
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. Article X,
4 section 4, provides that "[t]he State shall promote the study of
5 Hawaiian culture, history and language." Article XII, section 7
6 provides that "[t]he State reaffirms and shall protect all
7 rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence,
8 cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua'a tenants
9 who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the
10 Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the right of the
11 State to regulate such rights." Because maintaining a living
12 language is an integral component of preserving a culture,
13 article XV, section 4 establishes that English and Hawaiian are
14 the official languages of Hawai'i.

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 that state and county documents,
10 letterheads, symbols, and emblems, when newly created, replaced,
11 or reprinted, contain the accurate, appropriate, and authentic
12 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, 2013, all
18 documents and letterheads prepared by or for state or county
19 agencies or officials[-] shall include accurate, appropriate,
20 and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper
21 Hawaiian spelling and punctuation, including but not limited to
22 macrons and glottal stops that punctuate the English word to~~



1 which they relate; provided that any revision to conform any
2 document or letterhead existing on or before January 1, 2013, 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~~] accurate, appropriate, and authentic
8 Hawaiian names and words, as required by this section, shall be
9 void.

10 (b) Hawaiian names and words shall be accurate,
11 appropriate, and authentic when printed in conformance with:

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

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

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

20 "[~~+~~]**\$5-6.5**[~~+~~] **State language.** (a) The Hawaiian language
21 is the native language of [~~Hawaii~~] Hawai'i and [~~may~~], effective
22 January 1, 2013, shall be used on all emblems and symbols



1 representative of the State, its departments, agencies, and
2 political subdivisions[-]; provided that for emblems and symbols
3 existing on January 1, 2013, conformance with this section may
4 be delayed until a replacement for the emblem or symbol
5 otherwise is required.

6 (b) The Hawaiian language as used on all emblems and
7 symbols shall be in conformance with the requirements of section
8 1-13.5(b)."

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

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2012.



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; Public Documents; Letterhead; Symbols;
Emblems

Description:

Requires that all letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems of the State and other political subdivision include accurate and appropriate Hawaiian names and language. Establishes references for accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation. Effective 1/1/2012. (SD1)

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