
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO 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. For example,
4 article X, section 4, provides that, "The State shall promote
5 the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language." Article
6 XIII, section 7, Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, provides,
7 "The State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily
8 and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and
9 religious purposes" of native Hawaiians. Because maintaining a
10 living language is an integral component of preserving a
11 culture, it is also important to note that article XV, section
12 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, reestablishes
13 that "English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of
14 Hawaii."

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



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

6 The purpose of this Act is to ensure the constitutionally
7 and ethically mandated preservation of the native Hawaiian
8 language and culture by requiring that all state and county
9 documents and letterheads, when newly created or reprinted,
10 contain the accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names
11 and language printed above the English translations.

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

14 "[+]§1-13.5[+] **Hawaiian language; spelling.** [~~Macrons and~~
15 ~~glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in~~
16 ~~the Hawaiian language in] All documents prepared by or for state
17 or county agencies or officials[-] shall include the accurate,
18 appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language,
19 including proper Hawaiian punctuation, spelling, macrons, and
20 glottal stops, printed above the English translation; provided
21 that this requirement shall not apply to a document or
22 letterhead existing on the effective date of this Act until a~~



1 replacement for the document or letterhead is required. Any
2 rule, order, policy, or other act, official or otherwise, that
3 prohibits or discourages the use of these symbols shall be
4 void."

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

7 "[~~f~~]**\$5-6.5**[~~]~~ **State language.** The Hawaiian language is
8 the native language of [~~Hawaii~~] Hawai'i and [~~may~~] shall be used
9 on all emblems and symbols representative of the State, its
10 departments, agencies and political subdivisions[~~-~~]; provided
11 that this requirement shall not apply to a document or
12 letterhead existing on the effective date of this Act until a
13 replacement for the document or letterhead is required."

14 SECTION 4. Hawaiian language interim task force. (a)
15 There is established the Hawaiian language interim task force,
16 to be administratively attached to the department of accounting
17 and general services, for the purposes of developing an
18 implementation plan to achieve the purposes of this Act. The
19 task force shall be composed of nine members to be appointed as
20 follows: one representative from the University of Hawai'i at
21 Mānoa Hawaiian language department; one representative from the
22 University of Hawai'i at Hilo college of Hawaiian language; one



1 representative from Hale Kuamo'o; one representative from 'Aha
2 Hui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i; one representative from the department of
3 accounting and general services; one representative from the
4 Hawai'i state association of counties; one representative from
5 the Bishop Museum; and two manaleo, native Hawaiian language
6 speakers, who shall be chosen by the governor. The
7 representative from the Bishop Museum shall serve as chair of
8 the task force and shall make appointments to the task force
9 from lists provided by the organizations identified in this
10 subsection; provided that, to the extent practicable, the
11 members shall represent the diversity of Hawaiian language as it
12 is spoken throughout the State.

13 (b) The appointments shall be made and the task force
14 shall be convened no later than July 1, 2007. The task force
15 shall develop an implementation plan and identify an official
16 Hawaiian language authority that shall be considered the
17 official reference to be used by state and county agencies in
18 the implementation of this Act. In selecting an official
19 reference, the task force shall consider the "Hawaiian
20 Dictionary: Hawaiian-English, English-Hawaiian," by Mary Kawena
21 Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert, copyright 1986, University of



1 Hawai'i Press and "Māmaka Kaiāo" developed by Komike Hua'ōlelo,
2 the Hawaiian Lexicon Committee.

3 (c) The task force shall submit to the legislature, the
4 governor, and the mayors of the respective counties a report,
5 including the implementation plan adopted pursuant to this Act,
6 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008
7 regular legislative session. The report shall include:

8 (1) The identification of resources necessary for the
9 implementation of this Act, including information
10 technology software and the costs of the software; and

11 (2) A recommendation on official references for state and
12 county officials to use to incorporate accurate,
13 appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names,
14 punctuation, spelling, and macrons and glottal stops
15 into any documents state and county officials prepare
16 and distribute.

17 The legislature shall review the recommendation under
18 paragraph (2) and adopt, by resolution or bill, the references
19 to be used to comply with section 1-13.5 and section 5-6.5,
20 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

21 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawai'i the sum of \$200,000, or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for the
2 establishment of the Hawaiian language interim task force.

3 SECTION 6. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
4 department of accounting and general services for the purposes
5 of this Act.

6 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
9 provided that sections 5 and 6 shall take effect on July 1,
10 2007, and that sections 2 and 3 shall take effect on July 1,
11 2008.

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Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; Public Documents

Description:

Requires that all new and replaced letterheads and documents of the State include both state languages, with the Hawaiian language placed above English translation. Establishes a Hawaiian language interim task force. Appropriates funds.

