
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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 and islands; 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 the
24 original Hawaiian place name, 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



1 places, illustrating the cultural importance of retaining these
2 Hawaiian place names; and

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4 WHEREAS, official signage, maps, tourism guidebooks, and
5 advertisements rarely display Hawaiian place names, leaving
6 tourists or newcomers to the islands potentially unaware of the
7 Hawaiian place names, and the cultural and historical
8 significance of certain locations to the people of Hawai'i; and

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10 WHEREAS, Hawaiian places and geographical features are
11 increasingly being referred to by their non-Hawaiian names, for
12 example the reference to "Lē'ahi" as "Diamond Head" or reference
13 to "Mokoli'i" island as "Chinaman's Hat"; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
17 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that state and county offices,
18 including state and county educational entities and recreational
19 facilities, are urged to use Hawaiian names as the sole common
20 names of Hawai'i's places and geographical features; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that signage, maps, street names in
23 all counties, and promotional materials issued by the State or
24 other agencies include the Hawaiian place names; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when a particular office, for a
27 particular reason, sees a need to use an English name, that the
28 Hawaiian name be used when applicable and accurate, e.g.,
29 "Tantalus Lookout" can be used to clarify a meeting location,
30 but should also be accompanied by the Hawaiian name, "Pu'u
31 'Ualaka'a"; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when translating names into
34 languages other than English or Hawaiian, the translating agency
35 will attempt to retain the original meaning of the Hawaiian name
36 in its translation, for example in a travel brochure on
37 "Yokohama Bay", the Hawaiian name "Keawa'ula" be utilized as the
38 basis for the direct translation, as opposed to "Yokohama Bay";
39 and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the written use of names of
42 Hawai'i's places and geographical features, that the full
43 spelling include the 'okina and kahakō in order to further inform



1 the public of the proper pronunciation of such terms and promote
2 such proper pronunciation; and

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

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

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
21 Board of Education, the Chairperson of the State Public Charter
22 School Commission, the Chairperson of the Board of Regents and
23 the President of the University of Hawai'i System, Mayors of the
24 several counties of Hawaii, Chairpersons of the several county
25 councils, the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, the
26 Hawai'i Association of Broadcasters, the two largest newspapers
27 in each of the counties, and the President of the Hawai'i Tourism
28 Authority.

