

ACT 169

H.B. NO. 2409

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Hawaiian Language.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. By law, there are two official languages in this State, English and Hawaiian. The orthography developed by scholars at the University of Hawai'i includes the use of macrons and glottal stops in the spelling of the Hawaiian language. These symbols are commonly used in local publications and by the counties in street signs for streets having Hawaiian names. Despite the widespread use of macrons and glottal stops in spelling words in the Hawaiian language, there has been no official encouragement of their use. The inclusion of these symbols has a broader purpose than simply aiding the pronunciation of Hawaiian terms. Because the glottal stop is a consonant in the Hawaiian language leaving it out changes the meaning of a word. The legislature also finds that written documents that spell Hawaiian words using symbols that aid in the correct pronunciation of those words can help to preserve the Hawaiian language and the culture of the people of this State. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to formally authorize and encourage the use of macrons and glottal stops whenever words or terms in the Hawaiian language are used in documents prepared by or for state or county agencies and officials.

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SECTION 2. Chapter 1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§1. **Hawaiian language; spelling.** Macrons and glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in the Hawaiian language in documents prepared by or for state or county agencies or officials. Any rule, order, policy, or other act, official or otherwise, that prohibits or discourages the use of these symbols shall be void.”

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 12, 1992.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.