
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE 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 Hawaii provides for the preservation and promotion
3 of native Hawaiian culture, history, and language. Article X,
4 section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution provides that "[t]he
5 State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and
6 language." Article XII, section 7, of the Hawaii State
7 Constitution provides that "[t]he State reaffirms and shall
8 protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for
9 subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by
10 ahupua'a tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who
11 inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the
12 right of the State to regulate such rights." Because
13 maintaining a living language is an integral component of
14 preserving a culture, article XV, section 4, of the Hawaii State
15 Constitution establishes that English and Hawaiian are the
16 official languages of Hawai'i.



1 The legislature reaffirms Hawaiian as one of its official
2 languages and has supported efforts to incorporate the Hawaiian
3 language into official state writings, emblems, and signs. The
4 use of proper Hawaiian macrons and glottal stops shows not only
5 the deserved respect for the native language of these islands,
6 but also fully comports with the intent and purpose of the state
7 constitution.

8 The purpose of this Act is to require all newly created,
9 replaced, or reprinted state and county documents, letterheads,
10 symbols, and emblems to contain accurate, appropriate, and
11 authentic Hawaiian names and language beginning on January 1,
12 2018.

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

15 " ~~[†] §1-13.5 [†]~~ **Hawaiian language; spelling.** ~~[Macrons and~~
16 ~~glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in~~
17 ~~the Hawaiian language in]~~ (a) Effective January 1, 2018, all
18 documents and letterheads prepared by or for state or county
19 agencies or officials ~~[;-]~~ shall include accurate, appropriate,
20 and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper
21 Hawaiian spelling and punctuation, including but not limited to



1 macrons and glottal stops that punctuate the English word to
2 which they relate; provided that any revision to conform any
3 document or letterhead existing on or before January 1, 2018, to
4 the requirements of this section, may be implemented when the
5 document or letterhead requires replacement or reprinting, or
6 otherwise requires revision. Any rule, order, policy, or other
7 act, official or otherwise, that prohibits or discourages the
8 use of [~~these symbols~~] accurate, appropriate, and authentic
9 Hawaiian names and words, as required by this section, shall be
10 void.

11 (b) Hawaiian names and words shall be deemed accurate,
12 appropriate, and authentic when printed in conformance with:

13 (1) "Hawaiian Dictionary: Hawaiian-English, English-
14 Hawaiian", by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert,
15 University of Hawai'i Press, copyright 1986;

16 (2) "Māmaka Kaiāo: A Modern Hawaiian Vocabulary",
17 developed by the Kōmike Hua'ōlelo, the Hawaiian Lexicon
18 Committee; or

19 (3) "Place Names of Hawaii", by Mary Kawena Pukui, Samuel
20 H. Elbert, and Esther T. Mookini, University of Hawai'i
21 Press, copyright 1974."



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

3 "[+]§5-6.5[+] State language. (a) The Hawaiian language
4 is the native language of [~~Hawaii~~] Hawai'i and [~~may~~], effective
5 January 1, 2018, shall be used on all emblems and symbols
6 representative of the State, its departments, agencies, and
7 political subdivisions[-]; provided that for emblems and symbols
8 existing on January 1, 2018, conformance with this section may
9 be delayed until a replacement for the emblem or symbol
10 otherwise is required.

11 (b) The Hawaiian language as used on all emblems and
12 symbols shall be in conformance with the requirements of section
13 1-13.5(b)."

14 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on March 9, 2012.



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; Letterhead; Documents; Symbols; Emblems;
Government Documents

Description:

Requires all newly created, replaced, or reprinted state and county letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems to include accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language. Establishes references for accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation. Effective 3/9/2092. (SD2)

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