
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE USE OR INCORPORATION OF THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INTO
THE VOCABULARY USED TO IDENTIFY LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA AND
INTO SAFETY WARNINGS AND ENCOURAGING THE IMPROVED
PRONUNCIATION OF WORDS IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaiian is one of the official languages of the
2 State, and the Legislature has a unique responsibility to
3 promote the use of the Hawaiian language and enhance the
4 Hawaiian language's role in maintaining the unique identity of
5 the State; and
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7 WHEREAS, flora and fauna of Hawai'i are highly distinctive
8 and closely associated with the Hawaiian language and culture;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, it has long been customary for various people who
12 have made Hawai'i their home to use Hawaiian terms as the common
13 name for local flora and fauna; and
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15 WHEREAS, in recent years, for various reasons, the use of
16 Hawaiian terms for flora and fauna found in Hawai'i has
17 decreased; for example, the fish long known locally as "manini"
18 is increasingly being referred to as a "convict tang", and the
19 plant long known locally as "pōhuehue" is increasingly being
20 called a "beach morning glory"; and
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22 WHEREAS, the use of Hawaiian names for local flora and
23 fauna has declined despite the fact that most people who move to
24 Hawai'i come from places without a tradition of calling local
25 flora and fauna by a particular name in the native language;
26 now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
30 that state offices, including state educational entities and
31 recreational facilities, are urged to use Hawaiian names as the
32 sole common names of local flora and fauna, including



1 distinctive Hawaiian names for different sizes or varieties of
2 flora and fauna when such names exist such as, "akule" for full
3 grown fish and "halalū" for smaller fish; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when it is important for
6 science related reasons, this body urges that the Hawaiian names
7 be used followed by the internationally recognized Latin name,
8 e.g., naupaka, *Scaevola taccada*, or with a more precise Hawaiian
9 name accompanied by the internationally recognized Latin name,
10 e.g., naupaka kahakai, *Scaevola taccada*; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when a particular office needs
13 to use an English name in a safety warning, this body urges that
14 office to use the Hawaiian name as well, and where possible, to
15 use the name in one or more languages indicating concern and
16 respect for the welfare of a particular community of tourists or
17 local residents; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that government employees are
20 encouraged to pronounce the names of local flora and fauna
21 properly in the Hawaiian language, as indicated by the spelling
22 readily available through websites such as wehewehe.org, where
23 all 'okina and kahakō are fully marked; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in written use of the names of
26 local flora and fauna, the full spelling include the 'okina and
27 kahakō in order to further inform the public of the proper
28 Hawaiian pronunciation of such terms and promote proper
29 pronunciation; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that government employees who are
32 unfamiliar with the rules of pronouncing the Hawaiian language
33 are encouraged to learn to do so; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local media, private schools,
36 the tourism industry and other businesses, and the general
37 public are encouraged to follow the above described practices to
38 preserve what Hawaiian terms are still in use and to increase
39 the use of Hawaiian terms that have already been largely
40 replaced by English terms; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that more effort be put toward
2 researching terms that have been lost or that are needed to
3 describe flora and fauna that have been recently identified as a
4 new species or introduced to Hawai'i from elsewhere; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,
8 who in turn is requested to transmit a copy to the Department of
9 Education's offices responsible for teaching science and
10 Hawaiian studies, Chairperson of the State Public Charter School
11 Commission, President of the University of Hawai'i System, who in
12 turn is requested to transmit a copy to its entities responsible
13 for researching and teaching science and Hawaiian studies,
14 President of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, President of the
15 Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, Executive Director of
16 the Hawai'i Association of Broadcasters, and the two largest
17 newspapers in circulation in each of the counties.

