



STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
HILO HIGH SCHOOL
556 Waiānū Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720-2598

Senate Committee on Education
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 229
March 12, 2018, 2:45 pm

To: Chair Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Senate Education Committee Members

From: Aya Shehata, Hilo High School

Subject: Support for HB 1941, RELATING TO EDUCATION, MULTILINGUALISM; WORLD LANGUAGES; APPROPRIATION (\$)

My Name is Aya Shehata. I teach Japanese language and am the World Language DH at Hilo High School. **We support HB 1941 establishing one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) world languages institutional position within the HIDOE.**

The World Languages position is crucial to implement the two new Hawai'i Board of Education language policies: [the Seal of Biliteracy](#) (2015, Policy 105.15) and [Multilingualism for Equitable Education](#) (2016, Policy 105.14). These policies are based on longstanding research showing the effectiveness of language education for student achievement.

The HIDOE has been making strides in implementing these policies, but sustained leadership is necessary in the HIDOE. A designated permanent position in World Languages is essential for institutional support of these language policies. This position leads implementation and assessment of world language programs, coordinates and delivers professional development, and serves as a liaison between the HIDOE and external organizations. The position also oversees the Multilingualism for Equitable Education policy, which includes developing innovative language programs (i.e. dual language, heritage language, language learning programs), ensuring teacher quality, and promoting outreach to parents and community stakeholders.

We hope that the legislature recognizes the importance of this leadership position and will consider supporting this position in the HIDOE's budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aya Shehata



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March 12, 2018, 2:45 pm

To: Chair Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Senate Education Committee Members

From: Hawai'i TESOL

Subject: Support for HB1941, RELATING TO EDUCATION, MULTILINGUALISM; WORLD LANGUAGES; APPROPRIATION (\$)

Hawai'i TESOL is the largest state-wide organization representing teachers of English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) – commonly referred to as “ESL teachers” – most of whom support the English language development of immigrant students in Hawaii’s DOE schools. **We support HB1941, establishing one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) world languages institutional position within the HIDOE.**

Hawai'i has taken positive steps in the past few years to embrace the opportunities of its diverse ethnic and heterogeneous linguistic population. The Hawai'i State Board of Education (BOE) has passed two historic policies: the Seal of Biliteracy (2015, Policy 105.15) and Multilingualism for Equitable Education (2016, Policy 105.14). These policies are based on longstanding research showing the effectiveness of language education for student achievement.

Sustained leadership is necessary at the HIDOE state level to drive successful implementation of these new language policies, and a designated permanent position in World Languages is essential for institutional support. This position leads implementation and assessment of world language programs, coordinates and delivers professional development, and serves as a liaison between the HIDOE and external organizations. The position also oversees the Multilingualism for Equitable Education policy, which includes developing innovative language programs (i.e. dual language, heritage language, language learning programs), ensuring teacher quality, and promoting outreach to parents and community stakeholders.

We hope that the legislature recognizes the importance of this leadership position and will consider supporting this position in the HIDOE’s budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Shawn Ford
Socio-political Action Representative
Hawai'i TESOL

