
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, "[t]he 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 "[T]he 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,
12 section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i,
13 reestablishes that "English and Hawaiian shall be the official
14 languages of 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 letterheads, when newly created or reprinted, contain the
10 accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language
11 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; letterheads; spelling.
15 [~~Macrons and glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words~~
16 ~~or terms in the Hawaiian language in] All letterheads for
17 documents prepared by or [fex] on behalf of state or county
18 agencies or officials[-] shall include in the letterhead, if the
19 letterhead contains Hawaiian names or language, the accurate,
20 appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language,
21 including proper Hawaiian punctuation, spelling, macrons, and
22 glottal stops, printed above the English translation; provided~~



1 that this requirement shall not apply to a letterhead existing
2 on the effective date of this Act until a replacement for the
3 letterhead is required; and provided further that this
4 requirement shall not apply to state artwork or to the hanging
5 state emblem in the rotunda of the state capitol. Any rule,
6 order, policy, or other act, official or otherwise, that
7 prohibits or discourages the use of these symbols shall be
8 void."

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

11 "[+]§5-6.5[+] State language. The Hawaiian language is
12 the native language of [Hawaii] Hawai'i and [~~may~~] shall be used
13 on all emblems and symbols representative of the State, its
14 departments, agencies, and political subdivisions[-]; provided
15 that this requirement shall not apply to state or county
16 letterheads containing Hawaiian names or language and existing
17 on the effective date of this Act until a replacement for the
18 letterhead is required."

19 SECTION 4. Hawaiian language interim task force. (a)
20 There is established the Hawaiian language interim task force,
21 to be administratively attached to the department of accounting
22 and general services, for the purposes of developing an



1 implementation plan to achieve the purposes of this Act. The
2 task force shall be composed of nine members to be appointed as
3 follows: one representative from the University of Hawai'i at
4 Mānoa Hawaiian language department; one representative from the
5 University of Hawai'i at Hilo college of Hawaiian language; one
6 representative from Hale Kuamo'o; one representative from 'Aha
7 Hui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i; one representative from the department of
8 accounting and general services; one representative from the
9 Hawai'i state association of counties; one representative from
10 the Bishop Museum; and two manaleo, native Hawaiian language
11 speakers, who shall be chosen by the governor. The
12 representative from the Bishop Museum shall serve as chair of
13 the task force and shall make appointments to the task force
14 from lists provided by the organizations identified in this
15 subsection; provided that, to the extent practicable, the
16 members shall represent the diversity of Hawaiian language as it
17 is spoken throughout the State.

18 (b) The appointments shall be made and the task force
19 shall be convened no later than July 1, 2007. The task force
20 shall develop an implementation plan and identify an official
21 Hawaiian language authority that shall be considered the
22 official reference to be used by state and county agencies in



1 the implementation of this Act. In selecting an official
2 reference, the task force shall consider the "Hawaiian
3 Dictionary: Hawaiian-English, English-Hawaiian," by Mary Kawena
4 Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert, copyright 1986, University of Hawai'i
5 Press and "Māmaka Kaiāo" developed by Komike Hua'ōlelo, the
6 Hawaiian Lexicon Committee.

7 (c) The members of the task force shall not receive
8 compensation for their service, but may be reimbursed for
9 reasonable expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the
10 performance of their task force duties.

11 (d) The task force shall submit to the legislature, the
12 governor, and the mayors of the respective counties a report,
13 including the implementation plan adopted pursuant to this Act,
14 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008
15 regular session. The report shall include:

- 16 (1) The identification of resources necessary for the
17 implementation of this Act, including information
18 technology software and the costs of the software;
- 19 (2) A recommendation on official references for state and
20 county officials to use to incorporate accurate,
21 appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names,
22 punctuation, spelling, and macrons and glottal stops



1 into official state and county document letterheads;

2 and

3 (3) Recommendations on expanding the proper usage of the
4 Hawaiian language in government, the community, and
5 the greater society of Hawai'i.

6 The legislature shall review the recommendation under
7 paragraph (2) and adopt, by resolution or Act, the references to
8 be used to comply with sections 1-13.5 and 5-6.5, Hawaii Revised
9 Statutes.

10 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawai'i the sum of \$200,000, or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for the
13 establishment of the Hawaiian language interim task force.

14 SECTION 6. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
15 department of accounting and general services for the purposes
16 of this Act.

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

19 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
20 provided that sections 5 and 6 shall take effect on July 1,
21 2007, and that sections 2 and 3 shall take effect on July 1,
22 2008.



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; Public Document Letterheads

Description:

Requires that all letterheads of the State include the correct Hawaiian spelling of Hawaiian words. Establishes a Hawaiian language interim task force. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

