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



1 Since 1978, the State has reaffirmed Hawaiian as one of its
2 official languages, and the legislature has supported efforts to
3 incorporate the Hawaiian language into official state writings,
4 emblems, and signs. The State has ensured that these public
5 inscriptions are mandatory, accurate, and spelled correctly.
6 The use of proper Hawaiian macrons and glottal stops not only
7 shows the deserved respect for the native language of these
8 islands, but also fully comports with the intent and purpose of
9 the state constitution.

10 The purpose of this Act is to ensure the constitutionally-
11 and ethically-mandated preservation of the Hawaiian language and
12 culture by requiring that state and county letterheads, symbols,
13 and emblems, when newly created, replaced, or reprinted, contain
14 accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and
15 language.

16 SECTION 2. Section 1-13.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "~~{}~~§1-13.5~~{}~~ **Hawaiian language; spelling.** [~~Macrons and~~
19 ~~glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in~~
20 ~~the Hawaiian language in documents] (a) Effective January 1,
21 2015, all letterheads prepared by or for state or county
22 agencies or officials[-] that contain Hawaiian names or words~~



1 shall use the accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian
2 spelling of the names and words, including proper Hawaiian
3 punctuation such as macrons and glottal stops that punctuate the
4 English word to which they relate; provided that any revision to
5 any letterhead existing on or before January 1, 2015, to comply
6 with the requirements of this section may be implemented when
7 the letterhead requires replacement or reprinting, or otherwise
8 requires revision. Any rule, order, policy, or other act,
9 official or otherwise, that prohibits or discourages the use of
10 [~~these symbols~~] accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian
11 names and words, as required by this section, shall be void.

12 (b) Hawaiian names and words shall be deemed accurate,
13 appropriate, and authentic when printed in conformance with:

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

17 (2) "Māmaka Kaiāo: A Modern Hawaiian Vocabulary",
18 developed by the Kōmike Hua'ōlelo, the Hawaiian Lexicon
19 Committee;

20 (3) "Place Names of Hawaii", by Mary Kawena Pukui, Samuel
21 H. Elbert, and Esther T. Mookini, University of Hawai'i
22 Press, copyright 1974;



- 1 (4) Any other commonly used Hawaiian-language dictionary,
2 including dictionaries that account for the unique
3 characteristics of the Ni'ihau dialect and other
4 Hawaiian dialects; or
- 5 (5) Consultations from members of the Hawaiian-speaking
6 language community, including individuals who are
7 fluent in the Ni'ihau dialect and other Hawaiian
8 dialects.

9 (c) The department of accounting and general services
10 shall develop a procedure by rule to verify that all Hawaiian
11 names and words included in any state or county letterhead,
12 symbol, or emblem are in conformance with subsection (b)."

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

15 "[~~§~~5-6.5] **State language.** (a) The Hawaiian language
16 is the native language of [~~Hawaii~~] Hawai'i and [~~may~~], effective
17 January 1, 2015, shall be used on all emblems and symbols
18 representative of the State, its departments, agencies, and
19 political subdivisions[-]; provided that for emblems and symbols
20 existing on or before January 1, 2015, conformance with this
21 section may be delayed until a replacement for the emblem or
22 symbol otherwise is required.



1 (b) The Hawaiian language as used on all emblems and
2 symbols shall be in conformance with the requirements of section
3 1-13.5."

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

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; Public Documents; Letterhead

Description:

Requires that all Hawaiian names and words included in letterheads, symbols, and emblems of the State and counties include accurate and appropriate Hawaiian spelling and punctuation. Establishes references for accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation. Requires DAGS to adopt procedures by rule to verify the compliance. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

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

