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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaiian is  
2 recognized as one of the two official languages of the State.  
3 The Hawaiian language consists of thirteen letters including the  
4 ‘okina, or glottal stop, which is a consonant. While the ‘okina  
5 is a letter, it is often omitted from Hawaiian words and names,  
6 including the name of the State.

7           The legislature finds that Hawaiian words and names should  
8 be spelled accurately, especially in Hawai‘i. The legislature  
9 further finds that it would be costly and cumbersome to require  
10 that the ‘okina be added to all Hawaiian words and names in all  
11 state and local government documents and signs. Ultimately,  
12 however, the legislature finds that if nothing else, the law of  
13 this State should require that this State's own name be spelled  
14 correctly.

15           The purpose of this Act is to provide for the correct  
16 spelling of the name "Hawai‘i" in documents and signs prepared by  
17 or for state or county agencies or officials. It is not the



1 intent of the legislature to require the use of glottal stops  
2 and macrons for all Hawaiian words, or to require documents and  
3 signs published before the effective date of this Act to be  
4 amended to comply with this Act.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
6 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
7 read as follows:

8 "§1- Spelling of the name of the State. When spelling  
9 the name of the State "Hawai'i" in documents and signs prepared  
10 by or for state or county agencies or officials after the  
11 effective date of this section, the glottal stop shall be  
12 included. The requirements of this section shall not apply to  
13 any document or sign prepared before the effective date of this  
14 section, but shall apply to any replacement document or sign  
15 prepared by or for state or county agencies or officials after  
16 its effective date."

17 SECTION 3. Section 1-13.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "[~~§~~1-13.5~~§~~] **Hawaiian language; spelling.** [Macrons]  
20 Except as provided by section 1- , macrons and glottal stops  
21 may be used in the spelling of words or terms in the Hawaiian  
22 language in documents prepared by or for state or county



1 agencies or officials. Any rule, order, policy, or other act,  
2 official or otherwise, that prohibits or discourages the use of  
3 these symbols shall be void."

4 SECTION 4. Section 23G-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "§23G-15 Supplements and replacement volumes; extent of  
7 revision; prima facie the law. In preparing the supplements and  
8 replacement volumes, the revisor of statutes may:

- 9 (1) Number and renumber chapters, sections, and parts of  
10 sections;
- 11 (2) Rearrange sections;
- 12 (3) Change reference numbers to agree with renumbered  
13 chapters, parts, or sections;
- 14 (4) Substitute the proper section or chapter numbers for  
15 the terms "the preceding section", "this act", and  
16 like terms;
- 17 (5) Strike out figures where they are merely a repetition  
18 of written words;
- 19 (6) Change capitalization for the purpose of uniformity;
- 20 (7) Correct manifest clerical or typographical errors;
- 21 (8) Change any male or female gender term to a term which  
22 is neutral in gender when it is clear that the statute



1 is not applicable only to members of one sex and  
2 without altering the sense, meaning, or effect of any  
3 act; [~~and~~]

4 (9) Change the spelling of the name of the State "Hawai'i"  
5 to include the glottal stop; and

6 [~~(9)~~] (10) Make such other changes in any act incorporated  
7 in the supplements and replacement volumes as shall be  
8 necessary to conform the style thereof as near as may  
9 be with that of the last revision of the laws of  
10 Hawaii; provided that in making the revision, the  
11 revisor shall not alter the sense, meaning, or effect  
12 of any act.

13 The matter set forth in the supplements and replacement  
14 volumes shall be prima facie evidence of the law."

15 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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INTRODUCED BY: Mele Carroll  
Joseph Wong Debra Hansen  
Alan Emily Evans  
DM



**Report Title:**

Hawaiian Language; Spelling; Name of State

**Description:**

Requires after 7/1/11, the use of a glottal stop in the spelling of "Hawai'i" in all documents and signs prepared by or for state or county agencies or officials. Authorizes the revisor of statutes to change the spelling of the name of the State to include the glottal stop when preparing supplements and replacement volumes of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Effective 7/1/11.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

