



HB2875 SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 29, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room: 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly **SUPPORTS** HB2875 SD1, which would require that assessments for students grades three through six in the Department of Education's Hawaiian Language Immersion Program (HLIP) be developed originally in the Hawaiian language, and that the Hawaiian language community be involved in the development of the assessments. HB2875 goes beyond what OHA proposed in our two bills on the same issue (HB1986 and SB2177) by including two additional grades (fifth and sixth grades).

The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 mandates that states implement statewide assessments to measure the ability of the states and their schools to enable students to meet academic achievement standards. This assessment requirement is highly problematic for the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program, which seeks to perpetuate the once-dying native language of the Hawaiian people.

Even though English is not formally introduced into Hawaiian Language Immersion Program classrooms until the fifth grade, fifth and sixth grade immersion students are still required to take the assessment in English, despite their limited exposure to formal English. Third and fourth grade immersion students are similarly disadvantaged by the assessment system, as they are required to take a translated version of the assessment, rather than an assessment created originally in the Hawaiian language to ensure accurate testing.

In the school years 2004 and 2005, third and fourth grade Hawaiian language immersion students took a translated version of the Hawaii State Assessment. Due to a number of translation problems with the test, as well as community concerns, a new assessment, called the Hawaiian Aligned Portfolio Assessment (HAPA), was developed originally in the Hawaiian language and administered to immersion students from the school years 2005-2006 through 2010-2011.

Last school year, the DOE decided to stop using the HAPA and tried once again to administer a Hawaiian translation of the Hawaii State Assessment. After immersion school officials identified a host of translation and technical issues with the translated test, the third and fourth grade immersion students were allowed to take the HAPA in

lieu of the translated assessment. Despite lingering concerns about the validity and accuracy of the translated assessment, the DOE is once again administering the translated assessment instead of an assessment developed originally in the Hawaiian language. The concerns surrounding the translated assessment have become even more pressing in light of the fact that the Board of Education recently adopted the Common Core Standards, and new assessments that align with these standards are expected to be implemented in the 2014-2015 school year.

OHA strongly advocates for the use of assessments created originally in the Hawaiian language. There are a number of inherent problems associated with translating assessments, including, but not limited to, changing the overall construct of the examination and creating inequitable challenges for students taking the translated tests. For example, an English reading test translated into Hawaiian does not necessarily measure reading proficiency in either English or Hawaiian and, therefore, does not accurately measure student achievement.

The inability of these translated assessments to accurately measure student achievement not only impacts Hawaiian language immersion students and their schools. It also works to the detriment of the state school system, which could suffer as a result of what might appear to be poor student performance on these highly questionable tests.

To address this assessment issue at the national level, Senator Daniel Akaka recently introduced the Native Culture, Language, and Access for Success in Schools Act (S.1262), which would, among other things, amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to require states to develop standards-based assessments to accommodate “diverse learning styles,” which could be used in lieu of the general state assessments.

Ideally, assessments created originally in the Hawaiian language should be used not only for the third and fourth grade students who are currently being forced to take the translated assessment, they should also be used for the fifth and sixth grade immersion students who are being forced to take the assessment in English, despite their limited exposure to formal English at the time of testing. Preserving the status quo would perpetuate the marginalization and disparate treatment of our immersion students by the assessment process.

We firmly believe that an assessment can be developed and implemented for far less than what the DOE estimates, either through the use of another company to develop the assessment or better utilizing the expertise of the Hawaiian language community, or both.

These assessment problems, if not resolved, could have irreparable impacts on the Department of Education, immersion students, immersion schools, the entire

Hawaiian Language Immersion Program and, ultimately, the revitalization of the Hawaiian language.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS HB2875 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

Testimony of President Soulee Stroud

HOUSE BILL 2875 HD1(HSCR919-12) RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, March 29, 2012; 9:00 am; Room 211

Aloha Chairman Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is comprised of sixty components in all counties of Hawaii and eleven states of the continent. We are in support of this bill that will help to level the playing field for students in the Hawaiian language immersion program.

Perpetuation of the Hawaiian language has long been a passion of the Hawaiian Civic Clubs, from the very early days when our meetings were conducted in Hawaiian, to more recent times when we were among those assisting to revive the language. We have provided scholarship aide to many Hawaiian students eager to learn the language of their kupuna.

A generation after the introduction of the Punana Leo program, those early students are now themselves teaching the language to the next generations eager to learn. We support this bill that will provide methods of assessment that can fairly and accurately measure academic achievement for students in Hawaiian language classes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nlkanuenue@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:40:21 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

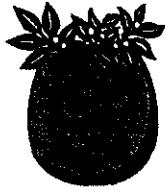
Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Na Leo Kakoo Executive Board
Organization:
E-mail: nlkanuenue@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

On behalf of the Executive Board of Nā Leo Kākoʻo, the parent group of Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenuē, we stand in strong support of HB 2875 that requires reading, math, science, and other assessments administered to students in grades three through six of the department of education's Hawaiian language immersion program to be developed originally in the Hawaiian language; requires the board of education to adopt rules establishing procedures for the development of these assessments in collaboration with the Hawaiian language community; and requires status reports to the 2013 and 2014 legislatures.

Nā Leo Kākoʻo has been involved in ensuring that our children are not subjected to unfair, untested, and flawed translated standardized assessment tests since last year when the Department of Education forced these translated tests on the Hawaiian immersion program. That decision by the DOE was met with strong opposition from our Hawaiian immersion community, and we stood in opposition to that decision and provided testimony to the Board of Education last year. Despite this opposition, the DOE continues to use these tests on our children this school year.

All we are asking for is that the assessments used to measure our childrens' achievement are fair and that the process the DOE goes through to administer and create these tests is equitable. This bill will ensure that this fairness and equity is present for our children, who are the future of the perpetuation of our native language. Mahalo for your consideration.



Ka'Umeke Kā'eo

Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School

I N K E A U K A H A

Testimony for the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, March 29, 2012

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony Submitted by: Huihui Kanahale-Mossman Ph.D., Po'okumu (Administrator)

Bill NO. and Title H.B. No. 2875 SD 1: RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM.

Position: Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School is in support of HB 2875 SD1.

Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo is located in Keaukaha on the island of Hawai'i has a total enrollment of 293 students in grade K-10. Eighty-four of which are in grades three and four. Organized as a charter school in 2001, Ka 'Umeke was born out of the DOE Hawaiian Language Immersion Program. Ka 'Umeke is currently developing a system of accountability that will measure, amongst other things, student academic growth. Standardized tests are one measurement tool that can be used to track our student's academic successes and challenges. The absence of a consistent and appropriate testing system is hindering our ability to provide our students, teachers, parents, local school board and interested stakeholders with an accurate picture of our education program.

We need assessments that provide both data and information about the educational needs of our students so that we are able to develop and grow appropriate educational programs. As such we are in full support of the development and use of assessments that are originally created in the Hawaiian language so that it can accurately reflect our students' learning. Doing our best for our students and encouraging their growth provides our State with a richer more robust education system.

Supporting HB 2875 will be another step in accomplishing the educational goals of our children, families, communities and State.

Mahalo,

Huihui Kanahale-Mossman Ph.D.
Po'okumu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: akl856@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:42:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Adrienne Llanos
Organization: Individual
E-mail: akl856@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:
I support this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: CynthiaNuuanua@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:17:22 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cynthia K.W. Nuuanu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: CynthiaNuuanua@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kepaad@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:33:24 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: danette
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kepaad@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: peepuhala@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:20:35 PM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Iolani Kuoha
Organization: Individual
E-mail: peepuhala@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:
I support HB 2875

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [yantseen@yahoo.com](mailto:jantseen@yahoo.com)
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:15:47 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jantseen Peelua-Vegas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: [yantseen@yahoo.com](mailto:jantseen@yahoo.com)
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Kahaulahilahi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:18:41 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jetney Vegas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kahaulahilahi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jkp@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:16:40 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Julei Peelua
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jkp@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

Fr: Kahikina Kukea-Shultz
Papa 3, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenue

Date: 28 Malaki 2012

Subject: Kāko'o au i HB 2875 (Support)

Aloha mai kākou,

'O wau 'o Kahikina Kukea-Shultz a hele wau ma Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenue. Kāko'o wau i kēia pila 'o ia ho'i 'o HB 2875. 'A'ole pono ka hana a ka DOE no ka mea, 'o ko'u kuleana ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i akā, ua pa'i 'ia ka hō'ike ma ka 'ōlelo haole a laila 'unuhi 'ia ma ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i. 'A'ole like ka mana'o a 'a'ole pono. 'A'ole lākou no'ono'o e pili ana iā mākou a 'o kēlā ka pilikia nui. Ke noi nei wau iā 'oukou e ho'oponopono i ka hana hewa a ka DOE. Ho'okō wau i ko'u kuleana ma ke kula – no ke aha 'a'ole ho'okō pū ka DOE i ko lākou kuleana?

Mahalo.

Kahikina Kukea-Shultz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kauilanisang@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:57:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kau'i Sang
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kauilanisang@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in strong support for HB 2875. Hawaiian Language Immersion Program students have experienced successes, many of which cannot be measured by high stakes testing. The requirement that all public school students be tested through high stakes testing already limits the possibilities of fully knowing what Hawai'i's students can achieve. Let's not limit them anymore by requiring they be measured using a poor testing tool. Stop the translation of English tests for HLIP students and require that the Department of Education provide tests for high stakes accountability to be written in the language of instruction, 'oia ho'i ka 'olelo Hawai'i. Mahalo nui for your time and favorable consideration.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kumukehau@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:32:59 PM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: KEHAU LLANOS
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kumukehau@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:
Kako'o au i keia bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: henoheal@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:52:50 PM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Henohea Linker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: henoheal@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

I strongly support the HB2875. Hawaiian Immersion students need to be tested with a test that is created for them in their academic language, which is Hawaiian. Please continue to push this bill forward to fruition.

Mahalo,

L. Henohea Linker

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kaoi12@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:09:27 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lordell K Nuuanu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kaoi12@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lynette.pereira@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:36:17 PM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lynette Kanani Pereira
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lynette.pereira@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of this bill. It's time the Board of Education takes the Hawaiian Immersion Program seriously and enlist the help of the Hawaiian Language community to further develop and implement the new Assessment testing for our keiki.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: noelani@ahapunaleo.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:37:38 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: B. Noelani Iokepa-Guerrero
Organization: Individual
E-mail: noelani@ahapunaleo.org
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a parent of children raised from birth and schooled strictly in the Hawaiian language and with the Hawaiian culture and ideologies as the basis of education, thinking, growth, and learning. The choice to raise and educate my children in Hawaiian has given my children (and 'ohana) the advantage over most---they learn the typical academic skills of their counterparts and gain so much more socially, linguistically, culturally, and cognitively thru increased brain development. I support HB 2875 to develop assessments originally in Hawaiian.

Mahalo,
Noelani Iokepa-Guerrero

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

Fr: Pohai Kukea-Shultz
Parent, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenue

Date: March 28, 2012

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2875: Relating to the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program

I would like to testify in support of HB 2875 that requires reading, math, science, and other assessments administered to students in grades three through six of the department of education's Hawaiian language immersion program to be developed originally in the Hawaiian language; requires the board of education to adopt rules establishing procedures for the development of these assessments in collaboration with the Hawaiian language community; and requires status reports to the 2013 and 2014 legislatures.

I have two children enrolled in the program and have been utterly disgusted by the DOE's complete lack of understanding of the inherent problems with translating one language into another and total disregard for my childrens' well-being. Instead, the department has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars paying a consulting company to do a terrible job of translating the English version of the HSA, never once consulted with the Hawaiian immersion community, and continues to force this flawed test down the throats of our children. It seems to me that they are more concerned with sticking to their own poor decisions, rather than admitting to their mistakes, creating a more inclusive process, and being pono moving forward. I am not asking for my children to be excluded from being assessed, but I do expect the playing field to be level at the start. Nothing about what the department has done thus far has been equitable to our children.

Last year the DOE attempted to force this flawed test on our children. A number of members of the Hawaiian immersion community, including teachers, parents (including myself), and university faculty testified at a Board of Education meeting against this action. I heard a number of things that day that were appalling to me as a parent, including the fact that the DOE advertised for test translators on Craigslist, that because the English version of the test had been field-tested that the Hawaiian version of the test did not need to be, and putting unrealistic expectations on the Hawaiian language community to fix the mistakes that another company (that got paid quite a bit of money) made. In these meetings that I attended last year, I saw the DOE acknowledge that the test was flawed and decide not to use the test on our children. And yet, here we are, a year later, having to again argue for equitable treatment for our children, despite what was acknowledged and decided on last year. This decision making process is like a roller coaster ride that I do not want to be on! And the worse part about it is that our children are the casualties of this process.

When the DOE presents inflated costs of creating these assessments in the language of instruction and argues that this is simply too expensive to do, I wonder if they have ever

considered the cost of forcing our children to take a flawed test? Have they considered the cost of students crying during the test because the translation provided does not make sense? Have they considered the cost of our children being labeled failing, not because they are, but because the system has failed them? Have they considered the cost of not supporting our constitutional right to raise and evaluate our children in Hawaiian, an official language of this state? I would argue that the answer to all of these questions is a resounding no. If we make decisions about the educational opportunities we provide our children based only on money, then we have truly lost sight of what is important. Our children deserve much more than that.

We cannot expect our children to embrace the values of equality and justice and grow up to be productive (not to mention bilingual) citizens, if we do not model these values ourselves. This bill will ensure that the next generation of Hawaiian language speakers, with the heavy kuleana of perpetuating our native language, are treated fairly. Mahalo.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: roy.sang@envisionns.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 1:19:45 PM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Roy Sang
Organization: Individual
E-mail: roy.sang@envisionns.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Shantel.llanos@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 2:13:48 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shantel M. Llanos
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Shantel.llanos@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: vpeahi02@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2875 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:25:31 PM

Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2875

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Vicki L Peahi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vpeahi02@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

From: [Abby Kamai](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2875: Relating to the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:51:59 PM

To: Senator David Ige, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

From: Abigail L.K. Kama'I (Parent of a Senior of Anueanue)

I support HB 2875 that requires the DOE to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian language in language art, mathematic, to be administered to grades three to six of the DOE's Hawaiian language immersion program. A annual assessment also given in science to grade four of the DOE's Hawaiian language immersion program: requires the DOE, with the Hawaiian language community, to establish procedures for the development of the assessments: and requires the DOE to report to the 2013 legislature.