
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND AHA KAULEO KAIAPUNI HAWAII FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE OF THE READING, MATH, SCIENCE, AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS ADMINISTERED TO STUDENTS IN GRADES THREE THROUGH SIX OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM AND FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY STATUTE OR RULE OF AHA KAULEO KAIAPUNI HAWAII

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language, the native language of the
2 Native Hawaiian people, was once a thriving language used by
3 Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike; and
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5 WHEREAS, by the late twentieth century, however, the
6 Hawaiian language was pushed to the brink of extinction due to a
7 number of factors, including an 1896 law that banned the
8 speaking of the Hawaiian language in Hawaii schools; and
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10 WHEREAS, fortunately, the Hawaiian language was saved by
11 several historic initiatives, including the Department of
12 Education's Hawaiian Language Immersion Program that was
13 launched in the 1980s and is presently offered at twenty-one
14 public schools and educates more than two thousand students in
15 kindergarten through the twelfth grade; and
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17 WHEREAS, the assessment requirements of the No Child Left
18 Behind Act of 2001 present a major problem for the Hawaiian
19 Language Immersion Program; and
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21 WHEREAS, as English is not formally introduced in Hawaiian
22 Language Immersion Program classrooms until the fifth grade,
23 since the 2005-2006 school year, third and fourth grade students
24 had been taking the Hawaiian aligned portfolio assessment, which
25 was developed in the Hawaiian language specifically for the
26 Hawaiian Language Immersion Program, to comply with the
27 requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Department of Education decided it will no
30 longer use the Hawaiian aligned portfolio assessment and is



1 instead administering a Hawaiian translation of the Hawaii state
2 assessment this school year; and

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4 WHEREAS, fifth and sixth grade Hawaiian language immersion
5 students, who take the assessment tests in English, are also at
6 a disadvantage, since they have spent only a limited amount of
7 time using an English-based curriculum; and

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9 WHEREAS, problems arise when a test is translated from one
10 language to another and, in many cases, the construct of the
11 test will have changed because of the translation and an English
12 reading test, once translated into Hawaiian, does not
13 necessarily measure reading proficiency in either English or
14 Hawaiian; and

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16 WHEREAS, as a result, the English-administered assessments
17 for these students are unlikely to be an accurate reflection of
18 their individual abilities, or their standing among their peers
19 in English language-based schools; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Board of Education has adopted a policy (Board
22 of Education Policy 2105) acknowledging that its Hawaiian
23 Language Immersion Program is "an essential component to the
24 revitalization and continuation of the Hawaiian language and
25 culture"; and

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27 WHEREAS, in 1990, the Board of Education approved the
28 establishment of the 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i, or the
29 Hawaiian Language Immersion Advisory Council, to advise the
30 Department of Education on the educational needs of the Hawaiian
31 Language Immersion Program students; and

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33 WHEREAS, 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i has expressed a
34 commitment to develop the reading, math, science, and other
35 assessments administered to students in grades three through six
36 of the Department of Education's Hawaiian Language Immersion
37 Program in the Hawaiian language, in an original form, and at no
38 cost to the Department of Education for the initial development
39 of the assessments; now, therefore,

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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
42 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
43 of 2012, that the Department of Education is requested to



1 establish a Memorandum of Agreement with 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni
2 Hawai'i for the development in the Hawaiian language of the
3 reading, math, science, and other assessments administered to
4 students in grades three through six of the Department of
5 Education's Hawaiian Language Immersion Program; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the
8 Department of Education are urged to formally acknowledge the
9 establishment of 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i, or the Hawaiian
10 Language Immersion Advisory Council, in the Hawaii Revised
11 Statutes, or through the Hawaii Administrative Rules, to assist
12 in the Memorandum of Agreement process; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education,
15 with the assistance of 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i, is requested
16 to establish procedures for the development of these assessments
17 by 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i at no cost to the Department; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assessments not be Hawaiian
20 translations of the general state assessments and be:

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- 22 (1) Aligned with the vision, mission, and programmatic
23 goals of the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program;
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 - 25 (2) Aligned with state academic content and achievement
26 standards;
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 - 28 (3) Valid, reliable, and consistent with relevant,
29 nationally recognized professional and technical
30 standards; and
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 - 32 (4) Compliant with federal requirements; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all ancillary assessment
35 materials and tools that are made available to students taking
36 the general state assessment are also made available in the
37 Hawaiian language to students in the Hawaiian Language Immersion
38 Program; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
41 requested to report on the status of the Memorandum of Agreement
42 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
43 convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
4 Education, Superintendent of Education, and 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni
5 Hawai'i.

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OFFERED BY: *Melie Canale*

MAR 14 2012

