

Honolulu, Hawaii

Jan 30, 2012

RE: H.B. No. 1986

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
H.B. No. 1986 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE
IMMERSION PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to further the education of
third and fourth grade students in the Hawaiian Language Immersion
Program by requiring the Department of Education to:

- (1) Eliminate Hawaiian translations used on reading, math,
science, and other assessment tests for students in
those grade levels; and
- (2) Develop parallel reading, math, science, and other
assessment tests in the original Hawaiian language for
students in those grade levels.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii:
Hawaiian Language Immersion Advisory Council, Association of
Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Na Leo Kakoo Executive Board, Ke Kula O
Nawahiokalaniopuu Iki Laboratory Public Charter School, Kuakini
Hawaiian Civic Club of Kona, Hawaii Bilingual/Hawaii Olelo Palua,
Ke Kula Kaiapuni Hawaii O Kahuku Academy, and numerous individuals
supported this measure. The Department of Education offered
comments.



Your Committee notes that while the Department of Education provided written testimony on the measure, there were concerns raised by your Committee and testifiers regarding the absence of a Department of Education representative to answer questions at the hearing. Your Committee urges the Department of Education to send a representative for upcoming hearings on the measure. In addition, your Committee finds that extending assessment tests in the Hawaiian language to fifth and sixth grade students merits further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1986 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Education.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,



FAYE HANOHANO, Chair



