

Date: 03/23/2011

Committee: House Hawaiian Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 113 URGING ALL HAWAII HIGH SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE
HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Purpose of Resolution: Urges all Hawaii high schools to provide Hawaiian language classes.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does not support HCR 113. The Department already provides high schools with the opportunity to offer Hawaiian language (ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi) courses as specified in the World Languages section of the *Authorized Courses and Code Numbers (ACCN) Catalog*. "All high schools must offer at least a two-year sequence of one or more languages in order to be sure that students have sufficient opportunities to meet graduation requirements, should they choose the option of completing two credits of World Languages to meet the graduation requirements." (p. WL.HS.1)

For students who wish to pursue an intensive Hawaiian language experience, the Hawaiian Immersion Program is an option.

In addition, the Reinventing Education Act of 2004 (Act 51, SLH 2004) provides schools and their respective School Community Councils the authority to determine academic and financial decision-making. Each high school determines through its Academic and Financial Plan, school goals and actions based on relevant data. Schools determine course offerings through careful data analysis, student pre-registration results, availability of highly qualified personnel and alignment with funding resources.

Furthermore, the Department strongly encourages schools to meet college

and career-ready goals. The Hawaiian language is not applicable as a language requirement for admission to many colleges and universities. The Department already encourages schools to offer Hawaiian language opportunities and to require schools to offer a specific course is not in accordance with Act 51 which provides schools the authority for school-level decision-making.

clee2 - Matt

From: Hardy Spoehr [HSpoehr@papaolalokahi.org]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 7:46 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Subject: Testimony: HCR 113

TESTIMONY: HCR 113, Urging all Hawai'i high schools to provide Hawaiian language classes.

Wednesday, March 23, 2011
8:30am
Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, supports this legislation. All high school students in Hawai'i need to have the opportunity to at least familiarize themselves with the Hawaiian language. It is our 'mother tongue' and increasingly becoming spoken by our residents – let alone being an official language of the state.

Thank you

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director
Papa Ola Lokahi
894 Queen Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-597-6550