
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 Board of Education Policy 2105, acknowledging that its
15 Hawaiian language immersion program is "an essential component
16 to the revitalization and continuation of the Hawaiian language
17 and culture." The policy further states that one of the goals
18 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 for language arts, mathematics, and science subjects that are to
13 be administered to students in grades three through six of the
14 department of education's Hawaiian language immersion program.

15 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
16 adding a new section to chapter 302A, part II, subpart A, to
17 read as follows:

18 "§302A- Hawaiian language immersion program
19 assessments. (a) The department of education shall develop
20 annual assessments in the Hawaiian language for:



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

4 (2) Science, to be administered to Hawaiian language
5 immersion program students in grade four.

6 The language arts and mathematics assessments for grades
7 three and four shall be administered annually commencing with
8 the 2015-2016 school year. The science assessment shall be
9 administered annually commencing with the _____ school
10 year. The language arts and mathematics assessments for grades
11 five and six shall be administered annually commencing with the
12 _____ school year.

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

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

17 (2) Aligned with applicable state academic content and
18 achievement standards;

19 (3) Valid, reliable, and consistent with relevant,
20 nationally recognized professional and technical
21 standards; and

22 (4) Compliant with applicable federal requirements.



1 (c) All ancillary assessment materials and tools that are
2 made available to students taking the general state assessment
3 shall also be made available in the Hawaiian language to
4 students in the Hawaiian language immersion program to the
5 extent that these materials and tools can be adapted for use in
6 the Hawaiian language. The department of education shall work
7 with the Hawaiian language community and contractors to develop
8 the ancillary materials and tools required under this
9 subsection.

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

18 SECTION 3. The department of education shall prepare and
19 submit a preliminary and final report to the legislature on the
20 status of the procedures the department is establishing for the
21 development of assessments in the Hawaiian language, pursuant to
22 section 302A- , Hawaii Revised Statutes, including the



1 estimated costs and other critical resources or agreements
2 necessary for the development of the assessments, no later than
3 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of
4 2014 and 2015, respectively.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
9 year 2014-2015 for the development of annual assessments in the
10 Hawaiian language as required in section 2 of this Act.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
12 of education for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language Immersion Program; Student Assessment;
Appropriation

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. Makes an appropriation. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

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