

TESTIMONY
SB 2903
LATE

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Date: 02/05/2010

Committee: Senate Education and Housing
Senate Higher Education
Senate Water, Land, Agriculture and
Hawaiian Affairs

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2903 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.

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 the direct 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.

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(END)