
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE USAGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE WHEN REFERRING TO THE
NAMES OF PLACES AND GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES IN HAWAI'I.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaiian is an official language of the State, and
2 the legislature has a unique responsibility to promote the use
3 of the Hawaiian language and enhance its role in maintaining the
4 unique identity of our state; and
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6 WHEREAS, the State is committed to the preservation of
7 Hawaiian language and culture, and encourages the development of
8 increased Hawaiian language learning opportunities; and
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10 WHEREAS, the State is dedicated to educating residents and
11 visitors to the islands on the historical and cultural
12 significance of Hawaiian places and geographical features, such
13 as ahupua'a, valleys, mountains, rivers, streams, beaches, bays,
14 islands, etc.; and
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16 WHEREAS, utilizing Hawaiian place names allows the Hawaiian
17 people and residents of Hawai'i to have a greater cultural
18 understanding and sense of place in the islands, as the
19 histories of these places are important to communities and their
20 residents; and
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22 WHEREAS, each Hawaiian place name is associated with a
23 mo'olelo, or story, illustrating the importance of retaining
24 original Hawaiian place names, as English names for these
25 locations may not correspond with these mo'olelo, have equivalent
26 meanings, or convey the historical or cultural importance of
27 that location to the Hawaiian people; and
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29 WHEREAS, many individuals of Hawaiian ancestry trace
30 genealogy or genealogical connections to specific Hawaiian
31 places, illustrating the cultural importance of retaining these
32 Hawaiian place names; and



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2 WHEREAS, official signage, maps, tourism guidebooks, and
3 advertisements rarely display Hawaiian place names, leaving
4 tourists or newcomers to the islands potentially unaware of
5 Hawaiian place names, and the cultural and historical
6 significance of certain locations to the people of Hawai'i; and
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8 WHEREAS, the usage of Hawaiian names to refer to Hawaiian
9 places and geographical features are increasingly referred to
10 using non-Hawaiian names, for example the reference to "Lē'ahi"
11 as the "Diamond Head" or reference to "Mokoli'i" island as
12 "Chinaman's Hat"; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session
16 of 2018, that state offices, including state educational
17 entities and recreational facilities, are urged to use Hawaiian
18 names as the sole common names of Hawai'i's places and
19 geographical features; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that signage, maps and promotional
22 materials issued by the State or other agencies include Hawaiian
23 place names; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when a particular office, for a
26 particular reason, sees a need to use an English name, that the
27 Hawaiian name be used when applicable and accurate, e.g.,
28 "Tantalus Lookout" can be used to clarify a meeting location,
29 but should also be accompanied by the Hawaiian name, "Pu'u
30 'Ualaka'a"; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when translating names into
33 languages other than English or Hawaiian, the translating agency
34 will attempt to retain the original meaning of the Hawaiian name
35 in its translation, for example in a travel brochure on
36 "Yokohama Bay", the Hawaiian name "Keawa'ula" be utilized as the
37 the basis for the direct translation, as opposed to "Yokohama
38 bay"; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the written use of names of
 2 Hawai'i's places and geographical features, that the full
 3 spelling including the 'okina and kahakō be used in order to
 4 further inform the public of the proper pronunciation of such
 5 terms and promote such proper pronunciation; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that government employees are
 8 encouraged to pronounce the names of Hawai'i's places and
 9 geographical features properly, as pronounced in the Hawaiian
 10 language, and that those who are unfamiliar with the rules of
 11 pronouncing the Hawaiian language from the full spelling system
 12 be encouraged to learn to do so; and

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 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local media, private schools,
 15 the tourism industry and other businesses, and the general
 16 public are urged to also follow the above described practices to
 17 preserve what Hawaiian terms are still in use, increase the use
 18 of Hawaiian names that have already been largely replaced by
 19 English names, and to encourage research into terms that have
 20 been lost; and

21
 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 23 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 24 Education, the Chairperson of the Charter School Commission, the
 25 Chairperson of the Board of Regents and the President of the
 26 University of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Association of Independent
 27 Schools, the Hawai'i Association of Broadcasters, the two largest
 28 newspapers in each of the counties, and the President of the
 29 Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and names]
Paul Helt
Janie Smith
Ken Campbell
Paul Sking
Paul Sking
Guthrie Wheeler
Paul Sking

