

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ‘AHAHUI ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I 1978 HAWAIIAN SPELLING PROJECT

Due to the confusion created among teachers and students of the Hawaiian language by the large number of variations in spelling found in the various dictionaries, texts, and classrooms, the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i initiated in 1978 a project to propose a uniform spelling system for our organization until such time that a standardized Hawaiian orthography is established. We urge the use of this spelling system by our members and others in all Hawaiian writing whether it be on the blackboard, in publications, on signs, or on record covers. We further encourage all using the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i recommended spellings to note this use in any publications as a means of providing for the identification of those products in which Hawaiian spelling is not treated as a matter of minor importance. This identification may take one of the following forms below or some other appropriate wording.

Pa‘i ‘ia ma ka pela Hawai‘i i ho‘onohono ‘ia e ke kōmike pela o ka ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i o 1978.

Hawaiian terms spelling in accordance with recommendations of the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i spelling project of 1978.

At present the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i has not compiled a comprehensive list of Hawaiian words spelled according to the guidelines established by this project. We are presenting here however a list of the spelling of those grammatical words where most of the confusion existed in the past as well as a list of guidelines for other vocabulary. We hope that this will be of assistance to teachers.

Me ka mahalo,

Pila Wilson

July 24, 1978

‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Spelling Committee Recommendations

Broad Rules

1. The **‘okina** shall be consistently spelled as (‘) and not (’). The typewriter mark (‘) is acceptable for the **‘okina** as it replaces both (‘) and (’).

Note: The (‘) is best described to some publishers as a single open quote.

2. The apostrophe (’). has been rejected as a symbol used in spelling Hawaiian.

<u>Note:</u>	<u>Rejected</u>	<u>Accepted</u>
	hana’i	hana ai
	ke ’lii	ke ali’i
	‘ike’a	‘ikea

3. Long duration vowels shall be indicated with the **kahakō** (̄) and the **kahakō** shall have no other use.

Note: Reduplicated words like **awāwa** and **ikiki** sometimes spelled with double vowels in the dictionary shall be spelled with the **kahakō**.

Note: The **kahakō** found in the dictionary entries for the following words has been dropped as the usage is to mark a stressed short vowel rather than a true long duration vowel.

Kalikimaka, ‘ekelesia, ‘oia’i’o, Ianuali, ‘eiwa, aiwa, kanaiwa, ‘aono, kanaono, ho’ouli, ho’oui, ho’ou’i, ho’oulu, ho’ounu, ho’ouku, ho’oumu, ho’oukali, ho’ouna, ho’ouka, ho’ounauna, ho’oukauka, ho’oukana.

Note: The **kahakō** in the dictionary entries for the following words has been moved forward as the **kahakō** appears to have been misplaced in the dictionary due to stress on a short vowel following a long duration vowel.

Nūioka, āiwa, āiwaiwa

Note: A **kahakō** has been added to the dictionary entries of **‘ī** (say, finest, etc.) and **‘ō** (there) where there appears to have been an oversight in the dictionary.

Note: A **kahakō** has been removed from the dictionary entries of **puhi** (eel) and **kahi** (one, the place, the little) where there appears to have been an oversight in the dictionary. Note that this includes all the derivations of **kahi**, including **lōkahi, pākahi**, etc.

4. The w shall only be used to spell the true w pronounced as a soft v, v, or w. W-glides which can only be pronounced as w will be deleted in words like **au(w)ē**, **kau(w)ā**, and **pō(w)ā**.

Note: Words containing w-glides always have the w-glide following a u or o. Not all words formerly spelled with a w after a u or o contain a w-glide. Note **pu‘uwai** and **olowī**. Most words in which the w is a w-glide have an alternate spelling in the Pukui-Elbert dictionary without the w, thus allowing non-native speakers of Hawaiian a means of finding out the status of a w following u or o in older writings.

5. Any word used as a proper name shall be capitalized including terms for family members when used as names like **Kaina** and **Pāpā**. Common nouns when used as proper names will also be capitalized as in **Nui no ‘o Puhi** in the song **‘Opihi Ē**.

6. Any single word modifier of a name shall be capitalized along with the name. **Kīna‘u Lio** *not* **Kina‘u lio**, **Kalihi Uka** *not* **Kalihi uka**, **Kapi‘olani Pāka** *not* **Kapi‘olani pāka**, and **Kona ‘Ākau** *not* **Kona ‘ākau**.

7. Spell Hawaiian words with non-native letters when so pronounced by native speakers on a consistent and non-dialectal level as **‘ekalesia**. Use Hawaiian letters to spell borrowed terms if they are so pronounced on a consistent and nondialectal level as is **kopa** (from soap).

8. Do not capitalize proper names when they occur within a word. Write **Waikāne** *not* **WaiKāne**.

9. Dashes should be deleted from the spelling of proper names. Write **Lili‘uokalani** *not* **Lili‘u-o-ka-lani**. Dashes should also be deleted from the spelling of common nouns as well.

10. Quotations from earlier writings should occur as originally written in quotation marks. If a writer desires to rewrite a quotation or some longer work in the new writing system he should note that the original spelling has been changed.

11. Compound terms shall be written as one word if the meaning is not evident from its parts. i.e. **‘ōkole‘oi‘oi**, **makaaniani**, **wāwae‘iole**. Compound terms shall be written as two words if the meaning is evident from its parts. i.e. **moa kāne**, **lei hulu**, **kai nīoi**, or if the second term is the distinguishing name for a certain type of plant, fish, or other general noun. i.e. **kalo mana**, **kō kea**, **ula papapa**.

12. Proper names shall be written as one word unless a single word modifier modifies the whole name rather than one of its parts. i.e. **Kalihi Uka**, **Ko‘olau Poko**, **Ko‘olau Loa**.

Note: There is a fine line of choice in points 7, 11, and 12. These are areas in which individual terms must be considered according to the guidelines here outlined. This should be a future project of major importance for the ‘Ahahui ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

The Spelling of Grammatical Particles and Interjections

Grammatical particles and interjections tend to vary in pronunciation depending on several factors including pauses by speakers, emphasis, and the pronunciation of surrounding words. Although they vary in pronunciation they have but a single spelling no matter where they are used.

1. With interjections having a single vowel, that vowel is marked as long. Such single vowel interjections not starting with another consonant begin with an **‘okina**.

‘Ā!	
‘Ē!	Note the difference between ‘Ē! and e . ‘Ē, e ke keiki!
‘Ō!	
‘Ū!	
Kā!	Pronounced tsā, tā, kā, chā, etc.
Hū!	
Hā!	
etc.	

2. Besides interjections the only grammatical particles with an initial **‘okina** are:

‘ia	passive marker	‘Ai ‘ia ka i‘a.
‘ana	-ing gerund marker	ka hele ‘ana mai (But E hele mai ana)
‘eā	eh	‘Ono, ‘eā.
‘o	subject marker	Ua ‘ai ‘o Kimo.
‘o	topic marker	‘O ko‘u hale kēia.

Note: **‘o** 'topic marker' not **o** 'of' is used in situations like **ka mokupuni ‘o Hawai‘i** and **ke ali‘i ‘o Kalākaua** even when the English translation is 'of'. In Hawaiian these are cases of identity rather than possession.

Note: **i** 'to', **ua** 'past tense marker', and **a** in **‘akahi nō a** are all written without the **‘okina**.

3. Besides the interjections mentioned earlier, the following single vowel grammatical words are written with a **kahakō**.

ē	vocative particle	E ke ali‘i ē. ‘Ono, ē.
kā	particle of surprise	‘O ia kā!
lā	locative particle	Aia lā! Ke lauahi lā ‘o Pele iā Puna. Note lā forms combined forms with the directionals in which lā is short: akula, a‘ela, maila, ihola.
lā	particle of emphasis	‘O wai lā! ‘A‘ole lā!
mā	pluralizer of names.	Pehea ‘o Ke‘ala mā?
nō	particle of emphasis	Maika‘i nō.
pū	together	Ua hele pū.
‘ē	other, before	Hele i kahi ‘ē. Ua hele ‘ē ma mua.

kā	possessive marker	kā Lani pōpoki
nā	the (plural)	nā pua

Note: All the single vowel particles that come after a verb or noun are spelled with a **kahakō**.

Note: The only single vowel particles that come before a noun or verb that are spelled with a long vowel are **kā** 'possessive marker' and **nā** 'the (plural)'. All others are written short.

Note: The possessives **o**, **a**, **ko**, **no**, and **na**, are written short. **ko** is also written short when it means 'your'.

a 'until' is also written short, as is the vocative preposition **e** in **e ke ali'i**.

4. Long vowels were decided on for the following grammatical words.
kēia, nēia, kēlā, kēnā.

5. Short vowels were decided on for the following grammatical words.
peia (like that), **kona, ona, nona, kou** (possessives)

Word Divisions

Word division decisions were made based on Hawaiian meanings rather than on English translations, with contractions written as one word.

1. Prepositions, possessives, object markers, and subject markers are always divided from a previous and following word. Examples:

ma luna
ma hea
ma laila
ma uka
ma ‘ō
ma ‘ane‘i
i luna
o luna
o ka hale
a laila
no laila
i nehinei
a me
me he **me he manu ala** 'like a bird'
no ka mea
i o **i o Hina ala** 'to Hina'

i ona ala
i o‘u nei
ma o **ma o ka ‘ekalesia** 'through the church'
ma ona ala
iā ia
iā ‘oe
 But..... **ia‘u** (contraction of **iā au** 'to me, me, at me')
i ia mea as in **Ua ‘ike au i ia mea ma mua.** *compare* **Wela ia mea.**
‘o ia **Ua hele ‘o ia.** 'he went'. Also **‘O ia kā!** 'really!'
‘o wai
‘o ia nei (usually pronounced **‘oinei**)
‘o ia ala (usually pronounced **‘oiala**)
ko ia nei (usually pronounced **koinei**)
ko ia ala (usually pronounced **koiala**)
e ia nei 'hey you 1' (usually pronounced **einei**) **E ia nei, hele mai**
e ia ala " " (usually pronounced **eiala**) **E ia ala, e maliu mai.**
 Compare **e ia nei** to **e laua nei** 'hey you 2' and **e lakou nei** 'hey you more than two'

2. Other terms sometimes joined formerly but now separated.

he aha
‘o wai
a i ‘ole 'or'
a pau
nō ho‘i (often pronounced with a short **nō**)
ho‘i hā
nō na‘e
a hiki **Ua hele a hiki i Kaua‘i.**
a puni **Ua hele a puni ‘o Maui.**
ua oki 'stop it' **Ua oki kou uē ‘ana!** (usually pronounced **uoki**)
 But.....**kai** contraction of **ka mea i** **‘O wai kai hele?**
 But.....**maila, a‘ela, akula, ihola;** contractions formed with the directionals and the particles **lā,** or **ala**
maiā 'from with people's names and pronouns' **maiā Kimo mai, maiā ‘oe mai**
mai a‘u 'from me' Written as two words on analogy with **me a‘u.**

3. Numbers 1-99 are written as one word. **haneli,** **kaukani,** and **milionā** are written as separate words. Examples:

‘umikūmāono 16
kanalimakūmāhā 54
ho‘okahi haneli iwakāluakūmālua 122
kanaha 40
‘eiwa kaukani ‘elima haneli kanawalukumamāhiku 9,587