

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 27 2008

RE: S.C.R. No. 121  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.C.R.  
No. 121 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING TEACHING STRATEGIES  
FOR SPEAKERS OF HAWAI'I PIDGIN IN HAWAI'I PUBLIC SCHOOLS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of  
Education to develop bidialectal teaching strategies for teachers  
whose students' mother tongue is Hawai'i Pidgin.

Testimony in support of the measure was submitted by fourteen  
individuals. Testimony in opposition of the measure was submitted  
by the Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii is composed of diverse  
ethnic, as well as socioeconomic, political, religious and  
philosophical groups. One aspect of the local culture is the use  
of Hawai'i Pidgin by children and adults, particularly in specific  
geographic areas within the State. Your Committee finds that the  
implementation of bidialectal, or speaking fluently two dialects  
of the same language, learning strategies has been beneficial in  
helping Hawai'i Pidgin speaking students to succeed on Standard  
Achievement Test scores. This measure requests the Department of  
Education to develop bidialectal teaching strategies for teachers  
whose students' mother dialect is Hawai'i Pidgin to provide  
students with the skills and knowledge to speak Hawai'i Pidgin at  
home with family and friends but also learn to speak standard



American English while at school or as otherwise necessary and appropriate.

The Department of Education indicated that it currently maintains standards for educating students in the use of standard English, including through programs for English as a Second Language students and English Language Learner students, and opposed this measure due to its low priority and the increased costs associated with its implementation. Your Committee determines that although the Department supports some efforts to assist Hawai'i Pidgin-speaking students, the implementation of additional strategies may still prove useful.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requesting the Sato Center for Pidgin, Creole and Dialect Studies and the Department of Second Language Studies of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, in consultation with the Department of Education and the College of Education and the Department of Linguistics of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, to develop bidialectal teaching strategies for teachers whose students' mother tongue is Hawai'i Pidgin, as well as to develop plans for conducting a controlled empirical study on the effectiveness of bidialectal teaching strategies for Hawai'i public schools with strong Hawai'i pidgin populations; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for purposes of clarity and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 121, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 121, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Education,

  
NORMAN SAKAMOTO, Chair



