Abstract
This paper describes Hawai'i Local English, a variety of English that is neither Hawai'i Creole English (aka Pidgin) nor standard North American English. Although it is very much like North American English, it shares many characteristics with Hawai'i Creole English. These characteristics include palatalization of /t/ and /d/ before /r/, full vowels in unstressed syllables, absence of off-glides, lack of syllabic nasals, deletion of postvocalic /r/, primary stress pattern shifts, primary and secondary stress in compounds, intonation in yes/no questions, lack of lengthening of last stressed syllable, the diphthong /aw/, insertion of a glottal stop in Japanese names, verb agreement, singular much with plural nouns, past perfect for past tense, yeah as a tag, you folks as a pronoun, kinship terms, and names in their full form.

Introduction
In recent years, attention has been focused on the creole spoken in Hawai'i known to residents as “Pidgin” but called “Hawai'i Creole English” (HCL) by linguists. The view taken by many—both linguists and residents—is that in Hawai'i, residents speak either Pidgin or (North American) English, or both, but little attention has been paid to the fact that the variety of English spoken on a regular basis by the majority of people raised in Hawai'i, i.e. what I will call “Hawai'i Local English” (HLE), differs from the English spoken on the North American continent. This paper describes this variety and contrasts it with an idealized North American English (NAE). It concludes with a discussion of how HLE relates to HCE. Let us first look at the indicators that set HLE apart from NAE, but as we do, let us keep in mind that these indicators form a cluster of features. I am not suggesting that all speakers of HLE exhibit all of these characteristics, but they do often exhibit the majority of them. There is also regional and social variation within HLE; hence, for example, a speaker from Makawao, Maui will speak differently from one from downtown Honolulu. HLE, like any form of human language, is not monolithic.

Phonology
Palatalization Of /t/ And /d/ Before /r/
Examples of this palatalization are track and dream, pronounced [tʃræk] and [dʒrɪm]. This palatalization also spreads leftward to an /s/ that precedes a sequence of /tr/, when a syllable starts with /s/, as in [ʃtrɪst] street and [kæʃʃrækʃən] construction. I suspect that this palatalization was introduced by Portuguese immigrants who came to Hawai'i in large numbers in the late 1800's and early 1900's. In Portuguese, /s/ is palatalized when it occurs in syllable-initial position after /e/ and before a voiceless stop, e.g. in eʃʃtimar, ‘estimate’ Eʃʃpanha, ‘Spain’ and eʃʃcritor, ‘writer’.

Full Vowels in Unstressed Syllables
My name, Kenneth, which on the mainland is pronounced [kɛnθ] or [kɛnIθ], with a reduced vowel in the second syllable, is pronounced [kɛnθ] in HLE, with a full vowel in the second syllable. One thing that contributes to this pronunciation is the tendency to give almost secondary stress to the second syllable of a two-syllable word that on the mainland would have a primary-unstressed pattern; hence my name is pronounced more like Kɛnèth than Kɛnèsth. Another example of this phenomenon is the word semester. In NAE, this word is pronounced [ˈsɛmɪstər] or
[semester] with a reduced vowel (either /i/ or /ə/) in the first syllable and primary stress on the second syllable. In HLE, there is weak secondary stress on the first syllable as well as primary on the second, and the vowel in the first syllable is the full vowel [i]. Thus the word is pronounced [semiBye]. Another example of this phenomenon is a clear [o] pronunciation of the first vowel in o'clock. This type of clear pronunciation of vowels could be the result of being taught in school to pronounce clearly or the effect of contact with languages (e.g. Japanese and Filipino languages) that have clear vowels.

Absence of Off-glides
The stressed vowels /iy, ey, uw, ow/ in mainland English have the off-glides /y/ and /w/ associated with them. These off-glides are often missing in HLE. In particular, the off-glide [w] is missing from [uw] and [ow] so that do and go are pronounced [du] and [go] rather than [duw] and [gow]. The /y/ of /ey/ is noticeably missing in syllables that end in [l]; so detail is pronounced [diByel] rather than [diBye]. The distinction between sell and sale is lost; hence an item is for [sɛl] rather than for [sæl]. This neutralization parallels the lack of distinction between Mary [mɛri] and merry [mɛri], which is widespread on the mainland. This neutralization that occurs only before /x/ on the mainland is generalized to “before liquids,” i.e. before /x/ and /l/ in HLE.

Possibly related to this is the fact that in HLE, the word variable only has three syllables, while in NAE it has four. In NAE it is pronounced [vɛrɪəˈbæl] or [vɛrɪəˈbæl], while in HLE it is pronounced [vɛrɪəˈbæl]. In all cases, there is primary stress on the first syllable. A parallel word, valuable is pronounced with either three or four syllables in NAE, i.e. either as [vælɪəˈbæl] or [vælɪəˈbæl]. Again, what has happened in a word with one liquid (/l/ in the case of valuable) in NAE has been extended to a similar word that contains the other liquid (variable) in HLE.

Lack of Syllabic Nasals
In NAE, an alveolar nasal serves as a syllabic in an unstressed syllable following an alveolar stop. In turn, the alveolar stop before a syllabic nasal is either glottalized or replaced by a glottal stop. Two example words are mountain [mawʔn], and kitten [kɪʔn]. These phenomena do not occur in HLE. These two words, for example, are pronounced with a clear [t] followed by a full vowel: [maʔtɛn], and [kɪtɛn]. Again, there is near-secondary stress on the second syllable. Other examples include important and wouldn’t.

Deletion of Postvocalic /r/
Postvocalic /r/ is often deleted in HLE but not in standard NAE. Thus department is pronounced [departmɛnt]. The word source (as pronounced by Honolulu City Prosecutor Keith Kaneshiro on TV) sounds more like sauce. This seems to be more common among older speakers of HLE, such as Daniel Inouye, who represents Hawai’i in the US Senate.

Primary Stress Pattern Shifts
Latinate verbs like estimate that end in –ate have primary stress on the first syllable and secondary on the last in NAE, but they have primary on the final syllable and secondary on the first in HLE. Hence this example verb is éstimàte in NAE but éstimàtor in HLE. The difference in stress patterns is more noticeable in the related –ator noun forms. Compare NAE éstimàtor with HLE éstimàtor. Other examples are alternate, duplicate, graduate, and moderate.

In general, there is a tendency for primary stress to move rightward in HLE. Hence some place names like Hong Kong and The Philippines have primary stress on the first and secondary on the last syllable in NAE but primary on the last syllable and secondary on the first in HLE. Thus Hong Kong is pronounced Hóng Kóng in HLE, and The Philippines is pronounced The Philippines.
Primary and Secondary Stress in Compound Nouns and Phrases
Two-syllable compound nouns in NAE have a 1-2 stress pattern, while in HLE they have a 2-1 pattern. Compare NAE surfboard with HLE surfboard (Robert Boom, personal communication). A fruit commonly associated with Hawai‘i is the pineapple, which is pronounced pineapple in NAE but pineapple in HLE. Similarly, NAE compound phrases have a 1-2 pattern while HLE have a 2-1 pattern. Compare NAE Ewa bōund with HLE Ewa bōund (as pronounced by Jason Yosuda, traffic reporter for KHON-TV in Honolulu). Diamond Head is heard as Diamond Head in the Kap'olani Community College announcement on Channel 355.2

3-1 Intonation in Yes/No Questions
This intonation pattern could be considered one of the most noticeable characteristics of HLE. On the mainland, yes/no questions start off with a mid level pitch (2), then the pitch rises to (3) on the last stressed syllable and continues to rise at the end of the question. In contrast, in HLE, a yes/no question starts off at level 3, and then drops to level 1 on the last major stress. Compare:

(1) NAE: (2) Are you (3) ready?
HLE: (3) Are you (1) ready?

Lack Of Lengthening Of Last Stressed Syllable
In NAE, the last stressed syllable of a sentence is lengthened. This lengthening is lacking in HLE. Thus the expression as well, if pronounced in sentence final position, will have a lengthened /e:/ in NAE, but not in HLE.

(2) NAE: I like this one as /wel/. HLE: I like this one as /wel/.
(as pronounced by KHON-TV anchor Kathy Muneno)

The Diphthong /aw/
The diphthong /aw/ as in /dawn/ down, is pronounced in a particular way in HLE that I find hard to describe. Perhaps the off-glide is given more time, making it more like the full vowel /u/. In other words, /dawn/ is pronounced [daun]. This could be historically related to the fact that in Hawaiian, vowels are clearer—even in diphthongs.

Insertion of a Glottal Stop in Japanese Names with Geminate Vowels
Examples of this phenomenon are [niʃiʔi] for Nishii [fuðʒiʔi] for Fujii. This, no doubt, derives from the fact that usually in Hawaiian, what would otherwise be geminate vowels are separated by a glottal stop, e.g. ali‘i ‘chief’, and Kabo‘olaue, the name of one of the Hawaiian Islands.

Syntax
Singular Verb with Plural Subject
Plural verb forms are used with plural subjects in NAE; in HLE, a singular verb is often used with a plural subject:

(3) NAE: Heavy showers are predicted for the Big Island.
HLE: Heavy showers is predicted for the Big Island.

Singular Much With Plural Nouns
Many is used with plural nouns in NAE; much serves the same function in HLE:

(4) NAE: How many toppings do you want?
HLE: “How much toppings do you want?” (From a Pizza Hut phone opera-
tor on O’ahu.)

Past Perfect Used for Simple Past
In NAE, the past perfect tense is used as a secondary tense, i.e. it is used in combination with other tenses, usually the plain past, in order to refer to a point of time farther back in the past than that referred to by the past tense. The following sentence illustrates this usage:

(5) NAE: I tried to open the door, but my son had locked it from the other side.
In contrast, the past perfect is used in HLE as a primary tense that simply indicates that something happened in the past. Gary Kanada (personal communication) reported that in the variety of HCE spoken on the island of Kaua‘i, bad is used as a past tense marker. This feature seems to be shared by this variety of HCE and HLE. This use of the past perfect is illustrated in the following quotation from an email written by a speaker of HLE. A speaker of NAE would have used either the simple past purchased or the present perfect have purchased in this passage.

(6) HLE “On another note, I’ve been thinking of you a lot lately. I had purchased a two-bedroom unit at Yacht Club Terrace, on Kaneohe Bay Drive. I’d like to rent out one of the rooms because I want to pay my mortgage off in 10 years.”

Yeah As A Tag
One of the easy-to-spot indicators of HLE is the use of yeab [yæ] as a tag. Compare the following:

(7) NAE: It’s humid today, isn’t it?  
HLE: It’s humid today, yeah?

You Folks as a Pronoun
You guys, which has become common on the mainland as a second person plural pronoun, is heard regularly in Hawai‘i. But competing with you guys is, what I would consider an older form—at least in Hawai‘i—you folks. This form is often heard in settings in which the speaker (of HLE) shows deference for his addressees, as, for example in a department store setting in which the speaker is a clerk attempting to sell a domestic appliance to a married couple. In sum, I would say that for speakers who have both forms, you guys is informal and you folks is formal.

The Use of Kinship Terms
Kinship terms (Aunty, Uncle, Brother, Sister, Cousin) are frequently used in HLE to refer to or address people—both known and unknown. Recently, when I was driving aggressively near Ala Moana Shopping Center in Honolulu, the driver in another car, who appeared to be a speaker of HLE, shouted out at me, “Brother, slow down!” In HCE, “brother” as a vocative term is reduced to [brə].

Lexicon
Certain words and expressions are indicators of HLE: package for NAE (shopping) bag, wagon for (shopping) cart, talk story for carry on an informal conversation, chicken skin for goose bumps, shave ice for Japanese kakigōri, i.e. ice like that in a North American snow cone but of a finer grain, more like Italian granita. Certain Hawaiian words: pau for finished, puka for hole, lanai for balcony, makai for inland, makai for seaward, ‘okole for buttocks, akamai for smart, hapai for pregnant, ‘ohana for family, keiki for children, hanai for adopted, haole for white person, tutu for granny, pupu for appetizer, ‘ono for delicious, kuleana for responsibility, etc. Again is often used as a sentence-initial filler (like well or actually) in explanations even when nothing is being repeated. For example, someone is talking about the stock market and says, “Again, this will depend on how the European market does” without having previously said, “This will depend on how the European market does.” Landmarks (e.g. Diamond Head and Ewa) are favored over the cardinal directions (east, west, etc.) when giving directions. The word town by itself refers specifically to Honolulu. It can also be combined with town names as in Kailua town. The full form cannot (rather than the contraction can’t) is used more frequently in spoken HLE than it is in spoken NAE. The adjective Hawaiian is used in HLE for people of Hawaiian ancestry and for things that are related to the native Hawaiian culture. Speakers of NAE are likely to use Hawaiian to describe people and objects from Hawai‘i, as they would use Californian to describe people and items from California. In HLE, people from Hawai‘i are local rather than Hawaiian. Of particular interest is the word rubbish, which is used for garbage/trash. Rubbish is used in the UK and in some parts of New England, which maintained longer and stronger contact
with England, compared to the rest of the Atlantic coast. Sailors on whaling ships that sailed from New England ports (in particular New Bedford, Massachusetts) and called at Lahaina and other parts of Hawai‘i most likely brought with them not only their garbage/trash but also their word rubbish for it.4

Names
While male names are commonly shortened on the mainland, speakers of HLE favor full first names: Kenneth rather than Ken, Ronald rather than Ron, Rodney rather than Rod, Gilbert rather than Gil, Stanley rather than Stan, Jeffrey rather than Jeff, Russel rather than Russ.

HLE and HCE
Something should be said about how HLE relates to HCE. When I first started this project of describing HLE, I believed that I would find some elements of HLE that are not present in HCE (as described by Sakoda and Siegel (2003) and by numerous authors mentioned in the reference section of their book). The only indicator of HLE that is not in HCE that I can think of is the contrast involving [brə] and “brother” as a vocative term (mentioned above). The former is used in HCE and the latter in HLE. Thus what makes HLE different from NAE is that it contains certain elements of HCE. What is of interest though, is that those elements often go undetected, and the speakers of HLE, who may or may not speak HCE, are said to be speaking English when they are speaking HLE. They are indeed speaking English, but what they are speaking is a variety of English which differs in interesting ways from NAE.

An examination of HLE raises the question of whether HLE is just decreolized HCE. I could have used the term “decreolized” in my description of this variety of English, but to me, the term makes it sound as if one starts with a creole form, in this case, Hawai‘i Creole English, and derives something from it. I do not think that is the history of Hawai‘i Local English. I believe that parallel to the evolution of HCE, there developed a form of English that took NAE as its standard but has never completely merged with the mainland form of the language, possibly because of distances—both geographical and psychological. Speakers of HLE do not perceive themselves as members of the mainland community.

Notes
1 This paper was presented at the VII International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific: Migration, Identity and Cultural Heritage at Gotland University, 20-25 August 2007. I thank Hanh thi Nguyen and Brian Rugen for their comments and suggested examples. All errors and shortcomings in this paper are my own.
2 This stress shift occurs regardless of the stress pattern of the surrounding words, thus it is not a shift of prominent stress to maintain the rhythm of the metric grid. On a second note, some speakers of HLE, when asked about this phenomenon, recognize it, but say that it is Pidgin. It is certainly a characteristic of Pidgin (HCE), but I think it is also a characteristic of HLE. Otherwise, why would it occur in, for example, a planned recorded TV announcement that is supposedly in English?
3 Several of these Hawaiian words have one or more long vowels, but since vowel length is not phonemic in English, long vowels are not indicated here. However, initial glottal stops are indicated since initial vowels in English are preceded by a non-phonemic glottal stop.
4 I thank James Considine, who is originally from New Bedford, for this explanation for the use of rubbish in Hawai‘i.

Reference