

**HB-2772**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:43:13 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoki Faria	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai e na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

I am providing the following testimony based on my 20+ years as an instructor of olelo Hawaii.

Modern orthography has been used to help second language learners of Hawaiian (1) pronounce the word when oral examples are lacking, and (2) discern the meaning of a word in print when that oral example is absent as well. This bill is seeking to change the spelling from “Hawaii,” to “Hawai‘i,” and “aina” to “āina.” In both cases the words are high frequency words not only in Hawaiian but in Hawaiian Creole English. The vast majority of residents have some familiarity with these words that enable them to discern the correct meaning and pronunciation without the additions of okina and kahako. In this case a conservative approach would be most appropriate, as these words belong to none other than Kamehameha III himself, and was printed in the newspapers of the time without the okina and kahako. If there is concern about understanding and pronunciation, spelling alone will not fix that problem, but education can. If the State of Hawaii would make the history of that saying a priority and provide a recording of Kamehameha III’s saying being uttered correctly, that should adequately address the unmentioned concerns that may be driving this bill. Kamehameha III was also famous for the promotion of literacy during his reign, taking the time to educate about that immensely important moment in history when he uttered “Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono” to all who call Hawaii their home is consistent with the spirit of Kamehameha III’s endeavors. Simply changing orthography will not have the intended effect. Please keep the spelling in its original format and provide resources to educate the public about the importance of this saying.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of my testimony.

**HB-2772**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:27:08 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/7/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keokapukoa Kaohelaulii	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

E malama i ka olelo a na kupuna a "mai ae i ka hewa o auamo anei ka lehulehu i olioli o ke awe makena" (Kekahi kupuna, 2017).

Mai (aole) kakoo i ka pila HB2772.