



HB874 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 1, 2015

1:30 p.m.

Room 211

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** for HB874 HD1 SD1. This measure in large part reflects an agreement that OHA reached with the Department of Education (DOE) regarding two legislative vehicles, HB874 and SB778, that seek to address long-standing problems with the state's standardized assessment program under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

This measure provides 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. Unfortunately, for several years, schools and students in the Hawaiian language immersion program (Ka Papahana Kaiapuni or Kaiapuni) have encountered substantial challenges relating to the statewide assessments required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. During school years 2011-2012 through 2013-2014, Kaiapuni students were offered an English-to-Hawaiian translated version of the statewide assessments for grades 3 and 4, where Hawaiian is the sole language of instruction. Due to their translated nature, these 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.

This long-standing 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.

The clear solution to this problem is to allow students taught in the Hawaiian language to take educational assessments that are developed originally in Hawaiian, their primary language of instruction. Accordingly, OHA and the DOE have actively endeavored to develop a mutually acceptable and practical legislative approach to ensure

that Kaiapuni students are provided with such linguistically appropriate assessment opportunities. Fortunately, such a measure has now been agreed upon.

In the spirit of continued collaboration with the DOE and affected stakeholders, OHA and the DOE joined in proposing amendments to the previous version of this measure to provide an appropriation to continue the development of non-translated assessments for Kaiapuni students, and to require a report to the 2016 and 2017 Legislature that includes status updates, identification of federal compliance issues, funding projections, and a long-term plan towards the full implementation of non-translated Hawaiian language assessments for language arts, mathematics, and science for each of the grade levels required for federal accountability purposes.

OHA offers the following recommended amendments to allow this measure to achieve the full benefits contemplated by OHA and the DOE:

Amend page 3, lines 6-7, to read as follows:

The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation to support the department of education's continued development of non-translated assessments in the Hawaiian language, and to require the department of education to report on the status of annual non-translated

Amend page 4, lines 13-15 to read as follows:

year 2016-2017 for the continued development of non-translated assessments in the Hawaiian language and to report on the status and long-term development and administration of annual non-translated assessments in the Hawaiian language.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** HB874 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 04/01/2015
Time: 01:30 PM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0874, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: 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)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) fully appreciates the intent and substantive content of HB 0874 HD1 SD1

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 0874 HD1 SD1



TO: Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: April 1, 2015
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: HOUSE BILL 874, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 874, HD1, SD1 relating to the Ka Papahana Kaiapuni Hawaiian Language Immersion Program.

Kamehameha Schools offers support to this measure that would help equalize testing for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students by creating a test that is technically accurate to the language of instruction and intelligible to Hawaiian language speakers, rather than one that is often inaccurately translated from English. The Hawaii Department of Education and the Public Charter School Commission have worked very hard in conjunction with KS and other stakeholders to help preserve and protect an important piece of Hawaii's cultural heritage. The Hawaiian language is one of the few Native languages of North America to survive and thrive into this century. We must do all that we can to promote the continuation of measures that legitimize and equalize its standing in the context of our educational system.

This measure is very important, not only for the sake of Hawaiian language students, who deserve to be evaluated with fair measures, but also for the overall rankings of Hawaii's schools. Kamehameha Schools supports promoting the achievement and success of all Hawaii's students. Previously, the options for Hawaiian language students were to do their best with tests that were not optimally crafted to their language, or opt out, an action that resulted in a failing score. Because we know that Hawaiian language students and English language students work equally hard to achieve academic success, we feel that the statewide test statistics should reflect the true abilities of all of Hawaii's keiki.

We ask that you help to provide our state's courageous and talented youth who commit themselves to preserving the language of their ancestors with the tools they need to demonstrate their proficiency and hard work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 874 HD1 SD1 Relating to the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program
DATE: Wednesday, April 1, 2015
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM: Conference Room 211
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of the intent of House Bill 874 HD1 SD1, "Relating to the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program," which would require the Department of Education ("DOE") to develop and implement state assessments in the Hawaiian language that are not Hawaiian translations of the general state assessments.

This issue is of great importance to Hawaii's charter school system, as public charter schools are subject to the same state assessment requirements as all other public schools, and six of them deliver some or all of their instruction through the Hawaiian language. In the absence of Hawaiian language assessments, under an option the Commission made available to these schools as a short-term mitigating measure, five of the six schools requested that the Commission exclude the Hawaii State Bridge Assessment results for some younger grades from consideration under the Commission's Academic Performance Framework for charter schools, because students in those grades are taught exclusively or primarily in Hawaiian. The Commission defers to the DOE as to the timing and merits of this particular bill but supports the intent of providing the additional support and resources needed to help enable Hawaii's educational infrastructure reflect the fact that our state has two official languages.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date of Hearing: 4-1-2015
Time: 1:30pm
Location: Conference Room 211

*Testimony of Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā, Director of the Laboratory School Program
of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language of the University
of Hawai'i at Hilo*

HB874, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION
PROGRAM: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Tokuda. Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā, Director of the Laboratory School Program of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The Laboratory School Program of the College of Hawaiian Language is in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB874, HD1, SD1.**

Our families in Hawaiian medium education very much recognize and appreciate that HB874, HD1, SD1 will ensure fair, reliable and valid assessments in Hawaiian for students in ka papahana kaiapuni without further delay. Ka papahana kaiapuni students look forward to a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in national and state educational assessment programs that this measure shall provide.

HB874, HD1, SD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the continued development and administration of assessments for ka papahana kaiapuni students. Our families in Hawaiian medium education ask that this Committee support and pass the appropriation of these critical funds.

Please support and pass HB874, HD1, SD1.

Mahalo nui.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

HB 874HD1SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Wednesday, 4/1/15; 1:30 pm; Room211

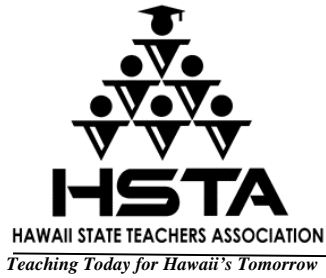
Aloha Madam Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports this bill that would require the DOE to provide Hawaiian language assessments in the Hawaiian language.

From the beginning our clubs have supported, lobbied and provided financial assistance for our young Hawaiian scholars to be educated. Happily, many of them have turned to the mother tongue of their kupuna and are today teaching Hawaiian language to the next generation. The Hawaiian language has made a remarkable recovery and the Civic Clubs have been consistent in support of the revival. Many of our present kupuna, unable to learn from their kupuna who were punished for speaking Hawaiian, now turn to their grand-children for help in translations.

We support HB874HD1 and the amendments in SD1 as yet another step toward completing the cycle of cultural, historic and language retrieval and revival for Hawaii's native people. We listen to our grandchildren in awe as they speak to one another in the language that we were denied. It is cause for celebration.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure. We urge its passage.

Contact: Jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Wil Okabe
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Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015

RE: HB874, HD1, SD1 - ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS IN THE HAWAIIAN
LANGUAGE

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Ron Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

THE HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (HSTA) specifically the Hawaiian Language Immersion teachers that are in both public school systems, we thank you for the opportunity to share our **SUPPORT of the INTENT of HB 874, HD1, SD1 with COMMENTS.**

When the session first started, HSTA was in strong support of the measure. We believed that it was in keeping with the commitment the state of Hawai'i made when they first provided for full Hawaiian Immersion Education.

While no one could have predicted the impact that the standardized testing frenzy would bring to our educational system, it is clear that no public school program is immune from it. Standardized testing, in any form, seems to be the antithesis of the kind of authentic learning that occurs in our immersion schools. Its presence, however, will remain until Federal law changes.

This is why the legislation before you matters. If we are going to abide by Federal law AND do right by our beliefs about immersion education, we must have assessments developed in the language in which our children learn. It is clear, both from the feedback that we have received from our affected members, and from the testimony that we have heard, that this journey is nowhere near done and as such, requires more time to get it right.

HSTA's primary concern at this point is for our students, our teachers and our immersion schools. We ask for support in ensuring that the assessments be developed in a manner that addresses the concerns of all affected parties. More importantly, we ask that until that journey is concluded, our students, teachers and immersion schools are held harmless. Whether this be with waivers or modifications or any remedy that can be enacted, we believe that the very people and entities engaged in this good work should be supported, protected, and ultimately provided what they need to do what the state of Hawai'i has asked of them.

Thank you for allowing us to share our comments on this important matter before you.

HSTA **SUPPORTS the INTENT of HB 874, HD 1, SD1 with COMMENTS.**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
Leimana DaMate
Executive Director

Wednesday, April 1, 2015
1:30 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Before the Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

In SUPPORT of
House Bill 874, HD 1 SD 1
Relating to the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program

House Bill 874, HD 1 SD 1 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. It makes an appropriation to carry out the purposes of this Act.

The Aha Moku Advisory Committee, through the Aha Moku System encompasses 43 traditional moku in which over 500 ahupua'a are located. Many of our native Hawaiian traditional resource practitioners have keiki and mo'opuna, children and grandchildren who attend the Hawaiian Immersion Schools across the state of Hawaii. Hawaiian is their first language and many are incredibly bright students. However, the translations of federal accountability assessment requirements from English to Hawaiian are often shown to be inconsistent with inaccurate translations.

This Bill is needed and welcomed as another forward step in assisting and accurately assessing the progress of children in certain grades in the Hawaiian Immersion Program.

We SUPPORT H.B. 874, HD 1 SD 1 and urge its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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LAND
STATE PARKS



96 Pu'uhonu Place
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 935-4304
(808) 969-7512

www.ahapunanaleo.org

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Niulahiki

Hawaiian Language Online

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date of Hearing: 4-1-2015
Time: 1:30pm
Location: Conference Room 211

*Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Non-Profit Educational Organization
Dedicated to the Revitalization of the Hawaiian Language*

**HB874, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION
PROGRAM: **STRONG SUPPORT****

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB874, HD1, SD1.**

Our families in Hawaiian medium education very much recognize and appreciate that HB874, HD1, SD1 will ensure fair, reliable and valid assessments in Hawaiian for students in ka papahana kaiapuni without further delay. Ka papahana kaiapuni students look forward to a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in national and state educational assessment programs that this measure shall provide.

HB874, HD1, SD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the continued development and administration of assessments for ka papahana kaiapuni students. Our families in Hawaiian medium education ask that this Committee support and pass the appropriation of these critical funds.

Please support and pass HB874, HD1, SD1.

Mahalo nui,

M. 'Ekekela Aiona
Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo
96 Pu'uhonu Place
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 935-4304

HB874

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 1, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments: Strongly urge passage of this bill that would hold the Dept of Education accountable to report on the status of annual non-translated assessments in the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science subjects, in accordance with federal accountability assessment requirements, to be administered to ka papahana kaiapuni students in certain grades and to develop a long-term plan to administer the assessments. Progress on this initiative is essential since this is about assuring quality education and quality assessment of students taught in the Hawaiian language, and is consistent with the Hawaii State Constitution that recognizes two official languages of this state, english and hawaiian. Those educated in the Hawaiian language deserve no less.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kaiulani@kalo.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB874 on Apr 1, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 1:33:35 PM

HB874

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 1, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka'iulani Pahi'o	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date of Hearing: 4-1-2015
Time: 1:30pm
Location: Conference Room 211

*Testimony of Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a, Director of
Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language
of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo*

HB874, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION
PROGRAM: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a, Director of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University Hawai'i at Hilo. I ask that you **support and pass HB874, HD1, SD1.**

Our families in Hawaiian medium education very much recognize and appreciate that HB874, HD1, SD1 will ensure fair, reliable and valid assessments in Hawaiian for students in ka papahana kaiapuni without further delay. Ka papahana kaiapuni students look forward to a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in national and state educational assessment programs that this measure shall provide.

HB874, HD1, SD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the continued development and administration of assessments for ka papahana kaiapuni students. Our families in Hawaiian medium education ask that this Committee support and pass the appropriation of these critical funds.

Please support and pass HB874, HD1, SD1.

Mahalo nui,

Keiki Kawai'ae'a

