
A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

15 Since 1978, the State has reaffirmed Hawaiian as one of its
16 official languages, and the legislature has supported efforts to
17 incorporate the Hawaiian language into official state writings,



1 emblems, and signs. The State has ensured that these public
2 inscriptions are mandatory, accurate, and spelled correctly.
3 The use of proper Hawaiian macrons and glottal stops not only
4 shows the deserved respect for the native language of these
5 islands, but also fully comports with the intent and purpose of
6 the state constitution.

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

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

15 "[+]§1-13.5[+] **Hawaiian language; spelling.** [~~Macrons and~~
16 ~~glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in~~
17 ~~the Hawaiian language in documents] (a) Effective January 1,
18 2015, all letterheads prepared by or for state or county
19 agencies or officials[-] shall include accurate, appropriate,
20 and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper
21 Hawaiian spelling and punctuation, including but not limited to
22 macrons and glottal stops that punctuate the English word to~~



1 which they relate; provided that any revision to conform any
2 letterhead existing on or before January 1, 2015, to the
3 requirements of this section may be implemented when the
4 letterhead requires replacement or reprinting, or otherwise
5 requires revision. Any rule, order, policy, or other act,
6 official or otherwise, that prohibits or discourages the use of
7 [~~these symbols~~] accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian
8 names and words, as required by this section, shall be void.

9 (b) Hawaiian names and words shall be accurate,
10 appropriate, and authentic when printed in conformance with:

11 (1) "Hawaiian Dictionary: Hawaiian-English, English-
12 Hawaiian", by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert,
13 University of Hawai'i Press, copyright 1986; or
14 (2) "Māmaka Kaiāo: A Modern Hawaiian Vocabulary",
15 developed by Kōmike Hua'olelo, the Hawaiian Lexicon
16 Committee."

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

19 "[~~§~~5-6.5[~~]~~] **State language.** (a) The Hawaiian language
20 is the native language of [~~Hawaii~~] Hawai'i and [~~may~~], effective
21 January 1, 2015, shall be used on all emblems and symbols
22 representative of the State, its departments, agencies and



1 political subdivisions[-]; provided that for emblems and symbols
2 existing on January 1, 2015, conformance with this section may
3 be delayed until a replacement for the emblem or symbol
4 otherwise is required.

5 (b) The Hawaiian language as used on all emblems and
6 symbols shall be in conformance with the requirements of section
7 1-13.5(b)."

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

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2014.

11



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; Letterhead; Symbols; Emblems

Description:

Requires that all letterheads, symbols, and emblems of the State and counties include accurate and appropriate Hawaiian names and language. Establishes references for accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation. Takes effect 1/1/2014. (SD1)

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