

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 8:48 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: publicpolicy@oha.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2175 on 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM
Attachments: SB2175 OHA-17 Hawaiian Language Month 3.14.12 HAW.pdf

Testimony for HAW 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM SB2175

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Organization: Office of Hawaiian Affairs
E-mail: publicpolicy@oha.org
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

Comments:



SB2175 SD1
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 14, 2012

8:45 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly **SUPPORTS** SB2175 SD1, which is a bill in OHA's 2012 Legislative Package. The Hawaiian language community has long considered February "Hawaiian Language Month" and successfully advocated for gubernatorial proclamations designating February 1994 and February 1995 as Hawaiian Language Month. This bill would codify this ceremonial designation in statute, making every February 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Month.

While once spoken throughout Hawai'i by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i was considered to be nearly extinct by the 1980s, when fewer than 50 fluent speakers under the age of 18 were left. A major reason for the deterioration of the Hawaiian language was an 1896 law that required English instruction in Hawai'i schools, which essentially banned Hawaiian students from speaking their native tongue.

However, great strides have been made to bring about a renaissance of the Hawaiian language through programs such as 'Aha Pūnana Leo's Hawaiian language immersion schools, the Department of Education's Hawaiian language immersion program and the Hawaiian language programs of the University of Hawai'i system. Also, in 1978, the Hawai'i Constitution was amended to recognize the Hawaiian language as one of the two official languages of the State.

Although there is much momentum in the revitalization of the Hawaiian language, for 'Ōlelo Hawai'i to thrive rather than simply survive, more people need to speak the language. The designation of February as "'Ōlelo Hawai'i Month" will perpetuate the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and emphasize the importance of the Hawaiian Language in Hawai'i's society today.

SB2175 SD1 would also require that all letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems of the State and its political subdivisions include accurate and appropriate Hawaiian names and language. The use of accurate and appropriate Hawaiian names and language, as required by SB2175 SD1, would have a negligible financial impact on the State because corrections would only have to occur when the document, letterhead, symbol or emblem requires replacement or reprinting, or otherwise requires revision. Therefore, the cost of this action is far outweighed by the benefit of reflecting the appropriate level of respect and recognition that should be directed towards one of the two official languages of the state.

In light of these considerations, OHA urges the committee to PASS SB2175 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:33 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Inishimura@honolulu.gov
Subject: Testimony for SB2175 on 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM
Attachments: 2012 sb2175.sd1.tes.doc

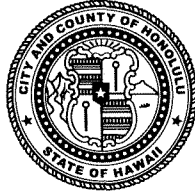
Testimony for HAW 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM SB2175

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lori Nishimura
Organization: City and County of Honolulu
E-mail: lnishimura@honolulu.gov
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 * HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-4141 * FAX: (808) 768-4242 * INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov

PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR



March 14, 2012

The Honorable Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
House Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
State of Hawaii

RE: Testimony of Mayor Peter Carlisle on S.B. 2175, S.D. 1, Relating to Hawaiian Language

Chair Hanohano and members of the House Hawaiian Affairs Committee, Mayor Peter Carlisle submits the following comments on S.B. 2175, S.D. 1.

The purpose of this bill is to designate the month of February as "Olelo Hawaii Month." In addition, the bill mandates 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 5 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. It is unclear 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. It is also unclear about whether Section 5 of the bill which allows a delay in conformance is intended to allow for a delay until the item bearing the emblem or symbol is replaced or whether the delay is intended until a new emblem or symbol is adopted. The latter 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 to reflect the new seal upon its adoption.

In closing, I would note that the two large state seals which hang outside the State Capitol may 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.

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 4:15 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2175 on 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM
Attachments: 12.pdf

Testimony for HAW 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM SB2175

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
Organization:
E-mail: Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/10/2012

Comments:

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205 Kane'ohe, HI 96744
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Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director
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Unity, Equality, Aloha for All

On behalf of the Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies, I oppose SB2175 for the following 5 reasons:

1. THE PORTION OF THIS BILL SB2175 WHICH IS WRITTEN IN HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE VIOLATES WHAT THE BILL ITSELF WOULD REQUIRE

Didn't anyone notice? There are no 'okinas or kahakos -- no diacritical marks -- in the Hawaiian language portions of SB2175. What hypocrisy! A bill which in itself violates the law it is attempting to enact deserves disrespect and defeat. The Hawaiian language police should arrest and incarcerate SB2175.

2. THERE IS NO ESTIMATE OF THE COSTS THIS BILL WOULD ADD TO THE OPERATION OF EVERY DEPARTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES.

SB2175 should perhaps be entitled "Full employment act for Hawaiian language translators." For one small example, just consider the lack of diacritical marks in the portions of this bill written in Hawaiian language. Was there anyone in the staffs of the bill's sponsors who would have been competent to insert the proper diacritical marks? ('and 'avoid 'inserting m'arks wh'ere they don't b'el'ong!) What would have been the cost to hire an independent contractor to do the job? Is there a typewriter in the state Senate capable of creating the diacritical marks? Perhaps an ordinary English-language apostrophe would satisfy the language police for use as an 'okina [see, I just did it!], but probably not, because an 'okina maoli [real 'okina] is supposed to curve, and in one particular direction (not the other direction). But the kahako is much more tricky. Not only do you need an expert who knows when it must be used, but you also need a special font or special-function keyboard keys programmed to be able to produce it on the vowels where it is appropriate.

3. THE DIACRITICAL MARKS ARE NOT AUTHENTIC -- THEY ARE HISTORICAL REVISIONISM.

The original written version of Hawaiian language created by the missionaries in 1820 had no diacritical marks. There was no need for them, because Hawaiian was an oral language which people learned by hearing it spoken with the good pronunciation of fluent native speakers. The diacritical marks were invented by language professors in modern times in an attempt to help people to know how to pronounce words they were reading but had never heard being pronounced. The Hawaiian language as printed in the newspapers from 1834 to 1948 does not use diacritical marks. Out of respect for the language, perhaps we should not superimpose diacritical marks today. Let people learn correct pronunciation (glottal stops and long vs. short vowels) by hearing good speakers rather than by reading Hawaiian with added diacritical marks in isolation from anyone speaking it.

4. IT'S OPEN TO DISPUTE ON ANY PARTICULAR OCCASION WHETHER A WORD OR PHRASE IS IN HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE (THEREFORE REQUIRING DIACRITICAL MARKS) OR IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE (WHICH DOES NOT USE DIACRITICAL MARKS)

The bill SB2175 is vague and thus unenforceable when a decision must be made regarding whether a place name or person's name, or a phrase, is being written in Hawaiian language (and therefore requires diacritical marks) or is being written in English language (and therefore cannot use diacritical marks because such marks are not part of the English language).

For example: The name for our archipelago during the Kingdom period was "Ko Hawai'i Pae 'Aina", which is clearly in Hawaiian language and therefore must include diacritical marks if we are now to obey SB2175 and require the use of diacritical marks even though such marks were not used during that historical period. However, the name for our archipelago at the present time, as a part of the United States, is "State of Hawaii" which is clearly an English-language name of a State and therefore must not use diacritical marks. Another example is the name of my town. When I want to show off that I can speak Hawaiian, I call it "Kane'ohē" including a kahako over the letter "a" and an 'okina between the "e" and "o". But when I put my address on an income tax form for the federal or state governments, my town is "Kaneohe" with no diacritical marks. The Hawaiian supremacists who authored this bill want to demand that I must always spell the names of my

State and my town in the Hawaiian academic manner with diacritical marks even when I'm filling out federal and state tax forms. I refuse to comply with such a demand, and I invite the Hawaiian language police to arrest me.

5. THE 1896 LAW WAS NOT A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE DECLINE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

There's an error of fact and interpretation on page 4, lines 4-8, which says "A major reason for the deterioration of the Hawaiian language was an 1896 law that required English instruction in Hawaii schools. In practice, this law functioned to "ban" students from speaking Olelo Hawaii at their schools."

The 1896 law actually had very little effect on whether Hawaiian language lived or died. It had long been the policy of the government of the Kingdom of Hawaii to encourage the use of English in the schools. By 1892, the year before the revolution that overthrew the monarchy and four years before the 1895 law, 95% of all the children in the Kingdom's public schools were at schools using English as the language for teaching all school subjects.

A scholarly study of the history of language in Hawai'i was done as a dissertation by John Reinecke at the University of Hawai'i in 1935. The dissertation was improved and published as a book. John E. Reinecke, "Language and Dialect in Hawaii: A Sociolinguistic History to 1935." Edited by Stanley M. Tsuzaki. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1969. Reprinted 1988. Paperback edition February, 1995.

Mr. Reinecke says the shift from Hawaiian language to English began under the Kingdom and was very far along by the time the monarchy was overthrown (see Table 8, pp. 70-73). Reinecke's chart summarizes the number of schools and students operating in Hawaiian and English based on Education Department reports from 1847 to 1902. The number of students in Hawaiian language schools falls continuously through this period while the number in English-language schools rises; likewise the numbers of schools operating in the respective languages. The number of students in Hawaiian-language schools dropped below 50% in 1881 or 1882. By 1892 (the year before the overthrow), only five percent of students were in Hawaiian language schools and there were only 28 such schools in the Kingdom; at the same time, 94.8% of students were in the 140 English-language schools.

I might note that the thousands of children of Japanese and Chinese

plantation workers were taught all subjects through the English language, just as the native Hawaiian children were; yet at home the Japanese and Chinese children continued to speak the languages of their homelands, and they remained fluent in their native languages despite the English language being used at school. By contrast, most native Hawaiian parents insisted their children speak English in the home as well as at school, because the parents knew English was the pathway to success in Hawaii. If the 1896 law had been such a huge factor in destroying Hawaiian language as SB2175 asserts, then the 1896 law would also have destroyed the Japanese and Chinese languages in the lives of the children; but that clearly did not happen because Japanese and Chinese languages enjoyed widespread everyday use in the homes and communities of those ethnic groups, while Hawaiian language had long been falling out of use in everyday life for the native Hawaiians and was actively suppressed at home for the children by their parents.

For an in-depth, heavily footnoted essay on the alleged banning of Hawaiian language and the effect of the 1896 law, see <http://tinyurl.com/6zrka>

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:00 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: elle.cochran@mauicounty.us
Subject: Testimony for SB2175 on 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM
Attachments: testimony - SB 2175 HWN.pdf

Testimony for HAW 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM SB2175

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Councilmember Elle Cochran
Organization: Individual
E-mail: elle.cochran@mauicounty.us
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

Council Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair
Joseph Pontanilla

Council Members
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
G. Riki Hokama
Michael P. Victorino
Mike White



Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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March 12, 2012

MEMO TO: The Honorable Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

F R O M: Elle Cochran
Council Member

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elle Cochran".

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2175, RELATING TO HAWAIIAN
LANGUAGE

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure, which designates the month of February as "Olelo Hawaii Month" to celebrate and encourage the use of Hawaiian language. I offer my support for this bill as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I feel strongly that the State of Hawaii should perpetuate and uphold the traditional attributes of our host culture. It is our responsibility to preserve these customary practices so that they may be passed on in the time-honored manner that they were originally intended.

I can appreciate the intent of this legislation and do feel that it is a step in the right direction. One can only hope that by placing emphasis on the importance of the Hawaiian language within Hawaii every February, it will eventually lead to emphasis on the importance of the Hawaiian language within Hawaii, every month of the year.

For the for mentioned reasons, I strongly support the intent of this bill and respectfully urge the committee to pass SB 2175.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 5:58 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: shane.nelsen@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2175 on 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM SB2175

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shane Nelsen
Organization: Kuakini Hawaiian Civic Club of Kona
E-mail: shane.nelsen@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

Aloha Senator Galuteria and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

We support the new language to include former language from SB1130 S.D.1 from 2011 Legislative Session. This solidifies and carries the wholehearted intention of the original language in SB2175. It gives me great pleasure to see and witness the commitment our beautiful State has made in order to ensure the quality of life and culture for the Native Hawaiians. This is the beginning of a monumental era for Kanaka Maoli! Many of our Kupuna have already passed on and were not able to see these events take place. It brings a good feeling of ha'a-heo to know that we continue the work they have left. E Ola Mau Ka 'Olelo Hawai'i!!! Eo! We support SB2175 S.D.1 Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Shane Akoni Nelsen

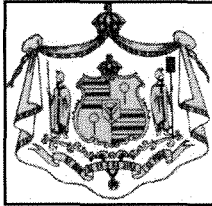
clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:13 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: souleelko@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2175 on 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM
Attachments: SB2175SD1rd.2.doc

Testimony for HAW 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM SB2175

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Soulee Stroud
Organization: Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
E-mail: souleelko@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

Comments:



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

SENATE BILL 2175SD1 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 14, 2012; 8:45 am; Room 329

Aloha Madam Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports this legislation as a manifestation of the recovering Hawaiian language.

It was the language of our founders when the first Civic Club held its meetings in 1918. Through the years our clubs have supported the education of Hawaiian students and especially encouraged those who wanted to know the language of their ancestors. We can proudly point to former civic club scholarship students who speak and teach Olelo Hawaii today in Hawaii schools and we will continue to support such students of the future.

We urge the passage of this bill. Mahalo nui.

Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net