

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/15/2017
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0910 RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for the Office of Hawaiian Education of the Department of Education.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (the Department) supports HB 910 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact other Department priorities.

The Office of Hawaiian Education (OHE) is a newly established office in the Department of Education. The Director of OHE has worked with internal and external stakeholders to identify short term priorities for the strengthening of Hawaiian education programming in the Department. In addition, OHE has been assigned with the task of developing an implementation plan for Board of Education policy E-3, Nā Hopena A'o which is an integral component of the recently updated Joint Department of Education/Board of Education Strategic Plan. The Department notes that OHE's budget request of \$2,310,800 for each of the next two fiscal years was approved by the BOE.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 910.



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Education

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: February 15, 2017

Where: Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 910 Relating to the Office of Hawaiian Education.**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Takumi, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Har, a me nā Lālā Lunamaka'āinana o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support HB 910**, relating to the Office of Hawaiian Education and offer the following comments:

This measure appropriates funds for the Office of Hawaiian Education of the Department of Education. Kamehameha Schools advocates for and supports the achievement of Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian public school students. As such, we have been a collaborator with the Board of Education, the Department of Education and, specifically, the Office of Hawaiian Education. We believe that the inclusion of funding for the positions necessary to fulfill the mission of the office is consistent with the Board and Department's approved strategic plan and essential to advance the education of the children of the state.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.



Native Hawaiian Education Council

February 14, 2017

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
State of Hawai'i, House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Via: Electronic Upload - edntestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: HB 910 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN EDUCATION

Aloha e Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Har,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **SUPPORTS HB910** which appropriates funds for the Office of Hawaiian Education of the Department of Education.

The Council is mindful that Hawai'i operates in a unique context of having a single State Educational Agency (SEA) and Local Educational Agency (LEA); two official languages—English and Hawaiian—that are mediums of instruction in the State's public education system; a public charter school system that is a blend of Hawaiian medium immersion and Hawaiian culture based schools; and a SEA in the midst of implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—the most pervasive federal policy change since No Child Left Behind in 2001, returning control to State's by Congressional intent.

The Office of Hawaiian Education (OHE) is responsible for implementing Board of Education (BOE) Ends Policy E-3 – Na Hopena A`o (HA). HA is a framework of outcomes that reflects the Department of Education's (DOE) core values and beliefs in action throughout the public educational system of Hawaii. The Department of Education works together as a system that includes everyone in the broader community to develop the competencies that strengthen a sense of **belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, total-well-being and Hawaii ("BREATH")** in ourselves, students and others.¹

HA is codified in both the joint BOE/DOE strategic plan (approved by the BOE in December 2016) and the Governor's Blueprint for Education. Unfortunately, the Governor proposed DOE biennium budget excludes funding for the implementation of BOE Policy E-

¹ BOE Policy E-3



Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Har
February 14, 2017
Page 2

3 via OHE. Not funding OHE, the entity responsible for implementation, is counter intuitive.

We urge the committee to **PASS** this bill and appropriate funds for the Office of Hawaiian Education of the Department of Education.

The Native Hawaiian Education Council was established in 1994 under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act. The Council is charged with coordinating, assessing and reporting and making recommendations on the effectiveness of existing education programs for Native Hawaiians, the state of present Native Hawaiian education efforts, and improvements that may be made to existing programs, policies, and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians.

Please feel free to contact the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Hussey, directly via e-mail (sylvia@nhec.org), office (808.523.6432) or mobile (808.221.5477) telephone with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino, Chair

cc: Policy & Advocacy and Executive Committees and staff



Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205
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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
For hearing Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Re: HB 910
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN EDUCATION.
Appropriates funds for the Office of Hawaiian Education of the
Department of Education.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

I fully agree with most of the first sentence of this bill, which says: "... all K-12 public education students should develop, maintain, and grow in an understanding and appreciation of Hawaiian culture, language, values, practices, and concepts ..." although the last part of the sentence raises the specter of the schools indoctrinating children with history-twisting propaganda when it says that the curriculum must be "... consistent with the State's recognition of the current and historical context of these islands."

Here are four objections to this bill.

(1) Why should "Hawaiian Studies" take priority over other, more important core elements of curriculum such as reading, writing, and the STEM subjects? That prioritizing is seen by the fact that there are no bills in the legislature to provide special funding earmarked for those core subjects. There are a finite number of dollars available for the public school system. Spending more money for Hawaiian Studies, or protecting it while other areas of the budget are cut, inevitably means less money for teacher salaries and for the core subjects. Making Hawaiian Studies more important than any other element of curriculum is as absurd as it would be to make ethnomath a more important part of the mathematics curriculum than algebra and geometry. The metaphor comes to mind, of the tail wagging the dog.

(2) The Hawaiian Studies program has been diverted from its proper mission to help students "develop, maintain, and grow in an understanding and appreciation of Hawaiian culture, language, values, practices, and concepts" in a factual, objective way. The Director of the Hawaiian Studies program is a Hawaiian sovereignty activist from Waimanalo whose father, Tony Sang, was President of the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations, and who also attacked the jurisdiction of the United States as owner of Bellows Air Force Base in Waimanalo on grounds that the overthrow of the Hawaii monarchy was illegal and that ethnic Hawaiians have collective ownership of all the ceded lands. This attitude has infused the Hawaiian Studies curriculum. A couple years ago Director Dawn Kau'ilani Sang was elevated to a higher level of authority in the Department of Education than any head of any other area of curriculum, so that her only bosses are the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent (both of whom are now departing from DOE). Now the Hawaiian Studies division of DOE wants to increase its empire within DOE by sequestering for itself an even larger portion of DOE's limited budget at the expense of the core subjects.

(3) In 2011 an in-depth analysis was done of the two textbooks approved by DOE for the History of Modern Hawaii course required for graduation, including the DOE curriculum guide and standards for the course. See

<http://tinyurl.com/4ys86vg>

As a result of the history-twisting and victimhood mentality spawned by this course, thousands of teenagers and young adults now feel rising levels of anti-Americanism and anti-Caucasian racial resentment. The Hawaiian Studies curriculum has been indoctrinating children with such propaganda for a long time, and should have its budget reduced rather than increased.

(4) The Hawaiian Studies division and the DOE refuse to correct historical falsehoods or to be held accountable for teaching them. One small example is their continued propagation of the falsehood that Hawaiian language was made illegal following the overthrow of the monarchy, despite being provided lengthy, detailed proof of falsity.

Dawn Kau'ilani Sang, Director of Hawaiian Studies, is responsible for a two-page webpage entitled "History of Hawaiian Education" which prominently proclaims the lie in three places, and which is cited as authority by news media when they repeat the lie and refuse to correct their publication of it. Thousands of children in the Hawaii Public Schools are undoubtedly being taught this racially inflammatory lie in the Hawaiian Studies curriculum that is compulsory in all grades K-12. A lengthy email was sent to Ms. Sang in mid-February 2016, with cc to her immediate supervisor Superintendent of Schools Kathryn Matayoshi, filled with proof that the statements are false. The email explained the importance of correcting the falsehoods.

But Ms. Sang stonewalled, replying only "The Department appreciates your attention to the information provided on our website. We will review the website and make changes as deemed necessary." Later she never indicated that any progress was being made, despite a request for a progress report that was sent by email to her with cc to Superintendent Matayoshi.

Meanwhile, in mid-March 2016, Director Sang engineered a resolution in the state legislature authorizing an expansion of her growing Hawaiian Studies empire; and the first "whereas" clause was the assertion that Hawaiian language was banned in the schools after the overthrow of the monarchy. Text of the resolution is provided along with testimony in opposition. An email was then sent directly to Superintendent Matayoshi providing all the proof of falsity previously sent to Director Sang.

On April 20 a letter was received by Ken Conklin through U.S. mail, signed by Superintendent Matayoshi on official letterhead, refusing to correct the falsehoods. The letter gave no indication that any study had been done of the facts; it merely said the webpage will not be corrected because "the information provided on our website is accurate and generally accepted in public policy and scholarship." (In other words, the lie has been repeated so often by so many in the Hawaiian grievance industry that we are going to continue teaching it to the kids and allowing news media to cite our website as authority for it). On April 23, 2016 a Goebbels Award was issued jointly to Director Sang, Superintendent Matayoshi, and the Department of Education; and an email was sent to every member of the Board of Education providing a link to this webpage documenting the proof of falsehood and the steps that have been taken to hold Sang, Matayoshi, and DOE accountable; and asking the Board members to order Sang and Matayoshi to make appropriate corrections to the webpage and to the school curriculum.

For extensive proof that the assertion of a language ban is false, and for documentation of every step in the effort to hold accountable both the Hawaiian Studies division and the DOE, see webpage "Holding the State of Hawaii Department of Education accountable for propagating the lie that Hawaiian language was banned" at <http://tinyurl.com/z77ogbq>

Please do not reward the arrogance of the Hawaiian Studies division of DOE, and its refusal to be accountable for propagating harmful falsehoods. Throw this bill into the junkpile.

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:25 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jflowers7733@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB910 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM*

HB910

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Wayne FlowersJr	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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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 6:03 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: kamakana808@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB910 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM

HB910

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamakana Aquino	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB910 and urge this Committee to pass this bill. Olelo Hawaii is the language of these islands and is also an official language of this state. Parity for our language must be acknowledged and the necessary resources must be appropriated. Mahalo.

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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 6:25 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: kaulanad@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB910 on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM*

HB910

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 15, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Personal Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 2:00 pm Rm 309
by
Donald B. Young

HB 910 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN EDUCATION

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Young and I serve as Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. However, today I am submitting personal testimony in support of HB 910, Relating to the Office of Hawaiian Education.

HB 910 will support efforts of the Hawai‘i Department of Education to fulfill the promise of Board of Education policies 2104 and 2105 in achieving greater social justice in educating our students, teachers, and community in Hawaiian studies by developing and implementing appropriate curricula, standards, assessments, professional development and community engagement.

We in the College of Education have developed close partnerships with the Office of Hawaiian Education over the past two years. We have embraced *Na Hopena Ao*, developed by the Office, and infused these values in all our teacher preparation programs. We have partnered with the Office to develop state assessments in reading language arts, mathematics, and science and have assisted the Office in implemented the resulting tests in Hawaiian immersion classrooms statewide.

In support of Kaiapuni and the need to better prepare our teachers with resources in teaching the children of Hawai‘i, the College’s Curriculum Research & Development Group has developed numerous instructional materials, including the *Ka Wana* series on Hawaiian traditional culture and values, *No Nā Mamo*, research based traditions that incorporates the *Ka Wana* series, and the recently released third edition of *A History of Hawai‘i*.

We believe that funding to support the Office of Hawaiian Education is essential if we are achieve or stated goals in learning for the children of Hawai‘i.

I therefore welcome this bill and the potential funding that could come with its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.