

clee2 - Matt

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 4:40 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB709 on 2/2/2011 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HAW/CUA 2/2/2011 10:30:00 AM HB709

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
Organization: Individual
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Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Rep. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & THE ARTS
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Re: HB 709

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

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.

For hearing Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:30 a.m. Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Lee; members of the committee:
Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Belatti; members of committee:

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 is a diacritical mark which was 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. It 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 'okina: 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 the 'okina shall be included in the spelling of "Hawai'i"; when and only when the entire document is written primarily in Hawaiian language; and the 'okina shall not be used in spelling the word "Hawaii"; 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.