
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 the Hawaii
2 Constitution provides for the preservation and promotion of
3 native Hawaiian culture, history, and language. For example,
4 article X, section 4, provides that, "[t]he State shall promote
5 the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language." Article
6 XII, section 7, states that "[t]he State reaffirms and shall
7 protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for
8 subsistence, cultural and religious purposes..." of native
9 Hawaiians. Because maintaining a living language is an integral
10 component of preserving a culture, it is also important to note
11 that article XV, section 4, establishes that "English and
12 Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawaii..."

13 Since 1978, when the State reaffirmed Hawaiian as one of
14 its official languages, the legislature has backed efforts to
15 incorporate the language into official state writings, emblems,
16 and signs. Ensuring that these public inscriptions are
17 mandatory, accurate, and spelled correctly, and use of the



1 proper Hawaiian macrons and glottal stops, not only shows the
2 deserved respect for the native language of these islands, but
3 also fully comports with the intent and words of the Hawaii
4 Constitution.

5 The purpose of this Act is to ensure the constitutionally-
6 and ethically-mandated preservation of the native Hawaiian
7 language and culture by requiring that all state and county
8 letterheads, emblems, and symbols, when newly created, replaced,
9 reprinted, or otherwise revised, contain the accurate,
10 appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language.

11 SECTION 2. Section 1-13.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "[+]§1-13.5[+] **Hawaiian language; spelling.** [~~Macrons and~~
14 ~~glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in~~
15 ~~the Hawaiian language in documents] (a) Effective January 1,
16 2011, all letterheads prepared by or for [state] State or county
17 agencies or officials[-] shall include the accurate,
18 appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language,
19 including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation, including
20 macrons and glottal stops, printed above the English
21 translation; provided that any revision to conform any
22 letterhead existing on or before January 1, 2011, to the~~



1 requirements of this section, may be implemented when the
2 letterhead requires replacement or reprinting, or otherwise
3 requires revision. Any rule, order, policy, or other act,
4 official or otherwise, that prohibits or discourages the use of
5 ~~[these symbols]~~ proper Hawaiian punctuation or spelling shall be
6 void.

7 (b) The Hawaiian language shall be accurate, appropriate,
8 and authentic when printed in conformance with:

9 (1) The "Hawaiian Dictionary: Hawaiian-English, English-
10 Hawaiian," by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert,
11 University of Hawaii Press, copyright 1986; or

12 (2) "Māmake Kaiao: A Modern Hawaiian Vocabulary,"
13 developed by Kōmike Hua'olelo, the Hawaiian Lexicon
14 Committee."

15 SECTION 3. Section 5-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "[~~f~~]**\$5-6.5**[~~f~~] **State language.** (a) The Hawaiian language
18 is the native language of Hawaii and [~~may~~], effective January 1,
19 2011, shall be used on all emblems and symbols representative of
20 the State, its departments, agencies, and political
21 subdivisions[~~-~~]; provided that for emblems and symbols existing
22 on January 1, 2011, conformance with this section may be delayed



1 until a replacement for the emblem or symbol otherwise is
2 required.

3 (b) The Hawaiian language as used on all emblems and
4 symbols shall be in conformance with the requirements of section
5 1-13.5(b)."

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; Letterheads; Emblems; Symbols

Description:

Requires that all state and county letterheads, emblems, and symbols, when newly created, replaced, reprinted, or otherwise revised, contain the accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language. (HB1666 HD1)

