

In Hawai'i, "mahalo" might officially mean "thank you"

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In Hawai'i, you see the word *Mahalo* on signs everywhere. In theory, the word means *Thank you*, but my friend [Joe Beda](#) pointed out that in practice the word has a completely different meaning. Here are some examples:

- We do not accept coupons at this location. Mahalo.
- No refills. Mahalo.
- This counter is closed. Mahalo.
- Elevator is out of order. Please use stairs. Mahalo.
- Rest rooms for customers only. Mahalo.

In practice, the word *mahalo* means *You're screwed*.

Obligatory clarification: This was a joke, an attempt at observational humor.

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