
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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 banned the speaking of the Hawaiian language in Hawaii
7 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 kaiapuni classrooms until the fifth
17 grade, third and fourth grade kaiapuni students have been



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



1 for language arts, mathematics, and science subjects, in
2 accordance with federal accountability assessment requirements,
3 to be administered to kaiapuni students in certain grades.

4 SECTION 2. Section 302H-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 " [+] §302H-5 [+] Student performance [-]; assessments. (a)
7 Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the department of
8 education shall develop and implement annual assessments in the
9 Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science
10 for ka papahana kaiapuni students. The assessments shall:

- 11 (1) Be aligned with the vision, mission, and programmatic
12 goals of ka papahana kaiapuni;
13 (2) Be aligned with applicable state academic content and
14 achievement standards;
15 (3) Be valid, reliable, and consistent with relevant,
16 nationally-recognized professional and technical
17 standards;
18 (4) Be compliant with applicable federal accountability
19 assessment requirements; and
20 (5) Not be Hawaiian translations of the general state
21 assessments.



1 **(b)** The department of education may develop and use
2 ~~[multiple]~~ other assessment strategies and instruments to assess
3 student achievement and performance and to evaluate the
4 effectiveness of teaching strategies and methods being used in
5 the Hawaiian language medium education program.

6 **(c)** The department, with the assistance of the Hawaiian
7 language community, including the 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i,
8 members of ka papahana kaiapuni schools, the Hawaiian language
9 programs at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and University of
10 Hawaii at Manoa, office of Hawaiian affairs, and other Hawaiian
11 language community organizations, shall establish procedures for
12 the development of the assessments specified in this section."

13 SECTION 3. 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 procedures the department is
18 establishing for the development and administration of
19 assessments in the Hawaii language pursuant to this
20 Act;



- 1 (2) The status of waivers sought from the United States
- 2 Department of Education to comply with this Act; and
- 3 (3) Any other actions taken to comply with this Act.

4 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
8 year 2016-2017 for the development and administration of annual
9 assessments in the Hawaiian language as required by section 2 of
10 this Act.

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

13 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on December 24,
16 2088.



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language Immersion; Student Assessments; Appropriation

Description:

Requires and appropriates funds for the department of education to develop an assessment in the Hawaiian language of established statewide performance standards for students in the ka papahana kaiapuni program by the 2020-2021 school year. Requires reports to the legislature. (SB778 HD1)

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