
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaiian is an
2 official language of the State, and the legislature has a unique
3 responsibility to assure that opportunities are available to use
4 and study the Hawaiian language. Over the past three decades,
5 the legislature has carried out this responsibility by forming
6 the basis of the State's Hawaiian language medium pathway
7 parallel to the long standing English medium pathway of
8 preschool through doctoral level education.

9 These legislative efforts began in 1986 with removal of a
10 barrier to use Hawaiian as the medium of education. Shortly
11 thereafter in 1989, the legislature mandated the creation of a
12 Hawaiian language center at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, in
13 association with its existing Hawaiian language medium
14 bachelor's degree, to produce Hawaiian language medium
15 educational materials and teacher support. In 1997, the
16 legislature required that a Hawaiian language college be
17 established at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, building on the
18 existing degree and Hawaiian language center, to expand the



1 University of Hawaii at Hilo's Hawaiian language medium
2 programming, including teacher education, preschool through
3 twelfth grade laboratory school programming, graduate education,
4 and indigenous language outreach. Before the legislature took
5 action, less than fifty children in the State were proficient in
6 Hawaiian. Today, U.S. Census data indicates Hawaiian is the
7 largest non-English language spoken in Hawaii among children
8 ages five to seventeen. Many of these children are part of the
9 preschool through twelfth grade Hawaiian medium programs
10 currently educating over three thousand students annually.

11 The legislature finds that in response to S.R. No. 97,
12 S.D. 1, regular session 2015, the office of the president of the
13 university of Hawaii system, director of the Hawaiian language
14 college, and a working group contributed to a report that
15 considered the restructuring of the Hawaiian language college
16 and examined the expansion of Hawaiian language instruction
17 throughout the University of Hawaii system. One of the issues
18 presented to the working group was that the existing structure
19 of the University of Hawaii system is not optimal for a state
20 whose official languages are English and Hawaiian. The report
21 provided to the legislature, and made available to the public,



1 delves into the data and trends in the teaching of the Hawaiian
2 language and through the offering and use of Hawaiian language
3 in the University of Hawaii system and beyond. The report also
4 references some of the challenges and barriers to expanding
5 these efforts as well as potential solutions to these
6 challenges. A noteworthy reference in the report is the
7 barriers the Hawaiian language college has encountered in
8 instituting general education courses through the medium of
9 Hawaiian. The report also highlights the underlying
10 contradictions throughout the University of Hawaii system in
11 relation to advancing strategic directions toward a Hawaiian
12 language planning vision. Relative to these barriers, the
13 report also acknowledges international tertiary education models
14 that have successfully overcome similar challenges.

15 The legislature recognizes that 2017 represents the
16 twentieth anniversary of its passage of legislation establishing
17 the Hawaiian language college. Since its inception, the
18 Hawaiian language college has not only provided key support for
19 Hawaiian language medium education throughout the State but has
20 also become a national resource for Native American language
21 revitalization and has initiated international collaborations in



1 pursuit of global indigenous language excellence. The continued
2 need for, and interest in, the programs and support provided by
3 the Hawaiian language college is evidenced in part by the
4 continued growth in Hawaiian language course enrollment at the
5 college, despite decreasing overall enrollment numbers for the
6 University of Hawaii system. The driving focus fueling the
7 Hawaiian language college's commitment to provide these much-
8 needed programs that are impacting indigenous language
9 initiatives here and abroad is the desire to establish a high-
10 functioning Hawaiian medium pathway of education alongside the
11 State's current, dominant, English medium pathway. In
12 recognition of thirty years of legislative policy supporting the
13 revitalization of Hawaiian language as well as the Hawaiian
14 language college's noted progress in creating new and
15 strengthened pathways to further the normalization of this
16 official language of the State, the legislature seeks to support
17 expanded innovative approaches to the development of a highly-
18 functioning Hawaiian medium pathway of education.

19 The legislature finds that access to education taught
20 through the Hawaiian language is a matter of statewide concern.
21 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Expand the Hawaiian language college's functions;
- 2 (2) Authorize the establishment of a pilot project in
- 3 pursuit of innovative strategies and approaches for
- 4 the development of a Hawaiian medium pathway; and
- 5 (3) Provide for an implementation plan to expand Hawaiian
- 6 language instruction throughout the University of
- 7 Hawaii system as recommended by the working group
- 8 created by S.R. No. 97, S.D. 1, regular session 2015.

9 SECTION 2. Section 304A-1301, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 10 amended to read as follows:

11 "[+]§304A-1301[+] **Hawaiian language college;**
 12 **establishment.** (a) There shall be a Hawaiian language college
 13 at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. The college shall provide
 14 a Hawaiian liberal education program providing education
 15 primarily through the Hawaiian language.

16 (b) The Hawaiian language college shall be internally
 17 administered primarily through the Hawaiian language, operate
 18 year round, and offer and administer a variety of programs and
 19 qualifications. The programs of the college shall be offered
 20 primarily through the Hawaiian language and may be offered
 21 worldwide and through electronic means."



1 SECTION 3. Section 304A-1302, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "[+]§304A-1302[+] **Functions.** In addition to providing a
4 quality education primarily through the medium of the Hawaiian
5 language, the Hawaiian language college shall:

- 6 (1) Provide an indigenous and minority language outreach
7 program to involve indigenous and minority language
8 scholars and to maintain and develop the program's
9 Polynesian language database;
- 10 (2) Provide a Hawaiian medium teacher training program
11 incorporating Nawahiokalani'opu'u school and other
12 schools, as appropriate, as laboratory schools; [and]
- 13 (3) Maintain a Hawaiian language support center with
14 educational specialists in the areas of research,
15 curriculum development, assessment development,
16 reference materials development including
17 dictionaries, language development, archival work, and
18 educational technology[-];
- 19 (4) Provide a specially facilitated general education,
20 dual enrollment, liberal studies, and shared courses
21 and programs pathways through the medium of Hawaiian



- 1 language to serve students, using technology as
- 2 appropriate;
- 3 (5) Develop, pilot, and disseminate other distinctive
- 4 pathways, procedures, and rules that provide for the
- 5 support and use of the Hawaiian language and other
- 6 endangered languages, including use of such language
- 7 in government functions;
- 8 (6) Provide for national Native American language medium
- 9 education research and support in partnership with the
- 10 national coalition of Native American language schools
- 11 and programs, and other entities as appropriate; and
- 12 (7) Enter into agreements of cooperation and reciprocity
- 13 with other entities to meet the requirements of this
- 14 section and section 304A-1301."

15 SECTION 4. The University of Hawaii system may establish a

16 pilot project to implement Hawaiian language instruction and

17 develop new ideas, practices, and processes relative to Hawaiian

18 language medium education. This pilot project may include

19 collaboration between all University of Hawaii system programs

20 and campuses, and may implement innovative strategies and

21 approaches for the development and approval of Hawaiian language

1 medium general education programs and coursework, building on
2 international models that address indigenous and minority
3 official languages as the operational medium of education. The
4 pilot project may serve as a possible model for replication for
5 other purposes in Hawaii. The pilot project may operate under
6 the jurisdiction of the president of the University of Hawaii,
7 assisted by the chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo,
8 chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, chancellor of
9 the University of Hawaii West Oahu, and chancellors of the
10 University of Hawaii system community colleges while using
11 shared resources as the President deems appropriate.

12 SECTION 5. The directors of all of the University of
13 Hawaii system Hawaiian language programs shall join with the
14 president of the University of Hawaii and the working group
15 created by S.R. No. 97, S.D. 1, regular session 2015, with
16 additional members as deemed appropriate by the president of the
17 University of Hawaii, to develop an implementation plan to
18 address the system wide Hawaiian language goals indicated in the
19 report generated by the working group created by S.R. No. 97,
20 S.D. 1, regular session 2015. Once completed, the
21 implementation plan shall be submitted to the legislature.



1 SECTION 6. The University of Hawaii shall submit a
2 comprehensive report to the legislature no later than twenty
3 days before the convening of each regular session detailing:

4 (1) Efforts throughout the University of Hawaii system,
5 including efforts at individual campuses, to implement
6 education taught through the Hawaiian language;

7 (2) The status of the implementation plan that addresses
8 the goals indicated in the report generated by the
9 working group created by S.R. No. 97, S.D. 1, regular
10 session 2015;

11 (3) The number of students pursuing educational options
12 available through the Hawaiian language; and

13 (4) Any recommendations, including any proposed
14 legislation, for statewide efforts to promote
15 education taught through the Hawaiian language.

16 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

19



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language College; University of Hawaii at Hilo;
Hawaiian Language Medium General Education Coursework Pilot
Project; Hawaiian Language Instruction Implementation Plan

Description:

Expands the Hawaiian language college's functions. Authorizes a Hawaiian language medium general education coursework pilot project. Supports the development of an implementation plan for Hawaiian language instruction throughout the University of Hawaii system. Requires the University of Hawaii to report to the legislature each year with information about efforts to implement education taught through the Hawaiian language. (SD1)

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