

Pronouncing words in Hawaiian:

Hawai'i is also the only state to have two official languages, Hawaiian and English. However, a 3rd unofficial language is also widely spoken, Pidgin, which is a slang inserting and combining words from many aspects of island life and the numerous immigrant cultures in the state.

The Hawaiian language was written down by American missionaries in the 1800's and is based on English letters. There are 7 consonants (H, K, L M, N, P, W) and five vowels (A, E, I, O, U). The consonants are pronounced as in English (with the exception of W), but unlike English, the vowels each have only one sound and are voiced individually. There are no silent vowels or consonants.

A	“ah” as in <i>car</i>
E	“eh” as in <i>wet</i>
I	“ee” as the “y” in <i>pity</i>
O	“oh” as in <i>pole</i>
U	“oo” as in <i>moon</i>
W	After I and E pronounced like a “ V ”, example: Haleiwa (Hah-leh-ee- vah) After U and O pronounced like a “ W ” At the start of a word or after A pronounced like a “ W ” or a “ V ”, examples: Wa ikiki (Wa hee-kee-kee), Ka wika (Kah- v ee-kah)
‘	The ‘Okina (‘) is used to indicate a glottal stop, like the hyphen in “uh-oh”. It is used between vowels or at the start of a word beginning with a vowel. It will never be used in front of a consonant.
-	The Kahakō is used over vowels to indicate a stressing or holding the sound for a bit longer.