
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Hawaii has long been a multi-ethnic, multi-
2 cultural society, blending diverse food, customs, and languages
3 together to form a new whole. However, this melting pot has yet
4 to extend to foreign language education in the State's public
5 elementary schools.

6 The legislature finds that while foreign languages are
7 offered in high school, there are several benefits to teaching
8 children a foreign language beginning in kindergarten and
9 continuing throughout a child's school career. Research has
10 shown a positive correlation between the study of a foreign
11 language and increased cognitive and academic ability, leading
12 to improved student performance indicators. In addition, a
13 multi-lingual workforce will enhance the State's economic
14 stability, particularly as a "crossroads of the Pacific."

15 The purpose of this Act, therefore, is to require the
16 department of education to examine the feasibility of
17 implementing foreign language education in all public schools
18 beginning with the kindergarten level.

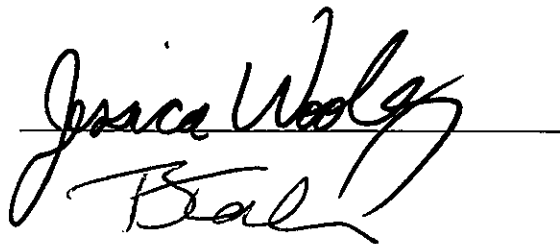


1 SECTION 2. The department of education shall examine the
2 feasibility of implementing and supporting foreign language
3 learning programs in every public school from kindergarten
4 through the twelfth grade, including curriculum, best practices,
5 and funding. For this purpose, the department of education may
6 collaborate with charter schools and public schools.

7 SECTION 3. The department of education shall submit a
8 report, including findings, recommendations, and proposed
9 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
10 to the convening of the regular session of 2012.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
12

INTRODUCED BY:


Beal

JAN 26 2011



Report Title:

Foreign Language Learning; Department of Education

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to study the feasibility of implementing and supporting foreign language learning programs in all public schools from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Requires a report to the Legislature.

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