

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/04/2015

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309

**Committee:**

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0208 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the DOE to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian Language for language arts, mathematics, and science, to be administered to Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students. Requires the DOE to submit a preliminary and final report.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) fully appreciates the intent and substantive content of HB 0208. Board of Education Policy #2105, Ka Papahana Kaiapuni, which directs the department to develop assessments in the Hawaiian language, is currently being implemented.

This past June, the Department entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the University of Hawaii to develop a Hawaiian language version of the state assessment of the Hawaii Common Core Standards. This assessment is to be administered to grade 3 and 4 students enrolled in a Hawaiian language immersion program in the spring of 2015.

The Department also notes that expansion of the development of assessments in the Hawaiian language will require additional funding. The Department would like the opportunity to evaluate the UH - MOA effort for developing Hawaiian language assessments for the 3rd and 4th grade students at the end of the 2014-15 school year and is willing to submit a report on the outcome to the 29th legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 0208.



**HB208**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM**  
House Committee on Education

February 4, 2015

2:00 p.m.

Room 309

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The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB208, which is a bill in OHA's 2015 Legislative Package. This bill would provide our nationally-recognized Hawaiian language immersion schools and their students with a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in national and state educational assessment programs, by allowing students taught in the Hawaiian language to take educational assessments that are developed originally in Hawaiian, their primary language of instruction.

HB208 addresses a long-standing problem with the state's standardized assessment program under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. During school years 2011-2012 through 2013-2014, Hawaiian language immersion program (Ka Papahana Kaiapuni or Kaiapuni) students have been offered an English-to-Hawaiian translated version of the statewide assessments for grades 3 and 4, where Hawaiian is the sole language of instruction. These translated assessments are replete with problems, including cultural biases, translation inaccuracies, grammatical errors, vocabulary errors, and inconsistent terminology. Kaiapuni students in grades in which the English language is formally taught are offered only the standard English-language assessments, notwithstanding the fact that Hawaiian is still the primary language of instruction. Frustration with such nonsensical or linguistically inappropriate assessments has now led to many Kaiapuni parents "opting out" their children from taking the statewide assessments. Without a solution, this problem threatens to substantially inhibit the state's and Hawaiian community's efforts to revitalize 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, one of the state's official languages, and reduce available funding for both Kaiapuni schools as well as Department of Education programs generally.

This bill resolves the problems with the State's linguistically and culturally inappropriate assessment practices, by requiring the Department of Education (DOE) to partner with the Hawaiian language community and develop annual assessments originally in the Hawaiian language, to be administered to Kaiapuni students in certain grades. The implementation of such assessments will allow for a more fair and reasonable assessment process and a more accurate reflection of Kaiapuni students' academic achievement. The anticipated increase in assessment participation and reduction in how many students "opt out" from the assessment process may also prevent irreparable negative impacts to the the DOE, Ka Papahana Kaiapuni, Kaiapuni students, and ultimately, the revitalization of the Hawaiian language.

**OHA respectfully requests that HB208 be amended to track the language in HB874, which OHA developed in partnership with the DOE.** These amendments would require the DOE to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science, in accordance with federal accountability assessment requirements, to be administered to students of the Kaiapuni program generally, instead of limiting such assessments to Kaiapuni students in specified grades.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB208. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tanya Abalos	Hawaii State Teachers Association	Support	No

**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aulii Dudoit	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB208 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benjamin Guerrero	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT [Insert HB874 or HB208] which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Aloha, my name is cody Nip and I attend o hina I ka malama a Hawaiian emersion program at Molokai high school. I strongly SUPPORT HB208 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I think we should have our own Hawaiian based assessments. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo

I strongly SUPPORT HB208 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. The Hawaiian language is one of two official languages of the State of Hawai'i, **as such, it is important for the mother tongue of these islands to have parity with the English language.** Hawaiian language immersion students should have an assessment that accurately evaluates their knowledge base that is grounded in the medium of their education. I urge the committee to **PASS** this bill.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

J. Ekela Kaniaupio-Crozier



Aloha, my name is Haleola Kapuni-Lopez. I am a Hawaiian immersion Student From 'O Hina I ka Malama, on Moloka'i. I strongly SUPPORT HB874 and HB208 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. We believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Aloha my name is Hiilani Kanuha and I attend O hina I ka malama. A Hawaiian emersion program at Molokai High school on Molokai. I strongly SUPPORT HB208 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo

**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Iolani Kuoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Hawaiian Language Immersion educator, I strongly SUPPORT HB208 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

:: Leanne Kealoha Fox ::

2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District

House District: 39  
Senate District: 18

February 2, 2015

**HB208**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM**

House Committees on Finance, Education, & Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Values

Aloha a welina mai nei e nā alaka'i:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write testimony to **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB 208 to require the DOE to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian Language for language arts, mathematics, and science, to be administered to Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students. Requires the DOE to submit a preliminary and final report.

I strongly **SUPPORT HB208** which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to **PASS** this bill.

I urge the committee to **PASS** HB 208.

Respectfully, me ka `oia`i`o.

*Leanne Kealoha Fox*

Letter of Support for HB208

I strongly SUPPORT HB208 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

The hawaiian language is an official language of this State, it is also the language of this 'āina. It is the same language that tourists flock here to hear and experience, it is the same language that is used for almost every sustainability advertisement out there with "mālama 'āina" or "mālama i ke kai." This language is aloha, the same word that every tourist sees and hears when they step off a plane when they get here. Why should not the people who chose to perpetuate this language also receive a fair assessment of this language in a test authored in its language and not translated. It will help the hawaiian language students learn and improve their skills and it will keep the language of this land alive.

much mahalo,

Wahineaipohaku Tong

**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tammy Lynn Ross	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB208 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support!

Aloha, my name is Uilani Smith. I am currently a student at O Hina I Ka Malama which is a Hawaiian Language Immersion Program. I strongly support HB208 because fundraising is a lot of work and also not very easy to do. we believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo for your support!



**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: There is no precise word for 'aina, or kuleana, or aloha, in the English language. Perpetuating 'Olelo Hawai'i is thus key to perpetuating the understood values and ideas unique to our islands. Please help perpetuate a foundation of Hawai'i's culture, strength and sense of community by giving our Hawaiian language immersion programs a fair shake at participating in the state educational assessment program.

**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andi Pawasarat-Losalio	Individual	Support	No

← Back

I strongly **SUPPORT HB208** which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to **PASS** this bill.



**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kanoe Kanakaole	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I, Kanoe Kanaka'ole, strongly SUPPORT HB208 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language medium education and language immersion students and families who have chosen these educational pathways over mainstream schooling deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in the language of instruction and unique pedagogy. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support!

**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
christine kauahikaua	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB208 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support!

**LATE**

**HB208**

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 4, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keiko Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaiian language is an official language of this state. As such, it should be made available across state agencies and especially whenever requested by the public. But most especially, when the public is requesting an assessment of Hawaiian language students in Hawaiian language medium schools, it really does make sense for the assessments to be available in the Hawaiian language. Therefore, I strongly SUPPORT this bill which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.