
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 article X, section
2 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution provides that "[t]he State
3 shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and
4 language." The legislature further finds that article XV,
5 section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution establishes Hawaiian
6 as one of two official languages of the State. In recognition
7 of these distinctions, the legislature finds that the Hawaiian
8 language should be featured prominently in communications of
9 specified state officials.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require that the
11 official stationery and website of designated state officials
12 include the Hawaiian translation of the office's or department's
13 name.

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

16 "§1-13 Official languages. English and Hawaiian are the
17 official languages of Hawaii. Whenever there is found to exist



1 any radical and irreconcilable difference between the English
2 and Hawaiian version of any of the laws of the State, the
3 English version shall be held binding. Hawaiian shall not be
4 required for public acts and transactions[-]; provided that if
5 Hawaiian names or words are included in those documents, then
6 section 1-13.5 shall apply."

7 SECTION 3. Section 1-13.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "[~~§~~§1-13.5[~~]~~] **Hawaiian language; spelling.** [~~Macrons and~~
10 ~~glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in~~
11 ~~the Hawaiian language in]~~ (a) Effective January 1, 2022, all
12 documents and letterheads prepared by or for state or county
13 agencies or officials[-], to the extent that the documents and
14 letterheads contain Hawaiian language names or words, shall
15 include accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and
16 words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation,
17 including macrons and glottal stops that punctuate the name or
18 word to which they relate; provided that any revision to conform
19 any document or letterhead existing on or before January 1,
20 2022, to the requirements of this section, may be implemented
21 when the document or letterhead requires replacement or



1 reprinting, or otherwise requires revision. Any rule, order,
2 policy, or other act, official or otherwise, that prohibits or
3 discourages the use of [~~these symbols~~] accurate, appropriate,
4 and authentic Hawaiian names and words, as required by this
5 section, shall be void.

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

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

11 (2) "Māmaka Kaiāo: A Modern Hawaiian Vocabulary",
12 developed by the Kōmike Hua'ōlelo, the Hawaiian Lexicon
13 Committee; or

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

17 (c) Any Hawaiian names and words that are misspelled or
18 incorrectly punctuated within a document or letterhead subject
19 to this section shall not be deemed to invalidate the document
20 or render it unenforceable. No cause of action shall arise
21 against the State, any county, or any state or county agency,



1 official, or employee for any Hawaiian names and words that are
2 misspelled or incorrectly punctuated."

3 SECTION 4. Section 5-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "[§]§5-6.5[§] **State language.** (a) The Hawaiian language
6 is the native language of Hawaii and ~~may~~, effective January 1,
7 2022, shall be used on all emblems and symbols representative of
8 the State, its departments, agencies, and political
9 subdivisions[-]; provided that for emblems and symbols existing
10 prior to January 1, 2022, conformance with this section may be
11 delayed until a replacement for the emblem or symbol otherwise
12 is required.

13 (b) The governor, lieutenant governor, state legislators,
14 and heads of the principal departments shall prominently display
15 a Hawaiian translation of the name of their respective office or
16 department at least once on the main page of their official
17 website and in the letterhead of their stationery. The
18 University of Hawaii Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani or Kawaihuelani
19 Center for Hawaiian Language may consult with each office or
20 department prior to implementing the translation on the
21 appropriate use of the Hawaiian language and its spelling. The



1 University of Hawaii shall consult with native speakers to
2 determine the appropriate use of the Hawaiian language and its
3 spelling in translations.

4 (c) The Hawaiian language as used on all emblems and
5 symbols shall conform to the requirements of section 1-13.5(b).

6 (d) This section shall not be construed to require that
7 the full text of legislative bills and other official documents
8 be written in Hawaiian.

9 (e) For the purpose of this section, "native speakers" are
10 speakers of the Hawaiian language who come from an unbroken
11 lineage of primary speakers of the Hawaiian language."

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

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;
15 provided that any revision to conform a letterhead that was
16 printed prior to the effective date of this Act need not be
17 implemented until the letterhead requires replacement or
18 reprinting.



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; Official Websites and Letterheads of State Officials; Translation

Description:

Requires the governor, lieutenant governor, state legislators, and heads of principal departments to prominently display a Hawaiian language translation of the name of their respective office or department at least once on the main page of their official website and in the letterhead of their stationery. Requires all letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems of the State and other political subdivisions that include Hawaiian names or words to include accurate and appropriate Hawaiian names, spelling, and punctuation. Establishes references for accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation. Clarifies that the full text of bills and other official documents are not required to be written in Hawaiian and that misspelled or incorrectly punctuated Hawaiian words and names shall not invalidate the documents or render them unenforceable and no cause of action shall arise accordingly. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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