

**LATE**

**Lā Ho'olohe Pila** (Hearing Date/Time): 04-02-2013 2:00p

**Lumi hālāwai** (Meeting Room) Conference Room 308  
**Kōmike** (Committee) House Finance

**Pila** (Bill) SB1095, SD2 HD1  
**Kumu** (Purpose): RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**Mana'o** (Position): **KĀKO'O** ME NĀ LOLI **(SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS Attached)**

Aloha Chair, Representative Luke, Vice Chair Representative Nishimoto and members of the House Finance Committee

'O au 'o 'Ekekelā Aiona, ka Luna Ho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo.  
My name is 'Ekekelā Aiona, Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo continues to support these early learning initiatives with amendments that clarify the context for early learning in our state with two official languages. These amendments will allow the ONLY statewide Pūnana Leo preschools Hawaiian medium early learning to be a part of the state system AND to continue the development of quality standards, teacher training, workforce and curriculum development THROUGH its laboratory status under the Hawaiian Language College which has supported our efforts of Hawaiian language revitalization over the last 30 years and for which the specialized training, professional development, curriculum and Hawaiian language support is unavailable from the mainstream English preschool system.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is a non profit Native Hawaiian Education organization. We are the only statewide provider of early education and care through the medium of Hawaiian. Our preschools are connected to a statewide P-20 (preschool through doctorate) Hawaiian Medium Education system. Pūnana Leo keiki are prepared to enter kindergarten taught through Hawaiian. Several provisions of the state constitution as well as federal legislation call for special attention to the unique needs of teaching through Hawaiian. The state has been involved in developing quality education through Hawaiian since 1997, when the legislature established the Hawaiian language college with a mandate to serve education through Hawaiian with a laboratory school program. HRS 304A-1301 establishes the Hawaiian language college and a laboratory school program as a function of the college. The Pūnana Leo schools function as laboratory schools of the college.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo nui

<b>'Aha Pūnana Leo Amendments For Early Childhood Education</b>	
<b>SB 1095 SD2 HD1</b>	
Amendments	Rationale
<p>Sec. 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish a statewide early education program <b>in both official languages of the state with distinctive attention to the endangered Hawaiian language</b>, said program consisting of providers of ....</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hawai'i Constitution Official Languages Article XV Section 4.</li> </ul>
<p>Sec. 2.</p> <p>302L Early childhood education program (a)....</p> <p>(1) Prepare children for school and to actively participate in society <b>with distinctive pathways for schooling through either of the two official state languages</b>; and</p> <p>(2) Provide access to high-quality early childhood education, focused on equity, that addresses children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development <b>as well as Chapter X Section 4 of the State Constitution</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•'Aha Pūnana Leo established in 1983 E Ola Ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i_the Hawaiian language shall live.</li> <li>•Hawaiian language is medium of instruction.</li> <li>• 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the only Hawaiian medium education (HME) statewide provider serving 250 keiki, 11 months, full day at 11 centers on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i.</li> <li>•Hawai'i is a national and international leader, and has the most successful model of endangered, indigenous language revitalization.</li> <li>•These amendments are relevant to the State of Hawai'i's Context for Early Learning</li> </ul>
<p>(b)...</p> <p>(1)...</p> <p>(2)...</p> <p>(c)...</p> <p>(d)... Eligible providers shall meet, or develop plans to meet, the <b>distinctive Hawaiian and English medium</b> standards established under the early....</p> <p>(e) The early childhood education program standards <b>for English medium early education</b> shall:</p>	<p>Language Matters. The National Academy of Sciences research on the Role of Language reveals that characteristics of a speaker's language influence the quantitative skills of the child. Languages also differ in important ways in the clarity and consistency reflected in actual number names. The study found that speakers of languages whose number names are patterned after Chinese (like Hawaiian) are better able than speakers of English to represent numbers using base ten blocks and to perform other place value tasks.</p> <p>In addition to the advantage in the way Hawaiian represents mathematical concepts, the role of language also influences the rate of early reading acquisition. Hawaiian language has its advantages in its syllabic system of early reading. These are advantages of learning through Hawaiian language and for which distinct standards be adopted in the Early Education program.</p> <p><i>Mathematics Learning in Early Childhood:</i></p>

	<p><i>Paths Towards Excellence and Equity; National Academy of Sciences.</i></p>
<p>(1)... (2)... (f)... (g)... (h).. <b><u>(i) Notwithstanding any provisions of this section all laboratory schools of the state Hawaiian language college shall: (1) qualify as part of the early childhood education program when serving children under the state minimum age for kindergarten enrollment; and (2) have their providers deemed eligible providers of the early childhood education program.</u></b></p>	<p>The ‘Aha Pūnana Leo preschools are laboratory schools of the state’s Hawaiian Language College at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. As such, ‘APL has been working with the college in teacher recruitment, curriculum development, teacher training and professional development. The ECE framework for the state’s early education initiative is geared towards English language preschools. Policies that require participation based in the English language potentially disenfranchises Hawaiian speaking children and families and is harmful to the goal of Pūnana Leo which is the protection, promotion and revitalization of Hawaiian. This amendment will provide a safe harbor for HME to participate as provider while working towards building capacity of a workforce and moving closer towards a more complete equitable early learning system in a state with two official languages.</p>