



**HB105 HD1**  
**RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES**  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 16, 2023

2:00 PM

Room 325

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB105 HD1, which would require license plates to include ‘okina in furtherance of the recognition for ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as one of two official languages of the State of Hawai‘i.

**OHA would like to emphasize that the development and use of ‘okina and kahakō were to provide the necessary distinction in the appropriate pronunciation of words as the language evolved and transformed from predominantly spoken to include written.** In written ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, the use of diacritical marks, like ‘okina, maintain the same critical importance as the recognized letters of the Hawaiian language alphabet, in that their absence or presence in word can result in a completely different meaning.

The use of ‘okina in license plates may seem insignificant, however, the proper respect afforded to maintaining the integrity of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in its written and spoken forms is monumental.

OHA appreciates the opportunity to **SUPPORT** this measure and urges the Committee to **PASS** HB105 HD1. Mahalo nui loa.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
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February 15, 2023

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary  
& Hawaiian Affairs  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on  
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

SUBJECT: H.B. 105 HD1 - Relating To License Plates  
HEARING: Thursday, February 16, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD)  
strongly supports this bill.

Currently, Hawaii Revised Statutes § 249-9(a)(1) provides that all license plates  
shall bear the word "Hawaii" along the upper portion of the plate and the words "Aloha  
State" along the lower portion of the plate. As written, current law does not allow for the  
inclusion of the 'okina in the word "Hawaii." This measure will change that.

Last year, the Legislature passed Act 170 which requires Hawaiian diacritical  
markings in Hawaiian names and words in official State and County letterhead. We  
support further expansion of the use of Hawaiian diacritical marks in other aspects of  
government, including our State license plates.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 105 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly M. Hashiro". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kimberly M. Hashiro  
Director

**HB-105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 3:59:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/16/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 1:57:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/16/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support, thank you.