

A COMPARISON OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ORTHOGRAPHY
USED IN THE HAWAIIAN DICTIONARY AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE 'AHAHUI 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I SPELLING COMMITTEE

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Introduction

In the present Hawaiian Dictionary, Elbert states the principles upon which orthographic decisions are based and the role of a lexicographer in setting out a dictionary.

...no dictionary founded on the methods of modern scholarship can prescribe as to usage; it can only inform on the basis of the facts of usage.

(The lexicographer) is a reporter and in his role of lexicographer he never takes the part of teacher... or purist.

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Where more than one spelling are common, he has chosen to give the definition with the preferred spelling and include a cross reference.

In the new edition of the dictionary, the orthography principles will follow those described in the Hawaiian Grammar (also by Elbert and Pukui) in section 2.12 . The new dictionary will also introduce the use of a word internal period to indicate stress groups, e.g. ho'o.ulu, mā.lama, hei.au, and kū.nā.nā.

These orthographic conventions must not be treated as prescriptive spelling conventions. But neither can the spellings found in the dictionary be ignored especially since most of the community sees the dictionary as the only authoritative source for the Hawaiian language. The purpose of the 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i's Report on Spelling Recommendations was precisely this prescriptive set of rules which had previously been lacking. The primary purpose of these rules is to set a standard to be used in all classrooms and language learning experiences.

Here now are the areas in which there are differences between the forthcoming dictionary (1986 paha) and the 'A'ŌH recommendations, using the categories and numbering of the report as indexing tools:

BROAD RULES

(Points 1,2,6 ,8 & 12 are in agreement.)

3. -Dict. gives two spellings: *awaawa, awāwa.*
- Use of word internal dot has eliminated dict.'s need for kahakō on most words in Kalikimaka list.
- Dict. retains present spelling of Nūioka words **
- All single vowel content words written with kahakō in dict. ('i)
- kahi and puhi in dict.

4. Dict. rule: ...the preferred spelling contains -w- after -o-, -ō-, -u- and -ū-, ...if the element exists without initial ko- and ku- (as in welo, kōwelo) or if the vowel after the -w- is long.

Some alternate spellings not shown, e.g. pōwā, pōā. **

'A'ŌH rule specifies that w shall only be used to spell the true w, not the w-glide.

5. Capitalization is a spelling rule not addressed by the dict.
7. Dict. only notes spellings with non-native letters, gives entry in native letters only.
9. Dashes used in dict. entry, however, in Grammar such words are written as one in example sentences. Rule on use of hyphen: ...used to separate component parts in order to facilitate pronunciation and comprehension...
...also to separate the component parts in names of winds, rains, stars, lua fighting holds, and tapa and mat designs... Hyphens are inserted...
in words that consist of more than a single phrase.
10. Use of quotations is a spelling rule not addressed by the dict.
11. Dict rule on compounds: The names of plants and animals are written as single, unhyphenated words if the meaning of the whole is not decipherable from the meaning of the parts. Hyphens are inserted in names of plants that consist of more than a single phrase. The parts in names of plants and animals that consist of a single base followed by one or more than one qualifier are written as separate words: maile lau li'i, maile lau nui.

'A'ŌH rule: Compound terms shall be written as one word if the meaning is not evident from its parts. ...written as two words if the second term is the distinguishing name for a certain type of plant, fish, or other general noun.

(These rules seem to agree, but the application of them to specific words by different people seem to be yielding different results.)

** Only the two points marked with this symbol are irreconcilably different.

THE SPELLING OF GRAMMATICAL PARTICLES AND INTERJECTIONS

The only differences noted are as follows:

DICTIONARY	'A'ŌH	
\bar{a} \bar{o}	a o	'until' with nouns and verbs imperative marker
neia peia (keia)	nēia peia (keia)	this like this this
kō kō	ko ko	k-possessive (as in ko ke kumu) neutral 'your'

Here is a comparison of the possessives.

a	a	
o	o	
kā	kā	
kō	ko	**
na	na	
no	no	
ka'u	ka'u	
ko'u	ko'u	
kāu	kāu	
kou	kou	
kāna	kāna	
kona	kona	
na'u	na'u	
no'u	no'u	
nāu	nāu	
nou	nou	
nāna	nāna	
nona	nona	

WORD DIVISIONS

The only differences noted are as follows:

Dict. treats these as one word: ma'ō, ma'ane'i, mauka, makai (but with other prepositions these are two words, e.g. i uka); mamuli, iāia, sometimes iā'oe, sometimes āpau, uoki, nona'e, noho'i.

Dict. treats as two words: ka i as in 'O Lani ka i hele mai.

*Dict. has mai ia'u, mai iāia, mai iā'oe, mai iā (Lani). ***

Numbers separated in dict. for reference to meaning. Spelling rule can specify how to spell them in a sentence.