

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

967

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 20, 2015

RE: S.B. No. 778  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian  
Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 778, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require and provide funding  
for the Department of Education to develop and implement annual  
assessments in the Hawaiian language, in accordance with  
established standards and state and federal assessment  
requirements, for students in the Ka Papahana Kaiapuni, Hawaiian  
language immersion program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Association of Hawaiian Civic  
Clubs, Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club, Ewa Puuloa Hawaiian  
Civil Club, King Kamehameha Hawaiian Civic Club, Hui Maka'ainana O  
Makana, and numerous individuals. The Department of Education,  
Laboratory School Program of the College of Hawaiian Language of  
the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and 'Aha Punana Leo submitted  
comments.

Your Committee acknowledges that the Department of Education  
is currently developing Hawaiian language assessments for students  
in certain elementary school grades and that the Department has  
undertaken this important task even though it tests the limits of  
the Department's capacity. However, your Committee also finds

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that in the absence of adequate Hawaiian language assessments, many families choose to opt their students out of assessments altogether, which may have repercussions for the funding and ranking of Ka Papaha Kaiapuni schools.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that the Department of Education shall implement Hawaiian language assessments beginning with the 2020-2021 school year; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 778, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 778, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Education.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ocean, Marine  
Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs,

  
KANIELA ING, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-eighth Legislature

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**Record of Votes of the Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs**

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>SB 778, SD2</b>	Committee Referral: <b>OMH, EDN, FIN</b>	Date: <b>3/18/15</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
OMH Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. ING, Kaniela (C)	/			
2. LOWEN, Nicole E. (VC)	/			
3. CULLEN, Ty J.K.	/			
4. EVANS, Cindy	/			
5. LEE, Chris	/			
6. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.	/			
7. SAY, Calvin K.Y.	/			
8. YAMANE, Ryan I.				/
9. POUHA, Feki	/			
10. THIELEN, Cynthia	/			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	9	0	0	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u><i>Nicole E. Lowen</i></u>				
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