



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT
IN SUPPORT OF

HB 1666, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Committee on Finance

Hearing date, time and place: March 4, 2009, 10:30 a.m., Conf. Rm. 308

Aloha Chairperson Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Finance Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1666, HD 1, which requires that all state and county letterheads, emblems, and symbols, when newly created, replaced, reprinted or otherwise revised, contain the accurate, appropriate and authentic Hawaiian names and language.

The Association is a growing national confederation of fifty-five Hawaiian Civic Clubs, located throughout the State of Hawai'i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia and Washington State. It initiates and works to support actions that enhance the civic, economic, educational, health and social welfare of our communities, and in particular, the culture and welfare of the Native Hawaiian community.

Association members have passed numerous Resolutions which support perpetuation of the Hawaiian language. These include:

- A resolution "Urging the United States Treasury Department to Honor the Current Orthographic Spelling of the Hawaiian Language by Including the 'Okina (Glottal Stop) in the Spelling of "Hawai'i" on the Commemorative State Quarter Due to Be Released in 2008", passed on November 1, 2007;
- A resolution "Urging the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs to Research, Learn and Use Ancient Hawaiian Place Names", passed November 10, 2001;
- Several resolutions urging the State of Hawai'i and the City and County of Honolulu to recognize and use original Hawaiian place names, including a Resolution "Urging the Counties of the State of Hawai'i to Adopt a Place Name Policy for Land Divisions, Developments, Subdivisions, and Streets" passed over ten years ago on January 17, 1996; and
- Numerous resolutions supporting the perpetuation of Hawaiian language at all levels of the public, private and charter schools systems.

As HB 1666 points out, the Hawai'i Constitution provides for the preservation and promotion of Native Hawaiian culture, history and language. Since 1978, when the State reaffirmed Hawaiian as one of its official languages, the legislature has backed efforts to incorporate the language into official state writings, emblems, and signs. Ensuring that these public inscriptions are mandatory, accurate, and spelled correctly, and use of the proper Hawaiian macrons and glottal stops, not only shows the deserved respect for the native language of these islands, but also fully comports with the intent and words of the Hawai'i Constitution.

For these reasons, the Association is in strong support of HB 1666, HD 1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 3:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kehaulani.watson@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1666 on 3/4/2009 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 3/4/2009 10:30:00 AM HB1666

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Trisha Kehaulani Watson, JD, PhD
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Submitted on: 3/2/2009

Comments:
Aloha kakou,

I am in strong support of this bill. If you are truly to fulfill the promise of having Hawaiian as an official language of this State, we must begin to make greater use of the language in our State's documents. Countries like Aotearoa (New Zealand) have already done so with great success.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller

BARBARA A. ANNIS
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
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TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
FINANCE
ON
March 4, 2009

H.B. 1666, H.D. 1

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1666, H.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent of H.B. 1666 HD1. This bill includes the following provision:

"[f]§1-13.5[J] Hawaiian language; spelling. [~~Macrons and glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in the Hawaiian language in~~] (a) Effective January 1, 2011, all letterheads prepared by or for state or county agencies or officials[-] shall include the accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation, including but not limited to macrons and glottal stops, printed above the English translation;

Because in its current form, this bill applies to words and Hawaiian names in letterheads, emblems and symbols, and not to translations of whole documents, its requirements can be fulfilled under the conditions the bill sets forth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.