



Testimony of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

HB105
RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES
House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs

February 8, 2023

8:30 am

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB105, which would require license plates to include ‘okina in furtherance of the recognition for ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as one of two official languages of the State of Hawai‘i.

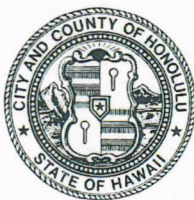
OHA would like to emphasize that the development and use of ‘okina and kahakō were to provide the necessary distinction in the appropriate pronunciation of words as the language evolved and transformed from predominantly spoken to include written. In written ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, the use of diacritical marks, like ‘okina, maintain the same critical importance as the recognized letters of the Hawaiian language alphabet, in that their absence or presence in word can result in a completely different meaning.

The use of ‘okina in license plates may seem insignificant, however, the proper respect afforded to maintaining the integrity of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in its written and spoken forms is monumental.

OHA appreciates the opportunity to **SUPPORT** this measure and urges the Committee to **PASS** HB105. Mahalo nui loa.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE ST-TK

February 8, 2023

The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Chair
and Members
Committee on Culture, Arts and
International Affairs
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tam and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 105, Relating to License Plates

I am Stason Tanaka, Acting Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes House Bill No. 105, Relating to License Plates.

The HPD opposes the proposal for the use of okinas and different-sized letters on license plates. This will affect the readability of the license plates, especially at a distance. In addition, the license plates can also be used in other states where certain markings may not be recognizable.

The HPD urges you to oppose House Bill No. 105, Relating to License Plates. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


APPROVED:

Sincerely,



#22

Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police



Stason Tanaka, Acting Major
Traffic Division

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
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February 6, 2023

The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Chair
The Honorable Rose Martinez, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Culture, Arts
& International Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 309
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee on
Culture, Arts, & International Affairs,

SUBJECT: H.B. 105 - Relating To License Plates
HEARING: Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD)
strongly supports this bill.

Currently, Hawaii Revised Statutes § 249-9(a)(1) provides that all license plates
shall bear the word "Hawaii" along the upper portion of the plate and the words "Aloha
State" along the lower portion of the plate. As written, current law does not allow for the
inclusion of the 'okina in the word "Hawaii." This measure will change that.

Last year, the Legislature passed Act 170 which requires Hawaiian diacritical
markings in Hawaiian names and words in official State and County letterhead. We
support further expansion of the use of Hawaiian diacritical marks in other aspects of
government, including our State license plates.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. No. 105.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly M. Hashiro".

Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

HB-105

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:57:24 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/8/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barryn Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Even as non-kanaka I acknowledge that the `okina in Hawai`i is part of the spelling, and insistence on "Hawaii" instead of Hawai`i would be insistence on incorrect spelling. So I support this bill.