

HB1986
RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 6, 2012

2:05pm

Conference Room 309

My name is Kehau Glassco and I am a parent of two children currently attending Ke Kula 'o Kamakau, a Hawaiian Immersion charter school. I am submitting this testimony **strongly supporting HB 1986** on behalf of myself and my family. My son is in the 5th grade and is dyslexic. I am proud and relieved that Kamakau chose to boycott the defective HSA test last year. My son has a difficult time in school as it is and to force him take a test that would further confuse him is despicable. Deficiencies in the exam would have set my son up for failure as well as all of his counterparts. I am not willing to allow my son and my daughter (currently in the 1st grade) to take a high stakes test (or any assessment for that matter) that will make them question their own intelligence (not understanding the instructions due to faulty translations, grammatical or spelling errors).

There also needs to be equality in the accommodations given to the English and the Hawaiian language tests. If the English test allows for text to speech than the Hawaiian language should also be able to have this function. A function that would've greatly helped my son. The Hawaiian language test should have all the accommodations given to the English.

If the Hawaiian Immersion students are held to the same standards as the English students, as they should be, they should be given the same opportunity to succeed on the exam.

I also agree with Ke Kula 'o Kamakau's testimony amendments in that the HAPA should continue to be administered for the 3rd-4th grades and the 5-6th grades assessment should also be in Hawaiian due to the introduction of English instruction in 5th grade.

We, 'Ohana Glassco, urge you to pass HB 1986 and to support Hawaiian Language education and equitable for all of Hawai'i's keiki.


Mahalo,

Kehau Glassco and family

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice-Chair, Committee on Education

From: G. Kalehua Krug
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
College of Education



Date: February 5, 2012

Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of House Bill 1986: Relating to the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program

Aloha mai kākou e nā Luna o Ke Kōmike Pili Ho'ona'auao,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1986. I believe that the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program (HLIP) has grown strong over the last three decades and has increased its expertise to world famous proportions. This expertise has made this program an international innovator for all forms of native language revitalization movements. The State of Hawai'i Legislature must also recognize these impressive strides of its native educators and legislatively progress this program to the next level. The HLIP has developed curriculum, drafted policy and has engaged the education community at the federal level. The final frontier is educational assessment.

The United States Department of Education (USDOE) federally mandates standardized assessments. The form of these assessments, however, have not been dictated or prescribed. As a result, the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) has taken this upon them and attempted to translate their chosen assessment for all English-medium educational programs, the Hawai'i State Assessment (HSA), into the Hawaiian language. This action is founded upon the belief that English language education is the standard. As a former HLIP teacher and now a HLI teacher educator at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Education, this action is disgraceful. It lends me to believe that the HIDOE does not understand the intricacies of assessment. Assessment must match curriculum and the curriculum is conceptualized, developed and implemented through the Hawaiian language. As one of this State's official languages, the Hawaiian language must be utilized at all levels of educational implementation. If we are allowed to speak to our children, develop curriculum for our children, educate our children and love our children through this language, then we must assess them through it too. We must not translate our Hawaiian ways of knowing into another language. It must be created and implemented, start to finish, through the Hawaiian language.

On January 8, 2009, Kerri Briggs Ph.D., the Assistant Secretary of Education of for the USDOE drafted a compliance report to Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto. Within this report Briggs states this about the HIDOE Assessment System;

"Your assessment system is Approval Pending as of 2007-08. This means standards and

assessment system does not meet all statutory and regulatory requirements. Specifically, while the Hawaii State Assessment (HSA), and Hawaii's native language assessment, the Hawaii Aligned Portfolio Assessment (HAPA), for students in grades 3 and 4 in the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program, have met most of the ESEA requirements, we continue to have concerns regarding the alternate assessment based on alternate academic achievement standards (HSAA). As a result, Hawaii entered into a compliance agreement with the Department."

The HAPA was developed and implemented completely through the Hawaiian language. In this report, the HAPA was described as meeting similar compliance levels to that of the HSA, which is the current assessment of the HDOE. This report was the impetus for implementing the HAPA from 2007 to 2011. This assessment was the first of its kind and was not a problem for the USDOE as you can see. In this report, improvements needed for all of the assessments of the state were shown. Whether or not the state followed up with these improvements is not known. However, the HAPA was implemented in Hawai'i based upon previous federal approval by the USDOE as shown. This will not be a problem now based upon this precedence.

The company charged with developing the HAPA was PREL (Pacific Resources for Education and Learning) and we currently researching the total cost of assessment development. The first number sent by PREL as an unofficial amount is \$293,460. The assessment costs for the HSA as purported by the DOE is around \$6 million. If this is correct, the cost of HAPA is much, much less and was initially worked on for two years with no compensation. When the official report of PREL is released we will see the difference between the costs of the two assessments. Theoretically, there should be no difference in cost if the only difference in policy and procedure is language. And, this cost should be even less with the commitment of the 'Aha Kauleo Hawai'i Kaiapuni, the BOE established advisory board for all HLIP matters, to work without compensation with the DOE to complete all Hawaiian language work on this assessment. Unfortunately, the DOE's report seems extremely inflated. Please look in to this budgetary matter.

Please allow this testimony in strong support for HB 1986 in its entirety and focus on the commitment of the HLIP teachers and the members of the 'Aha Kauleo to work without compensation on this assessment. All stakeholders, except for the DOE, support this initiative. Money cannot always be the reason why we don't do the right thing for our children.

'O ia iholā nō me ke aloha.

LATE TESTIMONY

To: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice-Chair

Fr: M. Kihapai Krug

Date: Monday, February 6, 2012

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1986: Relating to the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program

Aloha mai kakou,

I am a parent of keiki currently enrolled in the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program and strongly support HB1986. I have been homeschooling my children in the official language of Hawaiian for the past 9 years. While most keiki converse with their families in English, my keiki converse with their family in our native language of Hawaiian. Every task, every lesson is through our language and they are now sent to Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Anuenue to support this. I firmly believe that if every subject, every function can be taught in our official language of Hawaiian then assessment too can be constructed through this same language. Our keiki believe in their native language and the ways of their kupuna, our kupuna were educated and successful through this same language. You cannot discriminate against these keiki who are living their lives through an official language of this state. We need to support every step and process of education through both official languages of this state.

Mahalo,



M. Kihapai Krug