

**Date:** 03/09/2010

**Committee:** House Education  
House Higher Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2903, SD2 (SSCR 2462) Relating to the Hawaiian Language College

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education, the charter school administrative office, and the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo to enter into an agreement regarding the Hawaiian language college's functions related to Nawahiokalani'opu'u school and other laboratory schools. Effective 7/1/50. (SD2)

**Department's Position:** The Department does not support this bill. It is premature for the Department to enter into an agreement regarding the Hawaiian language college's functions related to Nawahiokalani'opu'u school and other laboratory schools. The bill is written in general terms and discussions must take place for clarity and understanding of the specifics of the agreement and any impact this agreement will have on the Department's Hawaiian Language Immersion Program. Furthermore, there already exists a direct line of support and services from the Hawaiian language college of the University of Hawaii at Hilo to Nawahiokalani'opu'u and between the Department and Nawahiokalani'opu'u via funds, teacher positions, and professional development opportunities. The Department maintains its working relationship with all of its partners and collaborators in the development of Hawaiian curriculum, instructional material, and resources.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
and  
House Committee on Education  
March 9, 2010 at 2:05 p.m.  
by  
Dr. Kalena Silva  
Director, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani  
College of Hawaiian Language, UH Hilo

SB 2903, SD2      RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE COLLEGE

E nā Lunamaka'ainana, aloha kākou. I am Dr. Kalena Silva, the Director of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I urge passage of SB 2903, SD2.

I wish to express appreciation to this body, including the sponsors of SB 2903, SD2, for years of support in developing education through the Hawaiian language. Hawai'i is now the national leader in education through a Native American language. Not only are we known for reviving an endangered language, but for increased academic achievement among students in Hawaiian immersion schools.

The state's Hawaiian language college was established through legislative mandate in 1997 to allow for a P-20 system of education through Hawaiian. We offer programs through to the Ph.D. while serving as a unique resource for the development and support of P-12 education through Hawaiian.

Among the mandates from the 1997 legislature when it created our College was for us to develop a laboratory school program at Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u School, a site which was created through a partnership between the State DOE, the non-profit 'Aha Pūnana Leo, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. We have done so, and now have a full P-20 education system in Hawaiian, based around that site. Nāwahī includes both a K-8 charter component and a 9-12 off-site standard public high school component. Three other charter schools have joined our laboratory school program along with the statewide Pūnana Leo preschool system that lies at the base of the Hawaiian immersion schools.

SB 2903, SD2 represents a step toward developing administrative practices that will further strengthen Hawaiian medium education. We seek to pilot the use of Hawaiian in administrative communication, modification of administrative services to meet unique Hawaiian medium education in-service needs, and other modifications of standard English medium education practice as appropriate to the unique needs of education within the context of revitalizing an endangered indigenous language.

Mahalo iā 'oukou no kā 'oukou kākō'o i ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

Testimony to the House Committees on Higher Education and  
Education

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
2:05p House Conference Room 309

Nāmaka Rawlins, 'Aha Pūnana Leo Outreach Director

RE: S.B. 2903 Relating to the Hawaiian Language College

Aloha Chairman Chang, Vice-Chair Nakashima and the members of the House Committee on Higher Education Committee and Chairman Takumi and Vice-Chair Berg and the members of the House Committee on Education. My name is Nāmaka Rawlins, Outreach Director for the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2903.

The Hawaiian Language College's role in oversight of its laboratory schools program is important to the improvement of Hawaiian medium education overall. The work that the college has done over the years to support Hawaiian language revitalization is known throughout Hawai'i, the nation and the world. I would like to offer an amendment to SB2309 so that the Hawaiian Language College is eligible to compete for federal dollars. A designation as a Local Educational Agency (LEA) for the college would make the college eligible for many federal discretionary competitive grant opportunities limited to LEAs. Such a designation could bring federal dollars specific to education support services to the laboratory school program.

Suggested language:

SECTION. The Hawaiian Language College is hereby declared to be a local educational agency as defined under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act and other federal law for the purpose of serving the distinct needs of its laboratory school program.

Mahalo nui