



HB2562
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION
House Committee on Finance

February 26, 2014

5:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment of the Board of Trustees **SUPPORTS** HB2562, which would establish a task force within the State Department of Education (DOE) to locate potential viable properties along the Wai‘anae coast, with a preference for a location in Nānākuli, on which to establish a Hawaiian language immersion school to educate students from kindergarten through grade twelve.

The DOE currently has a Hawaiian language immersion program in Nānākuli, Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Nānākuli, educating students in kindergarten through grade 6. However, there is no Hawaiian language immersion program serving students in grades 7-12 in Nānākuli or along the Wai‘anae coast. Consequently, parents seeking to continue their children’s education in a Hawaiian language immersion program must transfer to Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Ānuenuē located in Pālolo Valley, or to Ke Kula Kaiapuni Waena and Ki‘eki‘e ‘o Kahuku located in Kahuku, or to Ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau located in Kāne‘ohe. These three programs are the only Hawaiian language immersion programs serving students in grades 7-12 on the island of O‘ahu.

The task force proposed by HB2562 will be a first step in addressing the needs of immersion school students on O‘ahu’s west coast, and reducing the burdens that parents must endure in providing a Hawaiian language immersion education for their children.

In order to better reflect the administrative structure of OHA, OHA respectfully requests that the language on page 3, lines 13-14, be amended to read:

“(5) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian affairs, or the chief executive officer’s designee.”

Accordingly, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2562. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.

LATE



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

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COMMITTEES ON FINANCE
Wednesday, 2/26/14; 5:00pm; Room 308

HB 2562 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION

Aloha Madam Chair Hanohano of the Committee on Ocean Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs, and Chairman Lee of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and members of both committees gathered to hear this bill that would have the Department of Education create a Task Force to find locations on the Waianae Coast for a Hawaiian language immersion school.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has long been a proponent of the rediscovery and recovery of the Hawaiian language. Locating such a school on the Waianae Coast, preferably in the large homestead area of Nanakuli would be another huge step in the preservation of our language. The Waianae Coast has the largest population of Hawaiians in the State and locating an immersion school, particularly in Nanakuli, is long overdue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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