

SB 579

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller

BARBARA A. ANNIS
Deputy Comptroller

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

WRITTEN COMMENTS
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
ON
February 27, 2009

S.B. 579, S.D. 1

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Chair Kim and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment on S.B. 579, S.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent of S.B. 579, S.D. 1, but has concerns. The bill includes the following:

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

If this passage is interpreted to mean that all correspondence must include both English and a Hawaiian translation, DAGS recommends against this as impractical. However, if this bill applies to Hawaiian names and words, it would be more achievable.

DAGS also notes that if the Standard Hawaiian Dictionary listed is used, a 1986 copyright is not optimum. DAGS suggests the term “latest copyright date” be used instead.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.