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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 **PART I**

2 Mahele 1. O ka Olelo Hawaii ka Olelo oiwi o ka lahui  
3 Hawaii.

4 Oiai ua Olelo mau ia ka Olelo Hawaii o ka aina e na kupa o  
5 ke aupuni Hawaii, ua hele a ane halapohe ka Olelo ana i ua Olelo  
6 la ma ka hiki ana aku i ka makahiki 1980 a ua koe wale mai ma  
7 kahi o ke kanalima mau manaleo o ka Olelo e ola nei ma lalo o ka  
8 piha makahiki he umi kumawalu. O kekahi kumu o ka emi nui o ka  
9 Olelo Hawaii o ia no ke kanawai o ka makahiki 1896 i hoonoho i  
10 ka Olelo pelekania o ia wale no ka Olelo o ke kula. Eia nae ka  
11 hopena, ua hoopapa ia ka Olelo ana, ke heluhelu ana, ke kakau  
12 ana a me ke ao ana i ka Olelo Hawaii ma na kula aupuni.

13 I mea e hoola ae ai i ka Olelo Hawaii, ua hoolana ia aku la  
14 kekahi mau hapai kanawai hoola Olelo Hawaii a me na hana  
15 huliamaahi e hooulu ae i ka Olelo Hawaii e like me ka aukahi  
16 Punana Leo, ka papahana Kula Kaiapuni o ke Keena Hoonaaauao, a me  
17 na papahana Olelo Hawaii ma ke Kula Nui o Hawaii.



1 Eia kekahi, ma ka makahiki 1978, ua pakui hoololi ia iho ka  
2 Palapala Kumukanawai o ka Moku'aina o Hawaii me ka hoololi Olelo  
3 pakui e hooiaio aku i ke kulana o ka Olelo Hawaii he Olelo  
4 kuhelu i like kona kulana me ka Olelo pelekania--o laua na Olelo  
5 kuhelu o ka mokuaina.

6 Eia hou kekahi, ua hoolaha a hoohanahanao ia ae la ka Olelo  
7 Hawaii ma loko o elua mau palapala kukala koikoi e ke kiaaina ma  
8 na makahiki o na 1990. Ma ka makahiki 1995, ua hoopuka ia aku  
9 la kekahi palapala kukala mai ke keena kiaaina mai a ua kakau ia  
10 mai ma na Olelo kuhelu elua o ka aina, Hawaii me ka Pelekania, o  
11 ka mahina o Pepeluahi 1995 ka "Mahina Olelo Hawaii ma Hawaii  
12 Nei." Ua koi aku keia palapala kukala i ka lehulehu e komo aku,  
13 komo mai i na hanana Olelo Hawaii like ole i malama ia ma ka  
14 mahina o Pepeluahi. O na hanana Hawaii i malama ia ma Pepeluahi  
15 ka La Ohana, ka La Kukahekahe, a me ka Ahamele o Hoomau ma Oahu.

16 Ma ka makahiki 1996, ua kukala ia kekahi palapala kuahaua e  
17 ke kiaaina e nana i ka makahiki 1996 o ia ka "Makahiki o ka  
18 Olelo Hawaii" i mea e hoomana'o ai i ka hala ana o haneli mau  
19 makahiki ma hope o ke kanawai 1896 o ia kanawai hoopapa Olelo  
20 kupuna ma na kula o Hawaii nei.

21 Oiai ua holomua no keia aukahi hoola Olelo Hawaii ma loko o  
22 keia mau makahiki he kanakolu i hala iho nei, he pono no hoi ka



1 hoonui ana i na kanaka Olelo Hawaii i mea e hoolaupai ia ai a  
2 ola no ka Olelo Hawaii.

3 O ke kumuhana o keia kanawai ka hoonoho pono ana mai i ka  
4 mahina o Pepeluali o ia ka "Mahina Olelo Hawaii" a lilo ia i mea  
5 e hoomaikai a e paipai ae mau ai i ka Olelo ana i ka Olelo  
6 Hawaii.

7 Mahele 2. Mokuna 8, Na Olelo Kupaa O Hawaii, ua  
8 hooponopono ia me ka hoopakui ana i mahele hou e hoonoho kupono  
9 a e heluhelu ia ana penei:

10 "§8- Mahina Olelo Hawaii. E ike mau a e kapa ia ana ae  
11 ka mahina o Pepeluali o ia ka "Mahina Olelo Hawaii" i mea e  
12 hoomaikai a e paipai aku ai i ka Olelo ana o ua Olelo makuahine  
13 nei la. Aole e ku ana keia mahina i kapa ia ka "Mahina Olelo  
14 Hawaii" i lanui o ka mokuaina o Hawaii.

15 Olelo Hawaii Month. The month of February shall be known  
16 and designated as "Olelo Hawaii Month" to celebrate and  
17 encourage the use of Hawaiian language. This month is not and  
18 shall not be construed as a state holiday."

19 (English translation of PART I)

20 SECTION 1. Olelo Hawaii, or the Hawaiian language, is the  
21 native language of the Native Hawaiian people.



1 While once spoken throughout Hawaii by Native Hawaiians and  
2 foreigners alike, Olelo Hawaii was considered to be nearly  
3 extinct by the 1980s, when fewer than fifty fluent speakers  
4 under the age of eighteen were left. A major reason for the  
5 deterioration of the Hawaiian language was an 1896 law that  
6 required English instruction in Hawaii schools. In practice,  
7 this law functioned to "ban" students from speaking Olelo Hawaii  
8 at their schools.

9 To save the Hawaiian language, a number of historic  
10 initiatives were launched, including Aha Punana Leo's Hawaiian  
11 language immersion preschools, the department of education's  
12 Hawaiian language immersion program, and the Hawaiian language  
13 programs of the University of Hawaii system.

14 In addition, in 1978, the Hawaii constitution was amended  
15 to recognize the Hawaiian language as one of the two official  
16 languages of the State.

17 Furthermore, several important gubernatorial proclamations  
18 on Olelo Hawaii were issued in the 1990s. In 1994 and 1995,  
19 gubernatorial proclamations, written in both Hawaiian and  
20 English, were issued recognizing February 1994 and February 1995  
21 as "Hawaiian Language Month in Hawaii." The proclamations urged  
22 people to participate in the Hawaiian language activities held



1 in February. Hawaiian language events held in February at that  
2 time included La Ohana, La Kukahekahe, and Oahu's Hoomau  
3 concert.

4 The following year, another gubernatorial proclamation was  
5 issued that recognized 1996 as "Year of the Hawaiian Language"  
6 in observance of a century passing since the enactment of the  
7 1896 law that prohibited speaking Hawaiian language in Hawaii  
8 schools.

9 While the Hawaiian language revitalization movement has  
10 made major strides in the last thirty years, for Olelo Hawaii to  
11 not just survive, but to also thrive, more people need to speak  
12 Hawaiian.

13 The purpose of this part is to designate the month of  
14 February as "Olelo Hawaii Month" to celebrate and encourage the  
15 use of Hawaiian language.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
17 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
18 read as follows:

19 "§8- Mahina Olelo Hawaii. E ike mau a e kapa ia ana ae  
20 ka mahina o Pepeluai o ia ka "Mahina Olelo Hawaii" i mea e  
21 hoomaikai a e paipai aku ai i ka Olelo ana o ua Olelo makuahine



1 nei la. Aole e ku ana keia mahina i kapa ia ka "Mahina Olelo  
2 Hawaii" i lanui o ka mokuaina o Hawaii.

3 **Olelo Hawaii Month.** The month of February shall be known  
4 and designated as "Olelo Hawaii Month" to celebrate and  
5 encourage the use of Hawaiian language. This month is not and  
6 shall not be construed as a state holiday."

7 **PART II**

8 PAUKŪ 3. Ke hō'ōia nei ka 'aha'ōlelo kau kānāwai o ka  
9 Moku'āina o Hawai'i nei ua 'ae 'ia ma ke Kumukānāwai o ka Moku'āina  
10 o Hawai'i ka mālama 'ana mai a me ka paipai 'ana ho'i i ka 'ike a  
11 me ka nohona Kanaka, ka mo'olelo, a me ka 'ōlelo 'ōiwi o ua po'e  
12 lā. Ma loko o ka ha'awina X, paukū 4, 'ōlelo 'ia penei, "e paipai  
13 ka Moku'āina i ke a'o 'ana i ka 'ike a me ka nohona Kanaka, ka  
14 mo'olelo a me ka 'ōlelo 'ōiwi o ua po'e lā." A ma loko o ka  
15 ha'awina XII, paukū 7, 'ōlelo 'ia penei, "ke hō'ōia hou nei ka  
16 Moku'āina e mālama a ho'omalua 'ia nā kuleana a me nā pono a pau, i  
17 hana kuluma 'ia no ke ola pono o ka noho 'ana, nā 'ano o ka nohona  
18 a me ka ho'omana i pa'a mau i nā Kanaka ke ahupua'a, 'o lākou he  
19 mamona nā Kanaka maoli i noho ma ka pae 'āina o Hawai'i nei ma  
20 mua o ka makahiki 1778, a koe kekahi kuleana o ka Moku'āina e  
21 ho'oponopono i ia mau kuleana a me nā pono." 'Oiai ua 'ike 'ia he



1 pili pono ka 'ōlelo e ola ana i ka ho'omau 'ia ana o ke 'ano o ka  
2 nohona o ka po'e kânaka, ma ka ha'awina XV, paukū 4 ke ho'āmana  
3 'ia nei 'elua mau 'ōlelo kūhelu o ka moku'āina o Hawai'i, 'oia ho'i  
4 ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i a me ka 'ōlelo Pelekania.

5 Ma hope mai o ka makahiki 1978, ua hō'oia hou 'ia e ka  
6 Moku'āina 'o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i kekahi o nā 'ōlelo kūhelu, a ua  
7 kāko'o ka 'aha'ōlelo i nā hana e ho'okomo i ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma nā  
8 palapala 'oihana o ka moku'āina, nā kuni, a me nā hō'ailona. Ua  
9 mālama ka Moku'āina i ke koi 'ia a me ka pela pololei 'ia i ia mau  
10 kākau 'ana no ka lehulehu. I kēia mau lā 'o ka ho'ohana pono 'ana  
11 i ke kahakō a me ka 'okina he mea ia e hō'ike i ka mālama maika'i  
12 'ia o ka 'ōlelo 'ōiwi o kēia mau mokupuni, a he mea nō ho'i ia e  
13 ho'okō pono ai i ka mana'o a me ke kumu o ke kumukānāwai o ka  
14 moku'āina.

15 'O ke kumu o kēia Kānāwai 'oia ho'i ka mālama 'ana ma lalo o  
16 ka mana o ke kumukānāwai ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i, a me ka 'ike a me ka  
17 nohona Kanaka ma o ke koi 'ana e ho'ohana 'ia nā inoa Hawai'i a me  
18 ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i 'ano pololei loa a kūpono ma nā palapala, nā  
19 po'oinoaleka, nā hō'ailona, a me nā kuni, i ka wā e hana mua 'ia,  
20 ka hana hou 'ia, a i 'ole ka pa'i hou 'ana.

21 (English translation of PAUKŪ 3)



1 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that the Constitution of  
2 the State of Hawaii provides for the preservation and promotion  
3 of native Hawaiian culture, history, and language. Article X,  
4 section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution provides that "[t]he  
5 State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and  
6 language." Article XII, section 7, of the Hawaii State  
7 Constitution provides that "[t]he State reaffirms and shall  
8 protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for  
9 subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by  
10 ahupua'a tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who  
11 inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the  
12 right of the State to regulate such rights." Because  
13 maintaining a living language is an integral component of  
14 preserving a culture, article XV, section 4, of the Hawaii State  
15 Constitution establishes that English and Hawaiian are the  
16 official languages of Hawai'i.

17 Since 1978, the State has reaffirmed Hawaiian as one of its  
18 official languages, and the legislature has supported efforts to  
19 incorporate the Hawaiian language into official state writings,  
20 emblems, and signs. The State has ensured that these public  
21 inscriptions are mandatory, accurate, and spelled correctly.  
22 The use of proper Hawaiian macrons and glottal stops not only





1 shows the deserved respect for the native language of these  
2 islands, but also fully comports with the intent and purpose of  
3 the state constitution.

4 The purpose of this part is to ensure the constitutionally  
5 and ethically mandated preservation of the Hawaiian language and  
6 culture by requiring all newly created, replaced, or reprinted  
7 state and county documents, letterheads, symbols, and emblems,  
8 to contain accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names  
9 and language.

10 SECTION 4. Section 1-13.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "~~[+]§1-13.5[+]~~ **Hawaiian language; spelling.** [~~Macrons and~~  
13 ~~glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in~~  
14 ~~the Hawaiian language in]~~ (a) Effective January 1, 2013, all  
15 documents and letterheads prepared by or for state or county  
16 agencies or officials[+] shall include accurate, appropriate,  
17 and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper  
18 Hawaiian spelling and punctuation, including but not limited to  
19 macrons and glottal stops that punctuate the English word to  
20 which they relate; provided that any revision to conform any  
21 document or letterhead existing on or before January 1, 2013, to  
22 the requirements of this section, may be implemented when the



1 document or letterhead requires replacement or reprinting, or  
2 otherwise requires revision. Any rule, order, policy, or other  
3 act, official or otherwise, that prohibits or discourages the  
4 use of [~~these symbols~~] accurate, appropriate, and authentic  
5 Hawaiian names and words, as required by this section, shall be  
6 void.

7 (b) Hawaiian names and words shall be deemed accurate,  
8 appropriate, and authentic when printed in conformance with:

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

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

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

17 "[~~§~~5-6.5] **State language.** (a) The Hawaiian language  
18 is the native language of [~~Hawaii~~] Hawai'i and [~~may~~], effective  
19 January 1, 2013, shall be used on all emblems and symbols  
20 representative of the State, its departments, agencies, and  
21 political subdivisions[-]; provided that for emblems and symbols  
22 existing on January 1, 2013, conformance with this section may



1 be delayed until a replacement for the emblem or symbol  
2 otherwise is 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 **PART III**

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

9 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Hawaiian Language; Month; February; Public Documents;  
Letterhead; Symbols

**Description:**

Designates the month of February as "Olelo Hawaii Month" to celebrate and encourage the use of Hawaiian language. Requires that all letterheads, documents, symbols, and emblems of the State and other political subdivisions include accurate and appropriate Hawaiian names and language. Establishes references for accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and words, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation.

(SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

