
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 'AHA KAULEO
KAIAPUNI HAWAI'I AND TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENT
THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF 'AHA KAULEO KAIAPUNI HAWAI'I ON
MATTERS RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

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
31 instead administering a Hawaiian translation of the Hawaii state
32 assessment this school year; and



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

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

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

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

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

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

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
40 of 2012, that the Board of Education and the Department of
41 Education are urged to formally acknowledge the establishment of
42 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i, or the Hawaiian Language Immersion



1 Advisory Council, in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, or through the
2 Hawaii Administrative Rules; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and
5 the Board of Education are urged to continue to support and
6 implement the recommendations of 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i on
7 matters relating to the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
11 Education, Superintendent of Education, and 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni
12 Hawai'i.

