

Asuncion, Leo R

From: Yee, Bryan C
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 11:45 AM
To: Asuncion, Leo R
Subject: FW: Official Spelling of "Hawaii"

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From: Apuna, Dawn T
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 11:43 AM
To: Yee, Bryan C <bryan.c.yee@hawaii.gov>
Subject: Official Spelling of "Hawaii"

Hi Bryan,

You asked whether there is an official spelling of the word "Hawaii" by the State and whether there is authority provided to State agencies to determine the spelling.

Act 169 (1992) formally authorized and encouraged the use of macrons/kahako and glottal stops/`okina whenever words or terms in the Hawaiian language are used in documents prepared by or for state or county agencies and officials. Under Act 169 (1992), HRS Sec 1-13.5 was enacted and states:

Hawaiian language; spelling. Macrons and glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in the Hawaiian language in documents prepared by or for state or county agencies or officials. Any rule, order, policy, or other act, official or otherwise, that prohibits or discourages the use of these symbols shall be void.

(Emphasis added).

There have been several unsuccessful attempts over the years at the legislature to either require the use of macrons and glottal stops, or specifically require that "Hawai`i" be the official name of the State.

Basically, there is no official spelling of Hawaii/Hawai`i, and State agencies have the authority to determine the spelling in official documents.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require further research.

Thank you.

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