
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 article XV, section
2 4, of the Hawai'i state constitution establishes Hawaiian as one
3 of two official languages of the State of Hawai'i. In addition,
4 article X, section 4, of the Hawai'i state constitution provides
5 in pertinent part, "The State shall promote the study of
6 Hawaiian culture, history and language." Despite these
7 constitutional provisions, the Hawaiian language is
8 conspicuously absent in official government publications and
9 documents.

10 More than thirty years have passed since Hawaiian became an
11 official language of the State. The State now has more than
12 three thousand prekindergarten through grade twelve students who
13 are learning through Hawaiian and about half that number in
14 university classes each semester. However, more needs to be
15 done to ensure that those who learn and speak Hawaiian fluently
16 are not acquiring an impractical skill. As such, government



1 documents and other publically funded publications should be
2 made available in the Hawaiian language.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Require that, beginning on January 1, 2020, all public
5 acts and transactions be in the Hawaiian language; and

6 (2) Provide that upon any request by a member of the
7 public for a Hawaiian language version of any
8 government record, paper, or document, shall make all
9 reasonable efforts to make that government record,
10 paper, or document available in the Hawaiian language.

11 SECTION 2. Section 1-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 **"§1-13 Official languages.** English and Hawaiian are the
14 official languages of Hawaii. Whenever there is found to exist
15 any radical and irreconcilable difference between the English
16 and Hawaiian version of any of the laws of the State, the
17 English version shall be held binding. Beginning January 1,
18 2020, Hawaiian shall [~~not~~] be required for public acts and
19 transactions."

20 SECTION 3. Section 92-29, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended to read as follows:



1 "§92-29 Reproduction of government records. Any public
2 officer having the care and custody of any record, paper, or
3 document may cause the same to be photographed,
4 microphotographed, reproduced on film, or copied to an
5 electronic format. Any device or electronic storage system used
6 to copy or reproduce the record, paper, or document shall
7 accurately reflect the information in the original thereof in
8 all details.

9 Upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian
10 language version, the public officer having the care and custody
11 of a government record, paper, or document shall make all
12 reasonable efforts to make it available in the Hawaiian
13 language."

14 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

17

INTRODUCED BY: *Fakali Bm*

JAN 24 2017



H.B. NO. 1264

Report Title:

Hawaiian Language; Government Documents

Description:

Clarifies that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions beginning on January 1, 2020. Requires that upon request by a member of the public for the Hawaiian language version, the public officer having the care and custody of a government record, paper, or document shall make all reasonable efforts to make it available in Hawaiian.

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