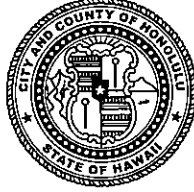


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PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR

March 16, 2011

The Honorable Faye Hanohano, Chair  
House Hawaiian Affairs Committee  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011  
State of Hawaii

**RE: Testimony of Mayor Peter Carlisle on S.B. 1130, S.D. 1, Relating to the Hawaiian Language**

Chair Hanohano and members of the House Hawaiian Affairs Committee, Mayor Peter Carlisle submits the following comments on S.B. 1130, S.D. 1.

The purpose of this bill is to mandate that as of January 1, 2013, all documents and letterhead prepared by or for state or county agencies or officials include accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words with proper spelling and punctuation; however the revisions to conform documents or letterheads existing before January 1, 2013 could be delayed until the document or letterhead requires replacement, reprinting or revision. In addition, the bill provides that effective January 1, 2013, Hawaiian shall be used on all emblems and symbols representative of the State, its departments, agencies and political subdivisions; however for all emblems and symbols existing on January 1, 2013, conformance with the amendment may be delayed until a replacement for the emblem or symbol is required.

Although I fully support the preservation and promotion of the native Hawaiian culture and language, I have concerns about the costs and implementation issues of this proposal. I am concerned about the requirement that all documents prepared by or for state or county agencies have the correct spelling and punctuation printed above Hawaiian words and place names. The City and County produces numerous documents for a wide array of needs. Under this bill, it appears police reports and traffic citations issued by the police, driver's licenses issued by DMV and building plans submitted to the county would have to have the correct spelling and punctuation of Hawaiian words and place names.

Second, I am concerned about the provisions of Section 3 of the bill which requires that Hawaiian be used on all emblems and symbols representative of the State and its political subdivisions effective January 1, 2013. We are unsure whether this provision was meant to require that only Hawaiian words may be used on the county seal or whether this requires the correct spelling and punctuation of the Hawaiian words on the county seal. In either case, the

county seal would have to be changed. This poses a major issue for the City and County given that numerous items that carry the county seal. Uniform patches and badges for the police, fire and EMS would have to be replaced and all the vehicles and equipment marked with the county seal would have to be redone.

In closing, I would note that the two large state seals which hang outside the State Capitol would have to be removed or replaced if this bill were to pass, since it appears the Hawaiian words on the seal are not properly punctuated.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

## clee2 - Matt

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 12, 2011 3:40 PM  
**To:** HAW/testimony  
**Cc:** Ken\_Conklin@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1130 on 3/16/2011 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 3/16/2011 8:30:00 AM SB1130

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/12/2011

### Comments:

Some Hawaiian activists insist on using Hawaiian grammar or spelling when speaking or writing English. It's easy to see how the main purpose for doing this is to impress an audience that the speaker/writer is knowledgeable about Hawaiian and familiar with local custom. Those who like conspiracy theories might say it's an attempt to force English to submit to Hawaiian dominance by following Hawaiian grammatical rules.

The 'okina and kahako are a diacritical marks which were not used when the written language was created in 1820, but came to be used later to let non-native-speakers know how to pronounce words. The 'okina indicates a glottal stop, and seems to have now won acceptance as a 13th letter in the Hawaiian alphabet (sort of like Las Vegas is often called the 9th Hawaiian island).

When speaking English we should use the spelling without any okinas or kahakos: Hawaii and Hawaiian. It's just like what we do when using the name "Germany" while speaking English -- we call it "Germany" and not its native name "Deutschland." And when making an adjective out of it, we say "German" and not the native word "Deutsch" or, even worse, the native word made into an absurd English-style adjective "Deutschlandish." Those who favor "Hawai'i" as the State name will 'also want to spell the adjectival form "Hawai'ian" which looks rather silly, doesn't 'it?

I recommend you amend this bill to specify that okinas and kahakos shall be included in the spelling of the state's name "Hawai'i" and other Hawaiian words when and only when the entire document is written primarily in Hawaiian language; and the okina and kahako shall not be used in spelling the word "Hawaii" or other Hawaiian words when and only when the entire document is written primarily in English.

But 'as the bill 'is written 'in 'its present form, 'I 'oppose 'it.

For example, on page 4 line 21 the spelling of our state's name is proposed to be officially changed to "Hawai'i." Yet the bill is written in English, and therefore the state's name should also be spelled in English: "Hawaii";

If this bill were written in Hawaiian, then of course the place-name should be spelled in Hawaiian: "Hawai'i." Go ahead and write the entire bill in Hawaiian language.

**clee2 - Matt**

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**From:** Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2011 3:43 PM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Subject:** SB1130; HAW; 3/16; 8:30AM; Rm 329

**Importance:** High

SB1130, SD1, Relating to the Hawaiian Language  
HWN; Chair, rep Hanohano

**IN STRONG SUPPORT!**

It is an absolute disgrace that legislation is needed to require the State to spell correctly one of our official languages! How can we explain this failure? Is it laziness, incompetence, ignorance, racism, all of the above? No matter. the message to the state is: GET IT DONE!! Everyone who lives in and loves Hawai'i nei has to be embarrassed by this failure.

**RESOLUTION NEEDED:**

I urge committee members to sponsor a reso, perhaps with with Sen Hee, that urges all media in Hawai'i to correctly pronounce and spell our official language. The "Star-Advertiser," in particular, actually has a policy that prohibits the use of special Hawaiian spelling, including a ban on the `okina. Thus, we are treated to seeing, and hearing on television, Hawai'i pronounced and spelled as though it were "Haw-eye," Honolulu pronounced as though it were "Hahnalulu," and so on. Again, what an embarrassment, with causes similar to the ones regarding the state's refusal to spell the Hawaiian language correctly.

This reso may be enough to bring public attention to the problems with the media's inaccurate spelling and pronunciation of the Hawaiian language.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW  
Professor (Ret.)  
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work  
Henke Hall  
Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."  
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."  
Winston Churchill