
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaiian language, the native language of
2 the Native Hawaiian people, was once a thriving language used by
3 Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike. However, by the late
4 twentieth century, the Hawaiian language was pushed to the brink
5 of extinction due to a number of factors, including an 1896 law
6 that functioned to ban the speaking of the Hawaiian language in
7 Hawai'i schools. Fortunately, the Hawaiian language was saved by
8 several historic initiatives, including the department of
9 education's Hawaiian language immersion program, which was
10 launched in the 1980s. Today, the Hawaiian language immersion
11 program is offered at twenty-one public schools and educates
12 more than two thousand students in kindergarten through the
13 twelfth grade.

14 The assessment requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act
15 of 2001 present a challenge for the Hawaiian language immersion
16 program. Because English is not formally introduced in Hawaiian
17 language immersion program classrooms until the fifth grade,
18 third and fourth grade students take assessments in the Hawaiian



1 language to comply with the requirements of the No Child Left
2 Behind Act. During the 2005-2006 and through the 2010-2011
3 school years, these students have been taking the Hawaiian
4 aligned portfolio assessment, which was developed in the
5 Hawaiian language specifically for the Hawaiian language
6 immersion program, to comply with the requirements of the No
7 Child Left Behind Act.

8 The legislature finds that the Hawaiian language is a
9 critical component of the heritage of the State of Hawai'i, and
10 that the State has a solemn obligation to perpetuate the
11 Hawaiian language. For example, the Hawai'i state constitution
12 recognizes the Hawaiian language as one of two official
13 languages of the State. Moreover, the board of education has
14 adopted a policy, Board of Education Policy 2105, acknowledging
15 that its Hawaiian language immersion program is "an essential
16 component to the revitalization and continuation of the Hawaiian
17 language and culture." The policy further states that one of
18 the goals of the Hawaiian language immersion program is to set a
19 challenging curriculum that follows the Hawaii content and
20 performance standards.

21 Furthermore, the federal Native American Languages Act of
22 1990 recognizes the United States' responsibility to ensure the



1 survival of Native American languages and establishes the
2 nation's policy of encouraging and supporting the use of Native
3 American languages as a medium of instruction to help preserve
4 those languages.

5 The legislature further finds that to uphold its obligation
6 to perpetuate the Hawaiian language, the department of education
7 must provide the students of the Hawaiian language immersion
8 program with an assessment system that most accurately measures
9 their academic achievement.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
11 education to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian language
12 in language arts, mathematics, and science to be administered to
13 students in grades three through six of the department of
14 education's Hawaiian language immersion program.

15 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
16 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
17 as follows:

18 **"CHAPTER**

19 **HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM**

20 § -1 **Assessments.** (a) The department of education, for
21 purposes of educational accountability under the Elementary and



1 Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, shall develop
2 annual assessments in the Hawaiian language:

3 (1) In language arts and mathematics, to be administered
4 to Hawaiian language immersion program students in
5 grades three through six; and

6 (2) In science, to be administered to Hawaiian language
7 immersion program students in grade four.

8 The assessments shall be administered annually commencing with
9 the 2015-2016 school year.

10 (b) The assessments shall not be Hawaiian translations of
11 the general state assessments and shall be:

12 (1) Aligned with the vision, mission, and programmatic
13 goals of the Hawaiian language immersion program;

14 (2) Aligned with applicable state academic content and
15 achievement standards;

16 (3) Valid, reliable, and consistent with relevant,
17 nationally recognized professional and technical
18 standards; and

19 (4) Compliant with federal requirements.

20 (c) All ancillary assessment materials and tools that are
21 made available to students taking the general state assessment
22 shall also be made available in the Hawaiian language to



1 students in the Hawaiian language immersion program to the
2 extent that these materials and tools can be adapted for use in
3 the Hawaiian language. The department of education shall work
4 with the Hawaiian language community and any contractor to
5 develop the ancillary materials and tools required under this
6 subsection. Such materials and tools shall be comparable to
7 those developed for Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
8 assessments aligned with the common core state standards.

9 (d) The department of education, with the assistance of
10 the Hawaiian language community, including the 'Aha Kauleo
11 Kaiapuni Hawai'i, members of the Hawaiian language immersion
12 program schools, the Hawaiian language programs at the
13 University of Hawaii at Hilo and the University of Hawaii at
14 Manoa, the office of Hawaiian affairs, and other Hawaiian
15 language community organizations, shall establish procedures for
16 the development of the assessments specified in subsection (a)."

17 SECTION 3. The department of education shall report to the
18 legislature on the status of the procedures for the development
19 of assessments in the Hawaiian language, pursuant to section
20 -1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, including the estimated costs
21 and other critical resources or agreements for the development



1 of the assessments, no later than twenty days prior to the
2 convening of the regular session of 2014.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language Immersion Program; Student Assessment

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian language in language arts and mathematics for students in grades three through six, and in science for students in grade four in the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program. (HB224 HD2)

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