



SB778 SD1
RELATING TO EDUCATION
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 2, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB778 SD1. 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.

SB778 SD1 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 (DOE) programs generally.

SB778 SD1 addresses such linguistically and culturally inappropriate assessment practices by requiring the DOE to partner with the Hawaiian language community, and develop annual assessments originally in the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science, in accordance with federal accountability assessment requirements, for Kaiapuni program students. Implementing 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 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB778 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

Date of Hearing: 3-2-2015
Time: 9:00am
Location: Conference Room 211

*Testimony of Dr. Kauanoë 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*

SB778, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION: **STRONG Support**

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

My name is Dr. Kauanoë 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 SB778, SD1.**

Our families in Hawaiian medium education very much appreciate that this bill is intended to provide fair, reliable and valid assessments in Hawaiian, an official language of Hawai'i and the language of instruction for students in ka papahana kaiapuni.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of SB778, SD1.**

Mahalo nui.

SB778

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Malu Johnson Debus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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SB778

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kainani Medeiros	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: 3-2-2015
Time: 9:00am
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*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*

SB778, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION: **STRONG Support**

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

I am Dr. Keiki Kawai‘ae‘a, Director of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language of the University Hawai‘i at Hilo. I ask that you **pass SB778, SD1.**

Our families in Hawaiian medium education very much appreciate that this bill will ensure fair, reliable and valid assessments in Hawaiian, an official language of Hawai‘i and the language of instruction for students in ka papahana kaiapuni.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of SB778, SD1.**

Mahalo nui.