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# 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 Hawaii 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. The Hawaiian language immersion program,  
11 ka papahana kaiapuni, is offered at twenty public schools and  
12 educates more than two thousand students in kindergarten through  
13 the twelfth grade.

14           Federal accountability assessment requirements present a  
15 challenge for ka papahana kaiapuni. Because English is not  
16 formally introduced in ka papahana kaiapuni classrooms until the  
17 fifth grade, third and fourth grade kaiapuni students have been  
18 offered assessments in the Hawaiian language in order to comply



1 with federal accountability assessment requirements. Beginning  
2 in the 2005-2006 school year and through the 2010-2011 school  
3 years, these students were offered the Hawaiian aligned  
4 portfolio assessment, which was developed in the Hawaiian  
5 language, specifically for ka papahana kaiapuni. During school  
6 years 2011-2012 through 2013-2014, English-to-Hawaiian  
7 translations of the Hawaii state assessment were instead offered  
8 to third and fourth grade ka papahana kaiapuni students. These  
9 translated assessments contained numerous flaws, including  
10 inconsistent and inaccurate translations, and as a result,  
11 failed to accurately measure ka papahana kaiapuni students'  
12 academic achievement.

13 However, according to board of education policy 2105, "the  
14 program's effectiveness requires the development and proper  
15 administration of appropriate formative and summative assessment  
16 tools. These program evaluation tools should be in alignment  
17 with the State's kaiapuni curriculum and measure student growth  
18 and proficiency with the goal to prepare students for success in  
19 college, career and community."

20 Act 134, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, appropriated  
21 \$1,000,000 to the department of education for the development of

1 "a common core state standards assessment in the Hawaiian  
2 language." In 2014, the department of education entered into a  
3 three-year memorandum of agreement with the university of Hawaii  
4 to develop non-translated Hawaiian language assessments for ka  
5 papahana kaiapuni students in grades three and four.

6 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
7 education to report on the status of annual non-translated  
8 assessments in the Hawaiian language for language arts,  
9 mathematics, and science subjects, in accordance with federal  
10 accountability assessment requirements, to be administered to ka  
11 papahana kaiapuni students in certain grades and to develop a  
12 long-term plan to administer the assessments.

13 SECTION 2. No later than twenty days prior to the  
14 convening of the regular sessions of 2016 and 2017, the  
15 department of education shall prepare and submit a preliminary  
16 and a final report, respectively, to the legislature on:

- 17 (1) The status of the development and administration of  
18 the non-translated Hawaiian language assessments  
19 pursuant to this Act;
- 20 (2) The status of federal compliance issues relating to  
21 the non-translated Hawaiian language assessments,

1 including the status of any waivers sought from the  
2 United States Department of Education; and

3 (3) Any other actions taken to comply with this Act;  
4 provided that the final report include the department's long-  
5 term plan to develop and administer non-translated Hawaiian  
6 language assessments, for each of the grade levels required for  
7 federal accountability purposes, including funding projections  
8 and any federal compliance issues.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and  
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
13 year 2016-2017 to report on the status and long-term development  
14 and administration of annual non-translated assessments in the  
15 Hawaiian language as required by section 2 of this Act.

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

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

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**Report Title:**

Ka Papahana Kaiapuni; Hawaiian Language Assessments; Report;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of education to report on the status and long-term development and administration of non-translated annual assessments in the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science for ka papahana kaiapuni students. Makes an appropriation to carry out the purposes of this Act.  
(SD1)

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