



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

**Date:** 01/31/2014

**Committee:** House Ocean, Marine  
Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2562 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a task force within the Department of Education to locate potential, viable properties along the Waianae coast, with a preference for a location in Nanakuli, on which to establish a Hawaiian language immersion school to educate students from kindergarten through grade twelve.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports the intent of HB 2562 to strengthen Hawaiian Language Immersion (Kaiapuni) along the Waianae coast. However, it is important to note that a collaborative process already has been established between the Department and the Nanakuli/Waianae community to address Kaiapuni education concerns for the Waianae coast as well as to work on rebuilding and strengthening the current Kaiapuni program, Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Nanakuli, at Nanakuli Elementary School. Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Nanakuli currently provides kindergarten to sixth grade Kaiapuni education to all students in the Waianae coast areas. It is through the Department's ongoing current partnership with the community that we would prefer the discussion around kindergarten to grade twelve Kaiapuni education for the larger Waianae coast community to evolve.



## **Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs**

P. O. Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

**JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEES ON  
OCEAN MARINE RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
And ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Friday, 1/31/14; 8:30 AM; Room 325

### **HB 2562 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION**

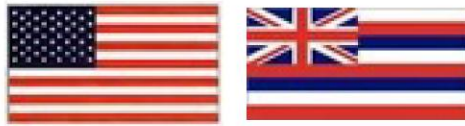
Aloha Madam Chair Hanohano of the Committee on Ocean Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs, and Chairman Lee of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and members of both committees gathered to hear this bill that would have the Department of Education create a Task Force to find locations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

Contact: [jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net)

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies  
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744  
Tel/Fax (808) 247-7942  
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director  
e-mail [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: OMH  
For hearing Friday January 31, 2014

Re: HB2562 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION.  
Establishes a task force within the Department of Education to locate potential, viable properties along the Waianae coast, with a preference for a location in Nanakuli, on which to establish a Hawaiian language immersion school to educate students from kindergarten through grade twelve.

Testimony — Cautionary comment and suggested amendment

Hawaiian culture, the Aloha Spirit, and our multiracial integration are the core of what makes Hawaii a special place. Hawaiian language and Hawaiian culture are inextricably intertwined. Hawaii's people of all ethnicities are among the growing number of residents who speak Hawaiian at varying levels of fluency, including people born in Hawaii and those who have adopted Hawaii as their new homeland. Hawaiian language is a treasure for all the world, and we all take pride in its revival.

Hawaiian language immersion schools are tax-supported public schools which must be open to students of all races. It is the kuleana of the Department of Education to conduct studies to help it decide what location has sufficiently high demand to warrant construction of a school, and whether other budget priorities will allow funding for a new language immersion school. The legislature should carefully consider whether it is wise to micromanage the DOE budget, even going so far as to choose a preferred location for a politically correct pet project.

The mention of Nanakuli reminded me of a very unfortunate situation years ago which causes me now to issue a warning.

Do not build a State of Hawaii public school on DHHL lands, or Bishop Estate (Kamehameha School) lands, because then DOE will be forced to pay huge amounts of lease rent when no rent at all would need to be paid if the school is built on ordinary state lands.

Remember the old Nanaikapono Elementary School? It was built on DHHL land, and DOE was forced to pay \$500,000 per year lease rent to DHHL for several decades (yes, that's not a typographical error — half a million dollars per year!!). Isn't that ridiculous? In 2005 the school moved into a new building right across the street on ordinary public lands where no rent was owed. Below are excerpts from the Honolulu Advertiser of Thursday, October 13, 2005. Just think what a school could do with an extra half million dollars per year!

Please consider inserting an amendment into this bill to prohibit any public school, whether language immersion or charter or ordinary school, from being built on any land where lease rent must be paid. Do not rob the DOE budget by forcing DOE to send tons of money to DHHL, KSBE, or other politically favored institutions.

Honolulu Advertiser of Thursday, October 13, 2005: "For much of its six-plus decades, Nanaikapono Elementary School rested between the mountains in Nanakuli Valley and directly beside the sea, at 89-195 Farrington Highway. It was originally known as Nanakuli School, but the first principal changed the name to Nanaikapono ... Last July, the

school packed up and moved to the mountain side of the road, and a fraction of a mile toward Wai'anae, into one of the newest, most modern campuses in the state. The switch was necessary because the old school sat on land belonging to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, which cost the Department of Education practically \$500,000 a year to lease. Now, the campus sits on state land. ... 'I'm proud of the kids, first of all,' said [Principal] Brumaghim, who added that even though the majority of his students come from families with incomes that fall in the poverty level, they still raised, in only five days, almost \$3,000 in nickels, dimes and quarters for Hurricane Katrina victims."

Imagine that! Impoverished but lokomaika'i kids raised \$3,000 to help hurricane victims 4,000 miles away even while DOE was sending \$500,000 per year to DHHL for nothing that benefitted the kids or their teachers.

**cullen2**

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**HB2562**

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for OMH on Jan 31, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaimo Muhlestein	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Anuenue School is the current K-12 school on Oahu. It was opened in 1992 to accomodate the transitioning older students of Waiiau Elementary Immersion school. Anuenue property site should remain DOE's priority site due to the years invested into Anuenue School. Parent of 2 graduates of Anuenue School

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**HB2562**

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for OMH on Jan 31, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica O. Kaikaina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Madame Chair Hanohano, I would like to submit testimony in support of this measure. Aloha and Mahalo, Jessica O.Kaikaina

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**HB2562**

Submitted on: 1/30/2014  
Testimony for OMH on Jan 31, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2562**

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for OMH on Jan 31, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dominic Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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