared by or for state or county agencies  
19 or officials[-] shall include the accurate, appropriate, and  
20 authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian  
21 spelling and punctuation, including but not limited to macrons  
22 and glottal stops, printed above the English translation;~~



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

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

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

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

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

18 "[+] §5-6.5 [+] **State language.** (a) The Hawaiian language  
19 is the native language of Hawaii and [~~may~~], effective January 1,  
20 2011, shall be used on all emblems and symbols representative of  
21 the State, its departments, agencies, and political  
22 subdivisions[-]; provided that for emblems and symbols existing



1 on January 1, 2011, conformance with this section may be delayed  
2 until a replacement for the emblem or symbol otherwise is  
3 required.

4 (b) The Hawaiian language as used on all emblems and  
5 symbols shall be accurate, appropriate, and authentic in  
6 conformance with the requirements of section 1-13.5(b)."

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

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



S.B. NO. 579  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Hawaiian Language; Letterhead; Symbols; Emblems

**Description:**

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

Effective 01/01/2050. (SB579 HD1)

SB579 HD1 HMS 2009-3195

