

SCR147/SR107

Hawaiian Language Immersion
EDU/THA, WAM

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/27/2013

Committee: Senate Education/Senate
Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SR 107 / SCR 147 Board of Education; Hawaiian Language Immersion Program

Purpose of Resolution: REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AS PART OF ITS DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE HAWAIIAN STUDIES PROGRAM, TO CREATE A COALITION TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF DEVELOPING ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED BY THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001 IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE FOR HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION STUDENTS TO MORE ACCURATELY MEASURE THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports S.R. No. 107. and S.C.R. No. 147. The Department supports the Board of Education in creating a coalition to address the issue of developing assessments required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 in the Hawaiian language for Hawaiian language immersion students to accurately measure their academic achievement.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to present testimony in support of the Resolution.



SCR147

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AS PART OF ITS DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE HAWAIIAN STUDIES PROGRAM, TO CREATE A COALITION TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF DEVELOPING ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED BY THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001 IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE FOR HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION STUDENTS TO MORE ACCURATELY MEASURE THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs

March 27, 2013

1:15 p.m.

Room 414

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** SCR147, which complements our efforts with HB224, a bill in OHA's 2013 Legislative Package. There have been numerous problems—cultural and translation biases, translation inaccuracies, and terminology inconsistencies—reportedly found in the translated Hawai'i State Assessment for Hawaiian language immersion students. This resolution would address these issues by requesting the Board of Education (BOE) to create a coalition of key stakeholders to address the issues relating to the development of fair and appropriate assessments for Hawaiian language immersion students.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

OHA is proposing a number of amendments to this resolution that have been discussed with the Department of Education superintendent, members of the BOE and other stakeholders. The amendments are found in the attached draft in track changes. Our proposed amendments:

1. Add references to state constitutional provisions and federal law that recognize the importance of the Hawaiian language and Hawaiian language education; and
2. Add a reference expressing the Legislature's strong support for the development of a request for a federal waiver from certain requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act that would allow for the most appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the Hawaiian language immersion program.
3. Add a reference that the Legislature urges the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) to approve the state's request of a federal waiver from certain requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act that would allow for the most appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the Hawaiian language immersion program.

4. Remove certain references to the No Child Left Behind Act in the event that the USDOE does approve the state's request for a waiver from certain requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

BACKGROUND

SCR147 would assist the State in furthering its **commitment to revitalize 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, the language of the first people of Hawai'i**. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i was once a thriving language used by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike. However, by the late twentieth century, it was pushed to the brink of extinction. Fortunately, several historic initiatives, including the DOE's HLIP, have ensured that the Hawaiian language is not only preserved but also thrives. Today, the HLIP is offered at 21 public schools and educates more than 2,000 students in kindergarten through the twelfth grade.

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, states must implement statewide assessments to measure the ability of the states and their schools to enable students to meet academic achievement standards. Currently, immersion school students in Hawai'i are offered a direct English-to-Hawaiian translated version of the test, as they are not formally introduced to the English language until the 5th grade. However, the translated tests have raised serious concerns in the immersion school and Hawaiian language community. Notable concerns include the following:

- Translated assessments are replete with technical translation errors, including grammatical errors, vocabulary errors, and inconsistent terminology;
- Translated assessments fail to consider cultural frames of reference and popular understandings, resulting in confusion and nonsensical problem statements.

These issues place immersion school students at a severe disadvantage in the state assessment process and the results inaccurately portray poor student performance. This negatively penalizes schools and their students, and substantially inhibits their underlying efforts for cultural perpetuation.

There is, however, a solution to these problems. The development of an assessment originally in the Hawaiian language for third through sixth grade students would **prevent irreparable impacts on the DOE, immersion schools, the students, and ultimately, the revitalization of the Hawaiian language**.

OHA urges the committees to **PASS** SCR147 taking into consideration our proposed amendments. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AS PART OF ITS DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE HAWAIIAN STUDIES PROGRAM, TO CREATE A COALITION TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF DEVELOPING ASSESSMENTS ~~REQUIRED BY THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001~~ IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE FOR HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION STUDENTS TO MORE ACCURATELY MEASURE THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language was once a thriving language used by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike; and

WHEREAS, by the late twentieth century, the Hawaiian language was pushed to the brink of extinction due to a number of factors, including an 1896 law that functioned to ban the speaking of the Hawaiian language in Hawaii's schools; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language was saved by several historic initiatives, including the Department of Education's Hawaiian language immersion program, which was launched in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, today, the Hawaiian language immersion program is offered at twenty-one public schools and educates more than two thousand students in kindergarten through the twelfth grade; and

WHEREAS, the assessments required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (No Child Left Behind) present a challenge for the Hawaiian immersion program; and

WHEREAS, because English is not formally introduced in the Hawaiian immersion program classrooms until the fifth grade, third and fourth graders take assessments in the Hawaiian language to comply with the requirements of No Child Left Behind; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education must provide the students with an assessment system that more accurately measures their academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is aware that the Board of Education is currently reviewing issues regarding assessments as part of its

development of a comprehensive Hawaiian studies program within Hawaii's public school system; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is also aware that efforts are underway to develop a request for a federal waiver from certain requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act to allow for the most appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the Hawaiian language immersion program; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language has a unique importance to the State and is recognized under article XV, section 4, the Hawaii State Constitution as an official language of the State; and

WHEREAS, article X, section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution requires that the State promote the study of the Hawaiian culture, history, and language and provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture, and history in public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Languages Act of 1990 recognizes that the traditional languages of Native Americans are an integral part of their cultures and identities and form the basic medium for the transmission, and thus survival, of Native American cultures, literatures, histories, religions, political institutions, and values; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Languages Act of 1990 also declares as a federal policy the encouragement and support for the use of Native American languages as a medium of instruction; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education is requested, as part of its development of a comprehensive Hawaiian studies program, to create a coalition to address the issue of developing assessments ~~required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001~~ in the Hawaiian language for Hawaiian language immersion students to more accurately measure their academic achievement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coalition created by the Board of Education is requested to address the development of grade-specific assessments in the Hawaiian language in language arts, mathematics, and science to be administered to students in the Hawaiian language immersion program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coalition include but not be limited to representatives from:

- (1) Hawaiian language immersion schools;
- (2) The University of Hawaii System;
- (3) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- (4) Kamehameha Schools; and
- (5) Any other entity or organization the Board of Education deems relevant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is requested to report the findings and recommendations of the coalition to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; provided that the Board of Education is requested to include in its report:

- (1) A timeline for when specific grade levels will be able to take assessments in language arts, mathematics, and science in the Hawaiian language;
- (2) Any proposed legislation; and
- (3) Any requests for necessary funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body strongly supports the development of a request for a federal waiver from certain requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act to allow for the most appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the Hawaiian language immersion program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that -the United States Department of Education is urged to approve the state's request for a federal waiver from certain requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act to allow for the most appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the Hawaiian language immersion program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, President of the University of Hawaii System, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools.

OFFERED BY: _____

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Wil Okabe
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Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013

RE: S.C.R. 147 / S.R. 107 – REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AS PART OF ITS DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE HAWAIIAN STUDIES PROGRAM, TO CREATE A COALITION TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF DEVELOPING ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED BY THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001 IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE FOR HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION STUDENTS TO MORE ACCURATELY MEASURE THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

Person Testifying: WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

To The Honorable Chair Tokuda, Chair Galuteria and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports S.C.R. 147/SR 107** which requests the Board of Education, as part of its development of a comprehensive Hawaiian Studies Program, to create a coalition to address the issue of developing assessments required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 in the Hawaiian Language for Hawaiian Language Immersion Students to more accurately measure their academic achievement.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 2.2 million member National Education Association, the HSTA encourages teachers to use the correct pronunciation and spelling of the Hawaiian Language in order to address the multiple needs as subject to Federal and State standards.

HSTA believes that the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program teachers would be an asset to the coalition to address the issue of developing assessments required by NCLB as they possess demonstrable competency in language and cultural understanding as they best serve the needs of the Hawaiian Language Immersion students.

As such, HSTA **supports SCR 147/SR 107** to include the Hawaiian Language Community and Hawaiian Language School educators to establish procedures for the development of the Hawaiian Language Test and a requirement by the BOE to report its findings promptly to the Legislature in 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: smteves@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR147 on Mar 27, 2013 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 25, 2013 10:53:11 AM

SCR147

Submitted on: 3/25/2013

Testimony for EDU/THA on Mar 27, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Pating	Kamehameha Schools	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: lalaauiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR147 on Mar 27, 2013 13:15PM*
Date: Friday, March 22, 2013 1:53:38 PM

SCR147

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for EDU/THA on Mar 27, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kainea Aiwohi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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