



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

**Date:** 03/22/2017  
**Time:** 03:00 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Education  
House Higher Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 195 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO LOCATE POTENTIAL, VIABLE PROPERTIES ALONG THE WAI'ANAEO COAST ON WHICH TO ESTABLISH A HAWAIIAN-LANGUAGE IMMERSION SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12.

**Purpose of  
Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (DOE) supports HCR 195, which requests the establishment of a task force to locate property for a Hawaiian language school. We believe that before such a task force begins to identify property for a school location, there needs to be a thorough study of the future of the current program based at Nanakuli Elementary School and its role in the provision of Hawaiian language immersion on the island of Oahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HCR 195.



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

### House Committee on Education

Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Date: March 22, 2017  
Where: Room 309

#### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk  
Kamehameha Schools

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

RE: HCR 195 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO LOCATE POTENTIAL, VIABLE PROPERTIES ALONG THE WAI'ANAE COAST ON WHICH TO ESTABLISH A HAWAIIAN-LANGUAGE IMMERSION SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12.

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Har, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, 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 **HCR 195** requesting the Department of Education to establish a task force to locate potential, viable properties along the Wai'anae Coast on which to establish a Hawaiian-language immersion school. We are writing in **support** of this resolution.

Kamehameha Schools advocates for and supports the achievement of Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian public school students. We believe that Kula Kaiapuni, or Hawaiian-language immersion schools, provide quality educational choices for our families and ultimately enhance both academic achievement and engagement for students. This resolution is a good first step toward exploring and potentially expanding the Hawaiian-language immersion program to a geographic location in which many families, mostly Native Hawaiians, have traveled long distances to educate their children in the Hawaiian language.

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.

## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 3:30 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kaulanad@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR195 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR195

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	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

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:36 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR195 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM\*

### HCR195

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:10 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** j4kalilimoku@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HR123 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HR123

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justiana Kalilimoku	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Woodson, My name is Justiana Kalilimoku and I am testifying in support of HCR195/HR123 because our community has a large population of native Hawaiians, and I believe that our babies should be able to learn and grow in their own community. Mahalo for you consideration, Justiana Kalilimoku

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:58 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** khoppe4@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR195 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HCR195

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Hoppe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Woodson, My Name is Katie Kealoha and I am testifying in support of HCR195/HR123 because I support immersion education for our keiki. Many students begin immersion on our coast but do not continue through high school due to the cost and distance of k-12 options for families in our community. Immersion schools have proven incredibly beneficial for children and families, and I believe having a stronger Hawaiian immersion presence on our coast will strengthen our community. Mahalo for you consideration, Katie Kealoha

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## EDNtestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:32 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** sanoemarfil@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HR123 on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM

### HR123

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for EDN on Mar 22, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sanoe Marfil	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Woodson, My Name is Sanoe Marfil and I am testifying in support of HCR195/HR123 because I believe that Hawaiian Language Education is important for my children. As a mother of 3 I decided to choose this educational path because of the benefits and research the shows native children excel when they know who they are and where they come from. The issue is that eventually after grade 6 my children are no longer able to stay in our community because there is no option so I am asking for your support in creating this option for my family and so many others. Mahalo for you consideration, Sanoe Marfil

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I have two sons that attend Hawaiian immersion schools, a 4 year old in Punanaleo and a 9 year old in Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Nanakuli. When my oldest gets to the 7th grade, I think I may have to quit my job so that I can take him and pick him up from Anuenue in Palolo. I'm not the only one, there are others that do that, and pretty much live in their car. Ask anyone who lives in Waianae what the biggest downside is, and almost invariably they'll tell you traffic. However, in order for our children to receive the education they deserve, we are forced to live in our cars, sitting in traffic. Why is the only hawaiian immersion k-12 school, an hour and a half away from the largest Hawaiian population in the world? That's, at least, three hours a day in traffic.

Why not send him to an English speaking school? I personally went to English schools here on Waianae coast. I fully believe that English schools prepare a student and condition a student to become a good fit into the American economic system, grow up, go to college, get a job, make money, spend money, get your own place, move out of your parents place into your own. In this system, the important thing is money. How do you find shelter? Money. How do you get food? Money. If you don't have enough money, get a second job, to make more money. What is a successful adult? Financially stable, moved out of their parents' house. Doing things, **on their own**. This is the system we live in and this is what we've been told success is and conditioned to pursue, according to the American system. These are not the values in our DNA and I believe that disconnect confuses our keiki, our opio and even our makua, causing a cognitive dissonance between what they have been taught is success and what is in their na'au. This system raises our children disconnected from our language, land, culture and values.

A few days after watching Kaleikoa Kaeo's life changing Aha Kane 2010 talk, I was having a conversation with my older son, he was probably around 5 at the time, about the importance of land, our kuleana to the land and our relationship with the land. I asked him, where does our food come from? He said, "the store". I would have never guessed two words would have such an eye opening experience. There, in front of me, was the disconnect.

An example I use when speaking of the importance of the Hawaiian language. I give three English words, food, land, local person... In the words, of the English language, no connection, in Hawaiian, 'ai, 'āina, kama'āina. There in plain sight, embedded in the language is an unmistakable connection between the three.

Another example I use is of the Hawaiian perspective. In Hawaiian "mua" means forward and "hope" means behind, wā means "period of time". With an English perspective one could assume wā ma mua means future and wā ma hope means the past. In actuality it's the other way around, wā ma mua is the past, you see, you can look at the past, study it, learn from it, just as you can something in front of you, while wā ma hope is the future, uncertain, cannot be seen, as is something behind you. These are just two examples of many where language connects a person to their culture and cultural values.

That connection to culture and to our land plays a strong part in keeping our people home. When money is the most important thing, and the only option, it's not as hard to pack up and move away. We are the last of a dying breed, when we are gone, there will be no more.



Help us to preserve our language, our culture and our cultural values. Make a Hawaiian language education more accessible to the largest Hawaiian population in the world. Help us to keep our families together and our community together and steeped in cultural values that value land and water and the preservation of both above money.

I strongly support building a Hawaiian Immersion school on the Waianae Coast. However, I urge an amendment that will not only include the newly formed Office of Hawaiian Education, but have the task force headed by the Office of Hawaiian Education.

Mahalo.

Aloha,

James Pakele

Aloha Chair Woodson,

My name is Puanani N. Keopuhiwa and I am testifying in support of HCR195/HR123 because I am a native Hawaiian resident living in Nānākuli that has 2 children age 5 and age 6 enrolled in a Hawaiian Medium/ Immersion education since they were 3 years old. Currently my 6 year old attends a Hawaiian Medium Education school in Nānākuli named Ka Papahana o Mā'ilikūkahi. The school only goes to 2nd grade. Talks about opening up another grade are unforeseen due to funding. Currently there are no other choices of other Hawaiian Medium/ Immersion school on the Leeward Coast that is a K-12 program. My child would be forced to attend a non Hawaiian speaking school or travel into the nation's worst traffic into Downtown Honolulu at 5 am in the morning to attend school and I refuse to allow my children to do that at such a young age of 5 years.

I choose to enroll and educate my children in complete Hawaiian language to make sure my child knows how to speak their mother tongue unlike their ancestors which their language was taken away and punished if they spoke it.

Today is a different world and society where we have our language back but no funding to educate our children here on the Leeward coast of O'ahu. The Leeward coast of O'ahu has the highest concentration of native Hawaiians in the world but we don't have a complete K-12 program which has a Hawaiian medium/ Hawaiian Immersion education to educate our native children.

Mahalo for you consideration.

Puanani N. Keopuhiwa  
Nānākuli, HI

Aloha, o wau 'o Kamaehu Caceres. I kēlā me kēia lā pono ko'u 'ohana e ala koke i hiki ke kāu ka'a'ōhua a hele i ke kula. I ko'u mana'o he mana'o maika'i kō 'oukou e kūkulu i kime e 'imi i wahi kūpuno ma Wai'anae e kūkulu i kula Kaiapuni mai ka Papa Malaa'o a i ka Papa 12. Ma Ānuehue 'oi aku ka nui o nā Hāumana mai ka 'ao'ao Komohana. A pono nō na'e mākou a pau e kāu ka'a'ōhua i hiki ke hele i ke kula. He 'ālapa nō wau ma ko'u kula. Pā'ani wau ma ke kime pōpa'ilima ma Ānuehue. Ma muli o ka pa'akīkī o ke kalaiwa mau 'ana a ke kalaiwa mamao 'a'ole i hiki ko'u mau mākuā ke hele i ko'u mau pā'ani. Akā nō na'e inā ua pā'ani wau nō kekahi kula ma kēia 'ao'ao hiki ko'u 'ohana ke hele mai i nā pā'ani a pau. Ho'i wau i ka hale ma kahi o ka hola 10 ma hope o ko'u mau pā'ani hā'uki a me nā ho'oma'ama'a kekahi.

I think that they should send a team to locate areas that can place a Hawaiian-Language Immersion school for students from kindergarten to grade 12 in Wai'anae. That way, people who want their children in a Hawaiian immersion school don't have only the option of Ānuenuē, Kamakau, and Kahuku, to send their children to after elementary. And so people on the West side don't have to send their children far away from their home just to learn or continue to learn Hawaiian. I am a student at Ānuenuē Hawaiian Immersion school, that has grades from Kindergarten to grade 12. My family and I have to wake up at 5:00 just to be able to get ready for school and be able to catch the bus. I take the Kapolei bus to get to school, that arrives at the bus stop at 6:00, and it takes us around 2 hours to get to school and 2 more hours to get home. I've also gone to Waiau, a school in Pearl City for students who learn English and for Hawaiian Immersion students as well. There are 4 classes for each grade, of the 4 classes there is one Hawaiian class. So there is one Hawaiian class per grade. But Waiau only goes up to 6 grade. After my class graduated, only 8 students of a class of 17 continued on in Hawaiian Immersion. The other 9 students went to English schools because their parents knew that they wouldn't have time to take their children to a Hawaiian school if there wasn't a Hawaiian school near their home. It would make things simpler if there were to be a Hawaiian Immersion school that goes up to 12th grade in Wai'anae.

I have two sons that attend Hawaiian immersion schools, a 4 year old in Punanaleo and a 9 year old in Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Nanakuli. When my oldest gets to the 7th grade, I think I may have to quit my job so that I can take him and pick him up from Anuenue in Palolo. I'm not the only one, there are others that do that, and pretty much live in their car. Ask anyone who lives in Waianae what the biggest downside is, and almost invariably they'll tell you traffic. However, in order for our children to receive the education they deserve, we are forced to live in our cars, sitting in traffic. Why is the only hawaiian immersion k-12 school, an hour and a half away from the largest Hawaiian population in the world? That's, at least, three hours a day in traffic.

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Mahalo.

Aloha,

James Pakele