
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 Hawaiian is one of
2 the official languages of the State, and the legislature has a
3 unique responsibility to promote the use of the Hawaiian
4 language and enhance its role in maintaining the unique identity
5 of the State. Other jurisdictions worldwide that have a
6 distinctive official language have implemented a policy to
7 include bilingual terminology on traffic signage such as Wales
8 (Welsh and English), the Nunavut territory in Canada (Inuktitut
9 Eskimo and English), and Israel (Hebrew, English, and Arabic).

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
11 pilot project in the department of transportation, in
12 cooperation with one or more counties of the State, to provide
13 bilingual Hawaiian and English traffic signs on state and county
14 roads. The pilot project shall determine the feasibility of
15 expanding this project in the future elsewhere in the State.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The department of transportation shall
17 conduct a pilot project to demonstrate the use of Hawaiian and



1 English on traffic signage on state and county roads in a well-
2 defined and contained area where there is a significant number
3 of Hawaiian speakers.

4 (b) The department of transportation shall consult and
5 partner with an established state entity that has a mission and
6 history of successfully providing contemporary standardized
7 Hawaiian language terminology and translations for government
8 use. The state entity shall have the capacity to execute the
9 pilot project in a timely manner so that traffic signage
10 includes proper spelling of Hawaiian words with 'okina and
11 kahakō, as appropriate, modern Hawaiian vocabulary of
12 appropriate length, and carefully thought out placement of
13 Hawaiian and English on traffic signs. The department of
14 transportation shall also consult and partner with one or more
15 public works divisions among the counties to implement this
16 pilot project.

17 (c) The department of transportation and its partner or
18 partners in one or more counties shall provide a list of English
19 terminology used on traffic signs and the layout of the wording
20 on the signs to the state entity with Hawaiian language
21 expertise for translation. The department of transportation



1 shall establish a contract with the state entity with expertise
2 in the Hawaiian language to provide the translated terminology
3 and the recommended placement of the language to the department
4 of transportation and participating county or counties.

5 (d) The department of transportation shall serve as the
6 procuring agency for the pilot project to order appropriate
7 signs and ensure that the signs are delivered to the appropriate
8 state and county officials for installation. The department of
9 transportation shall work with the participating county or
10 counties to install the bilingual signage. Installation of
11 signage shall occur no later than June 30, 2020.

12 (e) The department of transportation shall establish a
13 formal agreement that outlines the responsibilities of the state
14 and county entities, along with an appropriate transfer of funds
15 to the participating county or counties.

16 (f) The department of transportation shall submit a report
17 of its findings and recommendations relating to the execution
18 and outcomes of the pilot project, including any proposed
19 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
20 to the convening of the regular session of 2020.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawai'i the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
4 the execution of the pilot project.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
6 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.
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H.B. NO. 2643

Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; Bilingual Traffic Signage; Department of Transportation; Counties; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of transportation to conduct a pilot project, in cooperation with one or more counties, to include the Hawaiian language on traffic signs on state and county lands of the participating counties. Appropriates funds for the execution of the pilot project.

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