



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
March 18, 2009
S.B. 579, S.D. 2

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Chair Carroll and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 579, S.D. 2.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent of S.B. 579, S.D. 2, but has concerns. The bill includes the following:

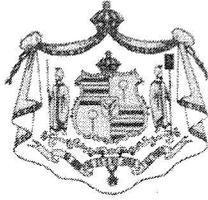
"~~[H]§1-13.5[H]~~ **Hawaiian language; spelling.** ~~[Macrons and glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in the Hawaiian language in]~~ (a) Effective January 1, 2011, all documents and letterhead prepared by or for state or county agencies or officials[-] shall include the accurate,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

If this passage is interpreted to mean that all correspondence must include both English and a Hawaiian translation, DAGS recommends against this as impractical. However, if this bill applies to Hawaiian names and words, as they are used in

letterheads, emblems, and symbols it would be more achievable and would show the desired respect for the Hawaiian language that the bill intends.

DAGS also notes that if the Standard Hawaiian Dictionary listed is used, a 1986 copyright may not be optimum. DAGS suggests the term “latest copyright date” be used instead.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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

TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT
IN SUPPORT OF

SB 579, S.D. 2, RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing date, time and place: March 18, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Conf. Rm. 329

Aloha Chairperson Carroll, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 579, S.D. 2, which requires that all state and county documents, 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 SB 579 SD2 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 SB 579, S.D. 2. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rep. Maile Shimabukuro

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 12:40 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Subject: SB579;HAW;3/18/09;9AM;Rm329

Importance: High

SB579, SD2, Relating to the Hawaiian Language.
HAW; Chair, Rep Carroll

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!

Although I do not have Native blood (haole persuasion), but as someone who has lived in Hawai`i most of my life, I can see clearly how important it is to the Kanaka Maoli to have their language preserved and celebrated through rigorous enforcement of the state's statutes that say that Hawaiian is the state language along with English. How can we conveniently ignore the fact that these two languages are co-equal?

It is imperative, in my opinion, to act not only on our beliefs, but to act on the basis of state law! I realize that there may be a small cost increase in the short run as we change over to the correct version of all state documents. but in the long run, there will be little or no cost impact. These changes are PONO!

I have only one request: For heaven's sake, **make sure the spelling and punctuation are correct!** Make sure that a fluent native speaker/writer does the editing of all documents. That includes the proper use of the okina. I am tired of watching even our (allegedly) "local" television channels misspelling even the names of our islands by forgetting the okina. This makes a difference in pronunciation. Saying "Kauai" is differnt when it is spelled correctly as *Kaua`i*. **All keyboards currently have the okina; it is on the upper left key, lower case.**

Thank you for cleaning this mess up.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
Professor
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work
Henke Hall
Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill

Nicole Holler
March 15, 2009
Testifier position: In Support
Organization: Individual
To: the committee on Hawaiian affairs

My name is Nicole Holler, I am a student at the University of Hawaii, school of social work. I am also a member of NASW. I am testifying in **support** of bill SB 579. I strongly urge you to support this bill.

This bill will uphold the contract between the indigenous people of Hawaii and the westerners to see that western culture and the indigenous culture be held in equality. This will also show that the people will be able to hold onto their native language and it will be reflected in our policies.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on bill SB 579. I strongly urge you to support this bill.

SB 579
3/16/2009

Dear Madam Chair Carroll, Madam Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of our House of Representatives,

My name is Brandee Aukai. It is important that you pass Senate Bill 579. Requiring that all letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems of the State and other political subdivisions include both state languages. Effective 01/01/2050.

The State of Hawai'i has an obligation to the Native Hawaiians and to the people of Hawai'i to include 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in and on all official documents. This is the native language of Hawai'i and her people, and it is imperative that we incorporate it back into every day usage. This will assist in the resurgence and the perpetuation of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. The State of Hawai'i has two official languages, and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is one of them, and it needs to be openly acknowledged. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i was once kapu (forbidden) to be spoken here in Hawai'i, which resulted in devastating consequences. This will be an opportunity to rectify the past injustices done.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this matter. I humbly ask for your support in passing SB 579. E ola mau i ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!!!

Me ka ha'alahala,
Brandee Aukai
(808) 620-9857

March 17, 2009

Welina mai e ke Kōmike O Nā Mea Hawai'i,

ʻŌ mākou nā pua a Pauahi o ke kula ki'eki'e o Kamehameha ma Kapālama. Nui ko mākou kākoʻo a paipai aku i ka pila HB 1666 / SB 579. ʻŌ ia ka pila e hōyoiāyīo i ka ʻōlelo Hawai'i ma kēia pae ʻāina nei ʻō Hawai'i: ma nā palapala o ka mokuʻāina Hawai'i, ma nā hōyailona a pau, nā sila, a me nā mea a pau e pono ai ka ʻōlelo Hawai'i .

I ka makahiki 1896, ua hoʻokumu ʻia kekahi kānāwai i pāpā i ka ʻōlelo Hawai'i. Ma muli hoʻi o ia kānāwai, ua lilo ka ikaika o ka ʻōlelo i ka hapanui o ka lehulehu. Ma ka makahiki 1978, ua kūhelu hou ʻia ka ʻōlelo Hawai'i ma o ke Constitutional Convention. Ua hoʻokūlike ka ʻōlelo Hawai'i me ka ʻōlelo Pelekānia, 'o ia nā ʻōlelo ponoʻi o Hawai'i. Ma hope o ka ho'ololi ʻāna i ke kānāwai o 1896, ua hiki ke hoʻokumu i nā polokalamu e like me ka Pūnana Leo a me nā kula Kaiapuni i mea e hoʻoikaika i ka ʻōlelo Hawai'i.

Kākoʻo mākou i kēia pila i mea e ho'oholomua i ka ʻōlelo Hawai'i. Eia na'e, i ka hoʻokaulike ʻāna i ka ʻōlelo Hawai'i a me ka ʻōlelo Pelekānia i ka makahiki 1978, ʻāyole i ʻike nui ʻia ka ʻōlelo Hawai'i mai kēlā makahiki

aku. He lamakū kēia pila i ka lāhui Hawaiʻi. Inā ʻike pinepine ka poʻe Hawaiʻi i ka ʻōlelo o kēia ʻāina, e ulu aʻe ana i ka ʻiʻi e hoʻōla hou i ka ʻōlelo ʻōiwi o Hawaiʻi i kamaʻāina i ka maka a me ka pepeiao o nā kini. Eia hou kekahi, kākoʻo mākou i ka hoʻokō ʻana mai o ke kauoha o ia pila i ka lā 1 o Ianuali 2011. ʻO ka pahuhopu o kēia pila, ʻo ia nō ka hoʻohanohano ʻana i ka ʻāina nona ka ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi.

No kēia mau kumu, kākoʻo a paipai aku mākou i ka pila HB 1666 / SB 579. Mahalo i kēia hoʻolauna ʻana mai i kēia pila iā mākou.

March 17, 2009

To The Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

We are students of the Honors Hawaiian Language 6 class of Kamehameha High School, Kāpalama campus. We give our full support to HB 1666 / SB 579, whose purpose is to justify the proper use of the Hawaiian language in the state of Hawai'i.

In the year 1896, a law was created to abolish the Hawaiian language in the public schools. This resulted in the regression of the strength of the Hawaiian Language among Hawaiian Language speakers. At the Constitutional Convention of 1978, the Hawaiian Language became an official language of the State of Hawai'i, along with English. This allowed for the establishment of programs such as Pūnana Leo, Hawaiian Immersion, and various Hawaiian Language-based programs.

We give our support to this bill, HB 1666 / SB 579, in the hopes that we can encourage the proper use of the Hawaiian Language. Since 1978, little effort has been made to assure the correct use of the Hawaiian Language. This bill is a stepping-stone for the survival of the Hawaiian Language. Furthermore, we encourage the immediate implementation of the mandates as stated within this bill

on January 1, 2011. It is our hope that this bill will truly honor the language of this land.

Again, we give our full support to this bill, HB 1666 / SB 579 and thank you for this opportunity to submit our testimony.