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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
For hearing Friday, February 24, 2017

Re: SB 643, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.
Requires all newly created, replaced, or reprinted state and county letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems to include accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language. Establishes references for accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation. (SD1)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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

SB 643, SD1 should perhaps be entitled "Full employment act for Hawaiian language translators." For one small example, just consider the diacritical marks that this committee would need to insert into all its hearing notices, letterheads, emails, etc. Whoever would actually create those documents would probably not be a staff member of the legislature, but an outside expert on Hawaiian language. Was there anyone in the regular staffs of the bill's Senate 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.

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.

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). MOST NOTABLY, THIS IS A PROBLEM FOR THE NAME OF OUR STATE.

The bill SB 643, SD1 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 "Kō Hawai'i Pae 'Aina", which is clearly in Hawaiian language and therefore must include diacritical marks if we are now to obey SB 643, SD1 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. The Hawaiian language zealots demand that the name of our State be rendered in its Hawaiian-language version with an ‘okina as Hawai’i even when it appears in an English-language sentence and should therefore have no ‘okina, as State of Hawaii. It is simply incorrect to mix the two languages by calling our entity State of Hawai’i. Either we are Ka Moku’aina O Hawai’i or perhaps Kō Hawai’i Pae ‘Aina; or else we are State of Hawaii [no ‘okina]. Which one of those do you want to see on your official letterhead?

Another example is the name of my town. When I want to show off that I can speak Hawaiian, I call it "Kāne'ohē" including a kahakō 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.

THIS BILL LACKS CLARITY REGARDING HOW NON-HAWAIIAN PROPER NOUNS NAMING PEOPLE OR PLACES MUST BE RENDERED IN THE HAWAIIAN-LANGUAGE VERSION OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEXT

When a letterhead gives an address that is on King Street, can the word “King” be retained, or must it be Hawaiianized as “Mo’i”? Can the street name “Richards” be kept, or must it be Hawaiianized as “Likeke”? It is customary in most civilized languages throughout the world to show respect to people and

places by preserving the name of a foreign person or place precisely as it is written in its original language, and not to render it as either a transliteration or conceptual translation. But Hawaiian language in the past (and sometimes still today among the zealots) has a habit of Hawaiianizing at least the pronunciation (as in the examples of King and Richards) and sometimes raping the name to create a conceptual translation of it which sounds nothing like the original name.

Dr. Kekeha Solis is a Hawaiian language expert, and the author of most of the Hawaiian language columns every Saturday in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. The way he likes to butcher non-Hawaiian names demonstrates how things are likely to be done if this bill is passed without amendments to require respect for the names of people and places.

One particular name which got a conceptual translation by Kekeha Solis, in his column of April 28, 2012, is the name which professional basketball player Ron Artest gave to himself when he legally changed his name to "Metta World Peace" in September 2011. Certainly Ron Artest has a right to change his own name to anything the law will allow, even if it is weird or fantastical. And he made the name change official by following the correct legal procedures.

What makes Mr. Solis' article highly controversial is the name he used when referring to the basketball player. Instead of referring to him as "Metta World Peace" which would be the correct name for him in an article written in any language, Solis gave him a new Hawaiian name.

Solis actually translated the CONCEPT of the name by calling him "Maluhia Honua Meka" [pronounced mah-loo-HEE-ah ho-NOO-ah MEH-kah]. This new name uses Hawaiian language words, in the correct word-order for nouns and adjectival modifiers according to Hawaiian grammatical rules, to render the English-language meaning into a Hawaiian language phrase whose words individually mean Peace [Maluhia] World [Honua] Metta [Meka] in that order. Throughout the article, in Hawaiian language, Solis always referred to the basketball player with the conceptually translated name Maluhia Honua Meka.

Dr. Solis and I and another Hawaiian language zealot had a raging debate for several weeks about the inappropriateness of doing conceptual translations of names, and also the less offensive transliterations of them (following Hawaiian rules of grammar, and spelling, to make the name sound similar, as with Richards → Likeke. Solis persisted in butchering English names, and his colleagues would be likely to do so if he were on the Senate staff. His butchery of English names when writing in Hawaiian is as offensive as it would be if, in speaking English, I decide to Englishify Hawaiian-language names, so instead of saying Kamehameha School is on Makuakane Street I were to say Lonely-One School is on Father Street.

See more details about this issue in a 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

<http://tinyurl.com/6on8k9s>

which is part of a much larger webpage "Hawaiian Language as a Political Weapon" at

<http://tinyurl.com/668vqyz>



BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hawaii State Legislature
February 24, 2017

Senate Bill 643 HD1
Relating to the Hawaiian Language

Aloha Chair Tokuda. Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

The Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i Political Action Committee (KPAC) strongly supports the intent of SB 643 HD1 which requires all newly created, replaced, or reprinted state and county letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems to include accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language. This bill has been drastically amended in the Hawaiian Affairs Committee, however, the intent of this bill is the same which is the promotion of the Hawaiian language and the lifting up of the status of Hawaii’s native tongue by providing the care and respect it deserves at the state and county levels.

Hawaiian Language is the first language of the Hawaiian archipelago and has been an official language of the State of Hawai‘i for nearly 40 years. The number of Hawaiian Language speakers is growing. There are now approximately 3,000 students enrolled in Hawaiian Immersion schools from pre-k to grade 12 and hundreds more students enrolled in post-secondary Hawaiian Language courses.

The time and money that this bill will cost the State is minimal since its will only be implemented at the time of revision, replacement, or reprint. Furthermore, there is an abundant supply of Hawaiian Language resources in the University System and free online resources like [ulukau.org](http://ksdl.ksbe.edu/kulaiwi/), <http://ksdl.ksbe.edu/kulaiwi/> (Kamehameha Schools distance learning) and punanaleo.org.

The Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i Political Action Committee humbly asks for the following amendment: “Where state and county documents and symbols incorporate translations into languages other than English that Hawaiian be included by January 1, 2020.”

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Chair, KPAC



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Niuolahiki
Hawaiian Language Online

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Date: Friday, February 24, 2017

Time: 1:35 pm

Place: Room 211

*Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Non-Profit Educational Organization
Dedicated to the Revitalization of the Hawaiian Language*

SB 643 SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE: SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

'O 'Ekekela Aiona ko'u inoa. 'O wau ka Luna Ho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo. **Kāko'o** ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo i ka pila SB 643 SD1. My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, submitting testimony in **support** of SB 643 SD1.

SB 643 SD1 requires all state and county documents include accurate and appropriate words, symbols, and emblems along with proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo, with 2 infant-toddler and 13 preschool programs statewide, appreciates that this measure will promote and support revitalization and renormalization of the Hawaiian language.

With multigenerational use of Hawaiian a wonderful reality in our 'Aha Pūnana Leo homes, it is imperative that the normal and accurate use of Hawaiian be supported outside of the home. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo families greatly appreciate that SB 643 SD1 will advance the revitalization and renormalization of Hawaiian, an official language of our state.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo urges the Committee on Ways and Means to **support and pass SB 643 SD1**. Mahalo for all your efforts on behalf of the Hawaiian language.

Mahalo nui,

'Ekekela Aiona

Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo

E O I a K a 'Ō l e l o H a w a i ' i



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 1:35 p.m.

Date: February 24, 2017

Where: Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee

RE: **SB 643, SD1 Relating to the Hawaiian Language:**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Tokuda, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Dela Cruz a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

Senate Bill 643 SD1 requires all newly created, replaced, or reprinted state and county letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems to include accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language. SB 643 SD1 also establishes references for accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation. We are writing to **support** this measure. We believe that this is an important step toward ensuring the renormalization and proliferation of 'ōlelo Hawai'i, the Hawaiian language, as an official language of Hawai'i.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

'A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 2:58 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kaulanad@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB643 on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM*

SB643

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:32 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kkahaloa@kona-kohala.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB643 on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM*

SB643

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 4:08 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB643 on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM*

SB643

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 8:49 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: naniomerod1@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB643 on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM*

SB643

Submitted on: 2/23/2017
Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MaryAnn Omerod	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 6:46 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: dkapua@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB643 on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM

SB643

Submitted on: 2/24/2017
Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: Aloha kākou, I support the intent of SB643 SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE. Requires all newly created, replaced, or reprinted state and county letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems to include accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language. Establishes references for accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation.... I also appreciate the recognition and need to utilize ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian) in official government documents, especially after 39 years as the 2nd official language. At this time, I refrain from supporting its passage today.... With our limited resources to implement ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, I believe that specific documents and other official markers would be a wiser use, such as the PASSAGE OF SB 560 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE. Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai‘i to translate the Hawai‘i state constitution into the Hawaiian language.... Mahalo for hearing SB 6543 SD1 and recognizing its value.... ‘O wau nō me ka ha‘aha‘a Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai E ola i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i Maka‘ala au mai Wai‘anae

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 10:15 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ramizusawa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB643 on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM

SB643

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Mizusawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means: My name is Richard Mizusawa and I submit for your consideration this personal testimony in support of SB 643. Being a place of diversity, uniqueness, and somewhere we can embrace and appreciate the Hawaiian culture that surrounds us, I believe that this can be a small but significant step in making Hawaii a place where we can all live together in harmony. The Hawaiian language is one of the official languages of our State. Should this not impact any budgetary matters, I hope to see this bill make its impact for the State of Hawaii and for all its people. Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 643 and I humbly ask that you pass this through your committee. Best wishes to you and your committee in your decision-making process.

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