

SB-3308

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:37:48 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/6/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Requires the use of modern Hawaiian orthography, including the kahakō and ‘okina, on the state seal.

SB-3308

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:35:08 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/6/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kade Yam-Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian language speaker and proud resident of the beautiful State of Hawaii, I rise in full support of Senate Bill 3308, relating to the State seal. This bill, which requires the use of modern Hawaiian orthography, including the kahakō and ‘okina, on the state seal, is a powerful step towards preserving and revitalizing our indigenous language and culture.

For far too long, the Hawaiian language has been marginalized and suppressed. But with the passage of this bill, we have a unique opportunity to honor and uplift the language that binds us to our ancestors, our land, and our unique identity as Hawaiians.

Language is the lifeline of culture, and through the incorporation of modern Hawaiian orthography, we will not only ensure the accurate representation of the Hawaiian language, but also promote its use and understanding among the people of Hawaii and visitors from around the world.

The state seal is a significant symbol that represents our sovereignty and our historical heritage on a global scale. By using modern Hawaiian orthography in the depiction of our state seal, we send a powerful message of cultural pride, resilience, and inclusivity. We acknowledge and recognize the rich linguistic traditions that have shaped our islands and pledge to preserve them for generations to come.

Furthermore, this bill acknowledges the validity of existing representations of the seal created before its implementation, ensuring that we honor the contributions and efforts of our past while simultaneously moving forward into a future that embraces cultural diversity and equity.

As a Hawaiian language speaker, I have witnessed the transformative power of language revitalization firsthand. It connects us to our roots, deepens our sense of belonging, and fosters a greater appreciation for the richness and beauty of our culture. Through the implementation of modern Hawaiian orthography on the state seal, we send a resounding message of support for the continued revitalization of our language.

I humbly urge each of you to support Senate Bill 3308 and recognize the importance of preserving and promoting the Hawaiian language within our state. Let us stand united in our commitment to safeguard the linguistic and cultural heritage of Hawaii for ourselves

and for future generations.

**Mahalo nui loa,
KADE YAM-LUM**

SB-3308

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:54:47 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/6/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-3308

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 6:02:37 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/6/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Estigoy-Kahoonei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If 'Ōlelo is to be used it should be used correctly with the appropriate diacritical marks

SB-3308

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:38:46 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/6/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoki Faria	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai e na lala o ka Mahele Hawaii 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.

SB-3308

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:28:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/6/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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 SB3308.

SB-3308

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:56:28 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/6/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Fevella, and Honorable Committee Members:

I respectfully present this testimony to SUPPORT SB3308 / HB 2772, which would require the use of modern Hawaiian diacritical markings on the Hawai`i state seal, updates the related descriptions of the state seal within the Hawai`i Revised Statutes, but ensures that any representations created before these changes would continue to remain valid. For almost 40 years I have believed that EVERY person in Hawai`i and throughout the United States should be speaking more than English as a single language. As a result, I am a longtime supporter of Hawaiian language immersion education. Since the Hawaiian language is a bona fide language of the State of Hawai`i, incorporating modern Hawaiian orthography in all official State representations of Hawaiian language usage is important out of respect for preserving this language, the Hawaiian community, and all who embrace and speak the Hawaiian language regularly in their daily lives.

For all of the above reasons, I urge you to please SUPPORT and pass SB3308 / HB 2772 out of your committee to allow it to move forward during this Legislative session.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony SUPPORTING SB3308 / HB 2772.

Nancy A. Jones

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SB-3308

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:03:13 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/6/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Fevella, and Honorable Committee Members:

I present this testimony SUPPORTING SB3308 / HB 2772, which requires using modern Hawaiian diacritical markings on the Hawai`i state seal, would update the related descriptions of the state seal within the Hawai`i Revised Statutes, but ensures that any representations created before these changes would continue to remain valid. I have long believed that EVERY person in Hawai`i and throughout the United States should be speaking more than English as a single language. So, I – like my wife – am a longtime supporter of Hawaiian language immersion education. Because the Hawaiian language is a bona fide language of the State of Hawai`i, incorporating modern Hawaiian orthography in all official State representations of Hawaiian language usage is important to respect this language, the entire Hawaiian community, and all who embrace and speak the Hawaiian language regularly in their daily lives.

For these key reasons, I urge you to please SUPPORT and pass SB3308 / HB 2772 out of your committee to allow it to move forward during this Legislative session.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony SUPPORTING SB3308 / HB 2772.

Zebuel “Zeb” C. Jones

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