



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN  
AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, March 20, 2018  
11:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of  
**HCR 160 / HR 110**  
**URGING THE USAGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE WHEN REFERRING TO THE  
NAMES OF PLACES AND GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES IN HAWAI'I.**

Chair Ing, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs.

The Office of Planning **supports** HCR 160 / HR 110 which urges the usage of Hawaiian language when referring to the names of places and geographical features in Hawai'i.

HCR 160 is consistent with Act 50 of the 1974 Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §4E, which established the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names ("HBGN") in the Office of Planning. HBGN's purpose is to "designate the official names and spellings of geographic features in Hawai'i."

Since the 1990's HBGN's efforts have largely focused on correcting the spelling of Hawaiian feature names (e.g., adding 'okina and kahakō, when appropriate) as they appear on USGS topological maps and in the US Geographic Names Information System database ("GNIS"). In its reviews of feature names HBGN may consult numerous references: books, such as *Place Names of Hawai'i (Pukui et al)*; online references, such as *wehewehe.org*; map books, such as *Atlas of Hawai'i (University of Hawai'i)*; historical government maps; mo'olelo; mele; oli; historical nūpepa articles; and individual and community input. The HBGN also consults the 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Spelling Committee guidelines (1978) and its own *Guidelines for Hawaiian Geographic Names* (2016) to determine the correct spelling for a geographical feature.

The work of HBGN facilitates the implementation of HCR 160 / HR 110 by providing an authoritative list of geographic feature names in Hawai'i to which state offices, including educational entities and recreational facilities can refer. Furthermore, HCR 160 / HR 110 echoes HRS §4E(3)(c) which states that "departments of the State shall use or cause to be used on all

maps and documents prepared by or for them the names and spellings approved by the board on geographic names.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**LATE**

**HCR-160**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 11:18:50 AM

Testimony for OMH on 3/20/2018 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**HCR-160**

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:36:02 PM

Testimony for OMH on 3/20/2018 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

For hearing Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Re: HCR 160 / HR 110

URGING THE USAGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE WHEN REFERRING TO THE NAMES OF PLACES AND GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES IN HAWAI'I.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Hawaiian language is a great treasure for Hawaii's people and for all the world. So I wish the writers of this resolution had exercised a little restraint in their zeal for reviving a nearly dead language and especially their rampant attempt to root out and exterminate well-known English language names for places and geographical features.

I described this resolution as urging the EXTERMINATION of English names. That was not an exaggeration. Note the presence of the word "sole" in SR18 which urges "that state offices, including state educational entities and recreational facilities, are urged to use Hawaiian names as the sole common names of Hawai'i's places and geographical features ..." Such ruthlessness — proposing ethnic cleansing of names — displays an unacceptable ethnic hatred which should not be tolerated in our multi-ethnic society striving for manifestation of the Aloha Spirit.

It is certainly a worthy goal to urge the inclusion of Hawaiian names for places and geographical features in local signage and publications, and also in tourist brochures. However, names in English and other languages should not be disparaged or deleted, and might be necessary to communicate effectively with locals and visitors who are accustomed to those names.

Demands for Hawaiianization of all names reached an absurd level of viciousness a few years ago when the writer of the weekly Hawaiian language column in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser insisted on changing the English-language name of a famous PERSON into a Hawaiian-language name which translated the MEANING of the name into Hawaiian — an actual conceptual translation, not merely a transliteration of the way it sounds. The absurdity of doing this, and the confusion it would cause, can be illustrated by changing the name listed on the street sign for "King Street" to "Ala Mo'i Kane" or changing the name of "Kamehameha" to "Lonely One." Did you know that Lonely One School in Honolulu is located on Father Street?

See webpage "Forcing the name of a person or place to be Hawaiianized through transliteration of its sound following Hawaiian grammatical rules or conceptual translation of its meaning into Hawaiian vocabulary" at <https://tinyurl.com/6on8k9s>

**HCR-160**

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 3:48:55 PM

Testimony for OMH on 3/20/2018 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**Date:** 03/20/2018

**Time:** 11:15 AM

**Location:** 312

**Committee:** House Ocean, Marine Resources,  
& Hawaiian Affairs

**Department:** Education

Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 160 URGING THE USAGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE WHEN REFERRING TO THE NAMES OF PLACES AND GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES IN HAWAI'I.

**Purpose of  
Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education is in support of HCR 160. Through the public education system, the Department continues to support the use of 'ōlelo Hawai'i in our schools and through our work with Kaiapuni schools, the Hawaiian Studies Programs that serves all students and staff and with our Native Hawaiian education partners.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

3/20 ME

Status: **Approved** 03/20/2018





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**kahua pa'a** web [hawaii-tourismauthority.org](http://hawaii-tourismauthority.org)

**David Y. Ige**  
Governor

**George D. Szigeti**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**LATE**

Statement of  
**George D. Szigeti**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

on

**HCR160/HR110**

**Urging the Usage of Hawaiian Language when Referring to the Names of Places and Geographical Features in Hawai'i**

House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

11:15 a.m.

Conference Room 312

Chair Ing, Vice-Chair DeCoite and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers the following **testimony in support of HCR160/HR110**, which seek a resolution by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, among other things, that State offices are encouraged to use Hawaiian names as the sole common names of Hawai'i's places and geographical features; signage, maps and promotional materials issued by the State or other agencies include Hawaiian place names; when using an English name, State offices include the Hawaiian name as well; when translating names into languages other than English and Hawaiian, the translating agency attempt to retain the original meaning of the Hawaiian name in its translation; the full spelling including the 'okina and kahakō be used in the written use of names of Hawai'i's places and geographical features; government employees pronounce the names of Hawai'i's places and geographical features properly and learn to do so if they are unfamiliar with the rules of pronouncing the Hawaiian language.

HTA agrees that accurate use of Hawaiian place names enhances the unique identity of our State and appreciates the Legislature's efforts to educate residents and visitors on the historical and cultural significance of Hawaiian places and geographical features.

HTA currently has a policy to use Hawaiian names, including their full spelling in written materials, for Hawai'i's places and geographical features. This policy extends to HTA's marketing efforts on behalf of the State as well as administrative communications. HTA also conducts training with its staff, Global Marketing Teams and any organizations that request training through the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA) on accurate spelling and pronunciation of the Hawaiian language and use of Hawaiian place names.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

**HCR-160**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:33:29 AM

Testimony for OMH on 3/20/2018 11:15:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HCR-160**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 4:41:28 AM

Testimony for OMH on 3/20/2018 11:15:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

Mahalo Rep Tupola for this awesome long over-due Resolution. Please PASS this Reso out of your committe, mahalo.

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai