



‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai
Legislative Testimony

HB1986 HD1
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘okolokolo a me ke Kuleana Hawai‘i
(House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs)

Pepeluali 24, 2022

2:00 PM

Lumi 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1986 HD1, which would require at least one at-large member of the Board of Education (BOE) to be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by the ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i. **With at least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will be an important resource to facilitate the State of Hawai‘i’s and Department of Education’s (DOE) goals and policies.**¹

OHA is the constitutionally-established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians.² In its last strategic plan, OHA adopted **Ho‘ona‘auao** as one of its strategic priorities, which focused on maximizing the choices of life and work via Native Hawaiians gaining knowledge and exceling in educational opportunities at all levels. OHA’s 2020+ Strategic Plan continues to incorporate **Educational Pathways** as a strategic direction, based on strategic foundations of ‘Ohana, Mo‘omeheu, and ‘Āina. As such, OHA has been and continues to be a consistent and ardent advocate for education policies that address the needs of Native Hawaiians and the greater community. The perpetuation of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, through Hawaiian immersion, is critical to the evolving culture, health, and well-being of Native Hawaiians, and this measure may be crucial to ensuring the BOE is equipped with needed expertise for kaiapuni equity.

Kula Kaiapuni celebrates over two decades of growth, expansion and success necessitating needed representation and expertise on the BOE. The success of the program is admired nationally and internationally but much of this success is due to the commitment and diligence of ‘ohana as well as the hard work of kumu or teachers. This Legislative body has consistently supported the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program over the past twenty years, seeing it as a crucial vehicle in carrying out the provisions of Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i and provisions of Act 133, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2004, and Act 159, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2005. The Hawaiian language immersion program continues to play a central

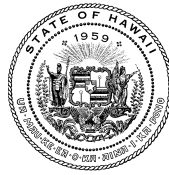
¹ HAW.CONST.ART.X,SEC.4;SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 105-8.

² HAW.CONST.ART.XII SEC.5;Haw. Rev. Stat. (“HRS”) § 10-3.

role in the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture, history, language, values, and practices as provided for by the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i. **'Aha Kauleo has previously directly advised the BOE, and currently advises the Office of Hawaiian Education. In a parallel approach to provide needed expertise on the BOE, this bill will facilitate equity for kaiapuni as the demand and interest continues to increase.**

The strength and endurance of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is intrinsically connected to the health and wellbeing of the Native Hawaiian people, and it is part of what makes Hawai'i an authentic, unique, and beautiful place for all our local keiki to enjoy, learn, and ultimately thrive. **E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!**

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1986 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



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

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 3, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

House Bill 1986, Relating to the Board of Education

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (“Board”) respectfully provides **comments** on HB 1986 HD1, which would require that at least one at-large member of the Board be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii.

The Board takes no position on legislation relating to the Board’s membership, as the Board believes it is most appropriate for the Legislature and Governor to decide such matters. The Board will endeavor to provide the Legislature with any relevant information relating to Board membership matters to enable to the Legislature to make informed decisions.

The Board has demonstrated through Board policy and deliberations at Board meetings that it strongly supports Hawaiian immersion education and Kula Kaiapuni. In fact, two current members of the Board often bring their significant experience with Hawaiian immersion education to Board discussions on a variety of relevant matters. There is clear value to this perspective on the Board.

We noted in previous testimony that other stakeholders with different specific educational interests, such as special education or multilingualism, may also want a similar requirement to select experts on their respective interests to serve on the Board should the Legislature pass this measure. We appreciate that the House Committee on Education clarified in its committee report that the requirement to have at least one Board member who is a Hawaiian immersion education expert will help to better promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language in public schools, as required by the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. Connecting this requirement to the

state constitution provides a unique justification that differentiates Hawaiian immersion education from other educational interests.

For practical and implementation consideration, we would like to note that the measure names Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii as the entity that would provide a list of nominees to the Governor. However, Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii does not appear to be an entity of the State. This could have the unintended effect of leaving the Board member seat dedicated to a Hawaiian immersion expert vacant should Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii independently dissolve or become inactive, as the State would not have a remedy to selecting nominees or the Governor for appointing for this seat outside of seeking a statutory change.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William N. Arakaki". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Bill Arakaki

Chairperson, Board of Education 2022 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: February 24, 2022

Where: Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona
Kamehameha Schools

RE: HB 1986, HD1, Relating to the Board of Education

E ka Luna Ho‘omalu Nakashima, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Matayoshi, a me nā lālā o kēia Kōmike o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana, aloha kākou! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Vice President of Hi‘ialo at Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools **supports** HB 1986, HD1, which requires that at least one at-large member of the board of education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i.

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is the language of our home—being used and celebrated by thousands across Hawai‘i in government, education and commerce alike. In 1978, through a state constitutional convention, the convention delegates restored the Hawaiian language as an official language and instructed that a Hawaiian education program be provided in the public schools to revive and preserve ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i to rectify the ill effects of Hawaiian language suppression.

Adopted in 2015, Board of Education Policy 105-8 (“Ka Papahana Kaiapuni”) establishes seven (7) goals of the Kaiapuni Educational Program, which range from providing a bicultural and bilingual education for parents and students to developing curriculum standards with appropriate stakeholders, like the ‘Aha Kauleo, to the development and proper administration of appropriate formative and summative assessment tools. We celebrate the great strides made under the leadership of the Office of Hawaiian Education for Kaiapuni and advocate for the requirement that the same expertise be seated in perpetuity on the Board of Education.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and 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 ‘ulu e loa‘a i ka pōkole o ka lou. There is no success without preparation. **Please advance this measure.**



Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita.
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY &
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

RE: HB 1986, HD1 – RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Nakashima, and Committee member:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 1986, HD1**, relating to the Board of Education. This bill requires that at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii.

There is a shortage of Hawaiian immersion teachers and it has reached a crucial point in the last decade. Approximately fifty Hawaiian immersion teacher vacancies were advertised this year and another thirty positions will be needed to address school growth. We need to promote Hawaiian immersion programs consisting of language, culture, and history in the public schools, including our public charter schools, **by ensuring that one of the at-large appointees for the BOE is an expert on Hawaiian Immersion to help this state goal toward expanding and promoting Hawaiian Immersion in our public schools, including our public charter schools.**

The current law does not require any member of the board of education to be an individual who has expertise in Hawaiian studies, the Hawaiian language, or Hawaiian immersion education. **The Hawaii State Teachers Association believes that in order to better promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language in public schools, as required by the state constitution, there must be some representation of the Hawaiian community on the Board of Education**

There is a constitutional requirement to promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language. Native Hawaiians currently make up almost twenty-four per cent of the entire student population in the State. Due to the high presence of Native Hawaiian students in the public school system, it is imperative that the State guarantee appropriate representation on the board of education to fulfill its constitutional duty to promote Hawaiian studies and the Hawaiian language and to provide a voice for Native Hawaiian students, teachers, and faculty. The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill, to move forward on this promise.



'AHA KAULEO

STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR KA PĀPĀHANA KAIAPUNI

Date: February 23, 2022

To: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Nakashima, Chair
Representative Matayoshi, Vice Chair, and Members

From: Kahele Dukelow, Chair
Kananinohea Makaimoku, Vice Chair
'Aha Kauleo, Council of Hawaiian Immersion Schools
Advisory to the Office of Hawaiian Education

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for HB1986 HD1, Relating to the Board of Education - requires at least one at-large member of the BOE is a Hawaiian language immersion expert.

The 'Aha Kauleo represents 27 Kaiapuni schools, community organizations and University partners and advises the Office of Hawaiian Education. **We strongly support HB 1986 HD1 that would require at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian language immersion expert.**

1. The Department of Education has two language educational pathways, Hawaiian and English. Presently, only the English pathway is required to be represented on the BOE.
2. The Board of Education has a constitutional mandate to uphold Article X, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language. The State shall provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture and history in the public schools. The use of community expertise shall be encouraged as a suitable and essential means in furtherance of the Hawaiian education program."
3. Hawaiian and Hawaiian language immersion education continue to be a critical component to the survival and revitalization of the Hawaiian language and is in fact one of the most successful indigenous language education programs in the world. This development and advancement is a testament to the commitment made by the State of Hawai'i in 1978 and by the Board of Education through their forward policies on Hawaiian education in BOE policies 105.7 and 105.8.
4. These educational innovations in the last three decades have helped to produce a pool of experts in Hawaiian and Hawaiian language immersion education. A dedicated seat for a Hawaiian and Hawaiian language immersion education expert will ensure the most current

and effective pedagogies and methodologies will be employed to further develop the present policies that have helped to advance Hawaiian and Hawaiian language immersion education.

5. Passage of this bill would be a significant cornerstone in the history of public education in Hawai'i in line with the 1978 constitutional commitment to Hawaiian education, the establishment of Hawaiian Studies program in 1970 and the founding of Hawaiian language immersion in 1987.
6. A vote in favor of this bill is a vote to further progress the State of Hawai'i's commitment to the revitalization and advancement of Hawai'i's indigenous people and language through education.

He oia mau nō ka pono o ka lāhui kanaka i ka na'auao Hawai'i.

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:10:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen	Kuakini Hawaiian Civic Club of Kona	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima and members of the Judicial and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the members of Kuakini Hawaiian Civic Club of Kona, we **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the passage of HB1986 HD1. Although there are no laws that require a member with Hawaiian Immersion expertise for the Board of Education (BOE), by adopting this measure, it will:

1. Align the BOE's decisions and support in the recognition of the Hawaiian Language as an official language in the State of Hawai'i.
2. Benefit toward the State's obligation in upholding Traditional and Customary rights and practices by supporting the expertise of Hawaiian Immersion to educate BOE members.
3. Increase the BOE's ability to address Hawaiian Immersion programs and systems in their decision-making process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and we urge this committee to **PASS HB1986 HD1**.

Mahalo nui,

Shane Palacat-Nelsen, President

Hui Makua o Pū'ōhala / 45-233 Kulauli St. Kāne'ōhe, Hawai'i /
HuiMakuaOPuohala@gmail.com

House Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs

Pō'ahā, Pepeluali 24, 2022
2:00 o ka 'auinalā
Lumi Kūkā 325

RE: **HB 1986, HD1, Relating to the Board of Education**

Aloha mai e ka Luna Ho'omalua Nakashima, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Matayoshi, a me nā lālā o kēia Kōmike o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana.

We are the Hui Makua o Pū'ōhala (HMOP), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization operated by volunteer parents of keiki attending Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Pū'ōhala, with a mission to support the success and activities of Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala (the Hawaiian Language Immersion School at Pū'ōhala Elementary).

We offer our **strong support** of HB 1986, HD1, which will require that at least one at-large member of the board of education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i.

While the current makeup of the Board of Education does include members that understand Kaiapuni education, we'd like to see a permanent seat on the Board added to guarantee that Hawaiian immersion expertise is included on the Board. Advancing this measure is also a big step forward in ensuring that the State constitutional responsibilities explained in Article X, Section 4 and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution are met and fulfilled. Dedicating a seat on the Board of Education, and working with the 'Aha Kauleo to field nominees, will benefit all of Hawai'i because those that understand Kaiapuni and are experts also understand the value of all languages and cultures. Please advance this measure.

We welcome communication and updates at HuiMakuaOPuohala@gmail.com, and visits at our website www.HuiMakuaOPuohala.weebly.com.

Ke aloha no kaiapuni a me nā keiki,
Board Members of Hui Makua O Pū'ōhala
Brandi Cutler Ku'ulei Malohi
Jenny Bishop Ka'ano'i Walk
Lehua Coloma Amber Tenn



February 23, 2022

TO: House Committee on Education- Chair Woodson & Vice Chair Kapela

FR: Kanaeokana Network

RE: IN SUPPORT OF HB1986 HD1 RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

Kanaeokana is in full support of HB1986 HD1 that will require one Board of Education member to be an expert in Hawaiian Immersion. Kanaeokana, a network which includes membership of DOE Hawaiian Language Immersion Program sites, all 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools, and over 50 other Hawaiian education organizations is in strong support of this measure that will ensure we have Board of Education members who have subject matter expertise in this DOE educational program that has become the State of Hawai'i's sole vehicle to provide for the revitalization of Hawaiian language for K-12 learners in public education.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) Article 14, Section 1 States- ***“Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.”***

Since Native Hawaiians do not control their own educational system, the trust relationship that Native Hawaiians have with the State of Hawai'i in regards to education, is accorded to the Hawai'i Board of Education. As such, proper representation on the Board of Education with an expert in Hawaiian Immersion, the State's sole vehicle to provide for cultural methods of teaching and learning Hawaiian language, should be codified into law.

We thank you for considering this measure. Please support HB1985 HD1.

Mahalo,

Kanaeokana
advocacy@kanaeokana.net

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:40:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gail Leilani Kamalani	Kula Kaiapuni 'o Anuenue, School Community Council	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: The School Community Council of Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenue

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Hearing on February 24, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha nui esteemed Representatives,

We are writing as the School Community Council (SCC) of the Hawaiian immersion school Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenue, located in Pālolo, O‘ahu to voice our strong support for this bill.

This bill is important and should be passed because it recognizes that Hawaiian immersion schools like us have different circumstances and challenges from those of non-immersion schools and that the Board of Education should be able to take those differences into account when crafting policies and making decisions for all Hawaii public schools.

We currently have two experts in Hawaiian immersion sitting on the current BOE, but that has not always been the case. In the past, with each new BOE lineup, the Hawaiian immersion program leaders and proponents have had to start from scratch as far as educating BOE members

on the history, philosophy, pedagogy and the unique challenges faced by Hawaiian immersion schools. This bill will ensure that in the future, at least one BOE member will already have that knowledge, which will help the BOE create clearer policies and make more informed decisions.

The State of Hawaii has recognized the Hawaiian language as an official language of the State. The BOE and DOE have recognized the importance of providing students the option of a public education in either English or Hawaiian, and have taken action to provide equity within the DOE by creating the Office of Hawaiian Education (OHE). OHE has a voice at the top levels of the DOE to promote equity between Hawaiian immersion and non-Hawaiian immersion schools. The BOE has no such assurances of equity because there is no guarantee that any members of the BOE have any understanding of Hawaiian immersion education. This bill would provide such assurance.

We thank you for your time and consideration and ask for your support in passing HB1986 HD1.

Me ke aloha a me ka mahalo nui,

The School Community Council

Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenuē

Chairperson: Leilani Kamalani (Teacher)

Vice Chairperson: Ilima Long (Parent)

Secretary: Brandi Ahlo (Community)

Members: Julei Peelua (Classified Staff)

Christopher Yim (Principal)

Kamananui Anderson (Student)

February 23, 2022

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Joylynn Paman, 'Aha Kauleo Parent Representative

**RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 24, 2022**

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

My name is Joylynn Paman and I am a parent of three Hawaiian immersion keiki and the parent representative of ‘Aha Kauleo at Pā‘ia.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 because of the following reasons:

- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).
- BLNR and the Water Commission have Hawaiian experts on their board. They have set a precedent for a Hawaiian expert on a State board or Commission
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- BOE has pointed out in their previous testimony they have benefitted from 2 Hawaiian immersion experts who are currently sitting on the Board of Education.
- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.

I/we urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. **E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

Aloha,


Joylynn Paman

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:54:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brandi Ahlo	Ka Aumanu	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Ka ‘Aumanu

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Hearing on February 24, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

‘O wau o Brandi Ahlo, ka pelekikena o Ka ‘Aumanu.

My name is Brandi Ahlo and I am the president of Ka ‘Aumanu, 501c3 non profit in Hawai‘i that supports Hawaiian language in early childhood education.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1.

Choose your top 2-3 to include in your letter of support:

- **Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- **BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.**
- **Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.**

- **Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.**
- **The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education**
- **At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.**
- **This does not cost money for the State**
- **This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.**

In conclusion we as an organization support this bill for our keiki that go to school in

I/we urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'OLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 10:14:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Na Leo Kakoo	Na Leo Kakoo (Parent Support Group of Anuenue School)	Support	No

Comments:

Pepeluali 23, 2022

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

Nā Leo Kāko‘o, the parent group of Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Ānuenue, stand in support of ‘Aha Kauleo and Hawaiian immersion education.

Please schedule this bill for your committee. It is very important to be heard because there needs to be equity in the two public school language pathways. We need to ensure that the State of Hawai‘i upholds its constitutional responsibility to provide for Hawaiian Language as a medium of education for the present and Hawai‘i’s future.

Our group is based and convenes in Pālolo, Kona, O‘ahu.

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:03:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson	Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou, Chair Nakashima and Honorable members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Please accept this testimony from the Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo in support of HB 1986, HD1 which requires that at least one at-large member of the board of education be a Hawaiian Immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i. Bi-lingual and multi-lingual teaching and learning requires a separate set of knowledge, understanding and skill-set. Ensuring that at least one member of the Board of Education, under the system which now exists to govern K-12 public education in Hawai‘i is extremely important in order to support the needs of our growing number of students attending immersion schools.

We urge you to support this measure.

Mahalo nui,

Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson, Pelekikena



16-120 'Ōpūkaha'ia St
Kea'au, HI 96749
(808) 982-4260
(808) 966-7821
www.nawahi.org

Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani
'Aipia-Peters,
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,
Hope Pelekikena

Hi'ilei Vuta,
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoē
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Kyla Manzano

Kayla Ahsing

No 'Ane'i Ko
Kākou Ola!

Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice-Chair

Date of Hearing: 02-24-2022
Time: 2:00pm
Location: Conference Room 325

*Testimony of Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, Governing Board Chair
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani 'ōpu 'u Iki LPCS*

HB1986, RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

E nā Po'o Kōmike a me nā Lālā Kōmike o ke Kōmike Kuleana Hawai'i, aloha nui kākou:

I urge your SUPPORT of HB1986 as this is an important bill to support the success of Hawaiian immersion education in our state.

This bill supports the idea that at least one at-large BOE member possess Hawaiian immersion expertise, thereby serving as a vital resource to facilitate the State of Hawai'i's and Department of Education's (DOE) goals and policies. Additionally, this bill would ensure equity in the two public school language pathways and ensure that the State of Hawai'i upholds its constitutional responsibility.

The introduction of HB 1986 indicates an awareness of the significance of Hawaiian immersion education and the forward movement of this bill will ensure representation of our unique challenges at the Board of Education level.

Mahalo for this bill and the many other related initiatives that have come out of our State Legislature.

Mahalo,
T. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters
Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters
Chair, Governing Board
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani 'ōpu 'u Iki LPCS

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:54:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimberley Newhouse	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian

Affairs

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Kimberley K. Newhouse

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Hearing on February 24, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Kimberley K. Newhouse and I am writing today as a Kula Kaiapuni parent and supporter, and board member of Nā Leo Kāko‘o O Maui, the non-profit parent support group of Nā Kula Kaiapuni O Maui.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1986 HD1. It should be set that in the least, one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees as put forth by ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i for many reasons: 1) Kaiapuni experiences are unique and require unique expertise on the Board of Education, 2) to ensure dedicated Hawaiian immersion advocates who fully understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education are at the table providing leadership and ensuring a dedicated voice in decision making as it impacts students in Hawaiian immersion, and 3) this bill will

ensure the State upholds its kuleana as related to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978), ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8. A Hawaiian expert to advocate for Hawaiian immersion needs is a minimal step in the right direction for the BOE.

I strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!



Aloha 'Āina Legal Group, LLC

Elwen A. Freitas, Esq.
Sharde K.M. Freitas, Esq., MPH

(808) 594-8274
alohaainalegal@gmail.com

HB1986 HD1

Relating to the Board of Education
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

February 24, 2022

2:00 PM

Room 325

Aloha 'Āina Legal Group **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1986 HD1**, which would require at least one at-large member of the Board of Education to be a Hawaiian language immersion expert. The benefits of this needed expertise on the BOE has already been realized, and this bill will ensure that a Hawaiian language immersion expert will be part of the BOE composition.

As noted in the preamble of this bill, the origins of Hawai'i's public education system and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i are critical to understanding the context of where we are today. Further, Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution establishes the importance of perpetuating Hawaiian culture, history, language, values, and practices. **As 'Aha Kauleo, the Hawaiian immersion and charter school statewide network, previously advised the BOE, and currently advises the Office of Hawaiian Education, this bill will equitably provide needed expertise to the BOE. This Hawaiian language immersion expert on the BOE will further facilitate assuring the State fulfills its constitutional duty in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.**

Hawai'i's public education has two language pathways: English and Hawaiian. Currently, there is no securely represented Hawaiian language immersion expert on the BOE. Hawaiian immersion schools, inclusive of the teachers, students, and families, experience unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the BOE. This Hawaiian language immersion expert on the BOE will support ensuring equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education statewide and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE Policy 105-8.

Hawai‘i, as a place, inclusive of its people, culture, and traditions is intrinsically tied to its language, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. While this bill will most directly facilitate equity for kaiapuni, it is likely that the benefits are already realized by Hawai‘i as a whole as we have all benefited from ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. It is only just that a Hawaiian language immersion expert be part of the BOE. The Hawaiian immersion program is one of the primary vehicles to ensure that the language lives for the future of Hawai‘i. This bill will contribute to ensuring that Hawaiian immersion continues to thrive and grow while being backed with appropriate resources with a Hawaiian language immersion expert as part of the BOE.

Accordingly, we urge your Committee to **PASS** HB1986 HD1.

HB1986
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
House Committee on Education

February 24, 2022

2:00 PM

Videoconference

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), a member-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB1986 which would require that at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i.

The State of Hawai‘i Board of Education policy 105-7 states: “[t]he Board of Education recognizes that appropriate support for and implementation of Hawaiian education will positively impact the educational outcomes of all students in preparation for college, career and community access,” and that “Hawaii’s public education system should embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and history as a foundation to prepare students in grades K-12 for success in college, career and communities, locally and globally.”¹ CNHA believes that there is no better manifestation of “appropriate support” through the Board of Education than to have Board member(s) with the capacity, training, and expertise to best advance Hawaiian education in a manner that is consistent with the values, beliefs, and self-determination of the Native Hawaiian community.

As a Board recognized entity responsible for the development of curriculum and standards for the Ka Papahana Kaiapuni (Kaiapuni Educational Program) and a consortium comprised of nā Kula Kaiapuni (Hawaiian Immersion Schools), Hawaiian language charter schools, and various support organizations, ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i is in the best position to advance a list of effective candidates to serve as Board member(s) to provide appropriate support for Hawaiian education.

CNHA urges the Legislature to pass HB1986. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Respectfully,



J. Kūhiō Lewis, CEO

Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

¹ State of Hawai‘i Board of Education Policy 105-7 (Hawaiian Education).



About Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

CNHA is a member-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians. For more information, visit www.hawaiiancouncil.org/.

LATE



Nā Leo Kāko‘o O Maui, Inc.

P.O. Box 1913 • Wailuku, HI 96793

The non-profit support group of Kula Kaiapuni O Maui

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Sesame Shim
President of Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, LLC.

RE: HB1986
Hearing on February 23rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai kākou,

I am first a parent of a child who attends Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kalama (Hawaiian Immersion school at Kalama Intermediate). I have been an active parent in supporting our 501c3 non-profit parent support group, Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, since my son started in the year 2015. Our non-profit supports doing fundraisers that provide opportunities for our keiki to go on various field trips, cultural events, and graduation events. It also supports our teachers with any necessary supplies that are not provided by the DOE. We also host educational events that teaches our community of the value of Kaiapuni education and how we can grow and support our keiki in this school.

I am writing today as the President of Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, who supports over 500 families who have keiki in Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā‘ia, Kalama, and Kekaulike (Hawaiian Immersion schools at Pā‘ia Elementary, Kalama Intermediate, and Kekaulike High School).

I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

For the last few years, the BOE has had members who not only advocates, but also understands the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We have seen the support that is provided to our schools and teachers, and we would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.

The Board of Education often comes up with many solutions for English medium education without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian medium education and is often not a solution for and can directly impact Hawaiian medium education. We need someone who can anticipate those impacts.

Article X, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978), states that:



Nā Leo Kāko‘o O Maui, Inc.

P.O. Box 1913 • Wailuku, HI 96793

The non-profit support group of Kūlā Kaiapuni O Maui

The State shall provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture and history in the public schools. The use of community expertise shall be encouraged as a suitable and essential means in furtherance of the Hawaiian education program. [Add Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

Article XV, Section 4 states that:

English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawaii, except that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions only as provided by law. [Add Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

This bill will help to ensure that the State will uphold this constitutional responsibility in support of the Hawaiian language and Hawaiian education, by specifically supporting the guidelines set forth in the BOE policy 105-8. This policy ensures equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands of Hawai‘i’s public schools. We need someone on the Board of Education who is aware and seeks to uphold fulfillment of these requirements which will help to stabilize the BOE decision making and leadership.

As a final highlight, this would not cost any money for the State, and would only help the progression of education within our public school system.

In conclusion I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1986.

We, Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!



LATE

February 23, 2022

TO: House Committee on Education- Chair Woodson & Vice Chair Kapela

FR: Kanaeokana Network

RE: IN SUPPORT OF HB1986 HD1 RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

Kanaeokana is in full support of HB1986 HD1 that will require one Board of Education member to be an expert in Hawaiian Immersion. Kanaeokana, a network which includes membership of DOE Hawaiian Language Immersion Program sites, all 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools, and over 50 other Hawaiian education organizations is in strong support of this measure that will ensure we have Board of Education members who have subject matter expertise in this DOE educational program that has become the State of Hawai'i's sole vehicle to provide for the revitalization of Hawaiian language for K-12 learners in public education.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) Article 14, Section 1 States- ***“Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.”***

Since Native Hawaiians do not control their own educational system, the trust relationship that Native Hawaiians have with the State of Hawai'i in regards to education, is accorded to the Hawai'i Board of Education. As such, proper representation on the Board of Education with an expert in Hawaiian Immersion, the State's sole vehicle to provide for cultural methods of teaching and learning Hawaiian language, should be codified into law.

We thank you for considering this measure. Please support HB1985 HD1.

Mahalo,

Kanaeokana
advocacy@kanaeokana.net

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:36:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hope McKeen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice-Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Hope McKeen

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Hearing on February 24, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 for the reasons below.

- **This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**
- **BLNR and the Water Commission have Hawaiian experts on their board. They have set a precedent for a Hawaiian expert on a State Board or Commission**
- **Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**

OLA ko Hawai'i!!!

Na'u nō

Hope McKeen

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:18:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kahea Faria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou - Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Commttee,

I am writing in **strong support of HB1986 HD1**, Relating to the Board of Education. Since we are dual language state (Article XV, Section 4, Hawaii State Constitution), it makes good sense to have an expert in Hawaiian Language Immersion Education (Kaiapuni) to serve as an at-large member on the Board of Education.

I believe there is **precendent for Hawaiian expert on a state board or commission** - the BLNR and the Water Commission has a Hawaiian expert serving on those boards.

Please pass HB1986 HD1.

Mahalo nui!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 1:30:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Equitable representation is long overdue. Please pas this measure!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 4:56:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Eomailani Kukahiko, PhD

**RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 24, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education**

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Eomailani Kukahiko and I am a parent at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Anuenue. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1. In addition to my parental role, professionally I prepare teachers to teach in Ka Papahana Kaiapuni. Having a dedicated seat would ensure the following things.

- Equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8. Currently there is a dearth of qualified teachers, resources and curriculum.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education. Hawaiian immersion advocates have constantly had to bring these matters to the fore.
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education which benefits all learners in our public schools.

In conclusion I am in strong support of this bill and urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scott Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Joseph Pūnohu Ah Sau Jr.
Kumu at Kula Kaiapuni ma Pā‘ia

**RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 24, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education**

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Joseph Pūnohu Ah Sau Jr. and I am a kumu or teacher at Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Maui ma Pā‘ia and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1.

I am in favor and in support of this bill due to the fact that:

- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).
- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.

In conclusion I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:40:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janean Abbott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It feels like common sense that a Hawaiian immersion expert should be included. Hope this passes!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:29:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marty Martins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is one of the state two official languages and Hawaiian immersion schools have been an important part of teaching Hawaiian from grade school to high school. The success of these programs can be seen by the increasing numbers of PhDs and lawyers who have gone thru the immersion schools and are fluent Hawaiian-speakers.

If the Dept. of Education is going to continue to fund this important segment of the state's school system, it only makes sense that at least one person on the board of education be a Hawaiian immersion teacher and be able to contribute to any discussion on immersion schools.

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:40:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brandi Cutler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB1986.

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:42:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Junior Rex Lokeni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1986 which requires a kaiapuni expert on the Board of Education. Mahalo.

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:55:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gail Kamalani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Gail Leilani Kamalani

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Hearing on February 24, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha nui esteemed Representatives,

I am writing as a teacher who has taught for 26 years at the Hawaiian immersion school Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenuē and a supporter of the 'Aha Kauleo and Hawaiian immersion education, to voice my support for this bill.

I believe that this bill is important and should be passed because it will support equity in BOE policies for the two DOE language pathways, English and Hawaiian. On numerous occasions, the BOE has passed measures for the betterment of Hawaii's public schools without consideration of the implications for immersion schools. We have been blessed to have two experts in Hawaiian immersion sitting on the current BOE, but that has not always been the case. In the past, with each new BOE lineup, the Hawaiian immersion program leaders and proponents have had to start from scratch as far as educating BOE members on the history, philosophy, pedagogy and the unique challenges faced by Hawaiian immersion schools. This bill will ensure that in the future, at least one BOE member will already have that knowledge.

Having a Hawaiian immersion expert on the Board would help the BOE have a more complete understanding of ALL Hawaii public schools when making decisions and setting policy which will affect those schools. It will help the DOE and Hawaiian immersion schools by making BOE policies more clear as they apply to Hawaiian immersion schools. It will also broaden the perspective of all BOE members, which will be a good thing for all of Hawaii's students.

I appreciate your time and your consideration and ask for your support in passing HB1986 HD1.

Me ke aloha & mahalo nui,

Gail Leilani Kamalani

46-116 Alaloa St, Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 23, 2022

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Scott Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Kahealani Keahi

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education Hearing on February 24, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Kahealani Keahi and I am kumu kakoo at Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Anuenue. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 to help ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8. The BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

Ke aloha,

Kahealani Keahi

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:07:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rebecca Kapolei Kiili	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education Hearing on February 24, 2022 **IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1** - Relating to the Board of Education

Welima me ke aloha aloha iā kākou,

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 1986 HD 1. My name is Rebecca Kapolei Kiili and I have dedicated my entire public school teaching career to the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program (HLIP) on the island of Maui. I have worked in both elementary and secondary schools for the span of 17 years.

I strongly support this bill for because it will ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8. Additionally, the BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat. The will save the state money when making educational decisions for students in immersion programs because this will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership. Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.

Requiring a BOE seat specific to immersion education will strengthen our public education system and provide the equitable access that families have been advocating for since the reintegration of Olelo Hawaii into Hawaii public schools. The work of revitalizing Olelo Hawaii in Hawaii will take all of us in all sectors of our society and community. I **urge** the committee to pass HB 1986 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Larry Kimura
Associate Professor, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, UH at Hilo

**RE: HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education**

Aloha e nā Lālā o ka 'Aha'ōlelo Hawai'i.

The DOE Kaiapuni 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, Hawaiian Language Immersion Program, is currently in its 35th year of successful Hawaiian medium education. Enrollment in several of the K-12 sites continues to grow. This advancement is due to the support and demand of families for public education through Hawaiian. Hawai'i's Hawaiian medium education program has become model for the wellbeing of indigenous languages throughout the world. It is imperative that our State Legislation require that at least one at-large BOE be an expert in Hawaiian language medium education.

Me ka mahalo nui.

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:57:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hiiaka Jardine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

My name is Hi‘iaka Jardine and I am a parent of a child in Hawaiian Immersion. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1.

I support HB1986 HD1 for the following reasons:

- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).
- BLNR and the Water Commission have Hawaiian experts on their board. They have set a precedent for a Hawaiian expert on a State board or Commission
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- BOE has pointed out in their previous testimony they have benefitted from 2 Hawaiian immersion experts who are currently sitting on the Board of Education.
- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education

- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:57:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patricia K Kanakaole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha honorable members of the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am writing to voice my support of HB1986 and urge you to lend your support to set a precedence and assign a seat on the Hawai'i Board of Education to a Hawaiian medium-immersion education expert. Hawai'i has two official state languages and two distinct pathways of education, I believe that it would be prudent for the Board of Education to reflect this diversity by assigning an at-large seat to a fluent speaker of Hawaiian who understands the unique situation of Hawaiian medium-immersion education and can support the Board in its decision making process. Hawaiian medium-immersion education is beacon of hope for Indigenous language revitalization and is also recognized as one of the world's model programs in language and culture-based methodology and pedagogy. Currently, two Board members meet this criteria; the Board and Hawai'i's public schools has benefited greatly by their knowledge and expertise. I would like to see the momentum of this progress continue in perpetuity, please pass HB1986. Mahalo a nui!

‘O au iho nō me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

P. Kanoe Kanaka‘ole

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 10:09:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Erin ODonnell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Erin Maluhia ODonnell and I am parent of a student at ‘Alo Kēhau o Ka ‘Āina Mauna

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1.

It is time to give ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i it’s due place on the BOE. I support this bill for all of the following reasons:

- **This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**
- **Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- **BOE has pointed out in their previous testimony they have benefitted from 2 Hawaiian immersion experts who are currently sitting on the Board of Education.**
- **BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.**
- **Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.**

- **Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.**
- **The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education**
- **At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.**
- **This does not cost money for the State**

In conclusion the State can not only say that we have 2 official recognized languages, but needs to put action as to what that means, that each language is afforded the same resources if not more for ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i due to our language being banned as a language of

instruction for almost 100 years. This is just ONE, small way to work towards that and to work towards the retribution that is due to our 'ōlelo and our lāhui for our keiki.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 10:10:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephen Luksic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Long overdue, much needed. More support for Hawaiian Language needed, this is small step in the proper direction.

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 10:27:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaulana Vares	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Pepeluali 23, 2022

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

I am a makua (parent) supporter of ‘Aha Kauleo and Hawaiian immersion education.

Please schedule this bill for your committee. It is very important to be heard because there needs to be equity in the two public school language pathways. My family would like to ensure that the State of Hawai‘i upholds its constitutional responsibility to provide for Hawaiian Language as a medium of education for the present and Hawai‘i’s future.

I am a resident of He‘eia, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu.

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 10:32:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Malia Rogers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Welina mai ke aloha,

I am writing in support of HB1986 HD1. The Board of Education has an incredibly important responsibility to ensure the best educational system for our most important resource - our keiki. Therefore, it is imperative that Hawaiian Immersion schools be represented on the Board of Education.

Mahalo

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 10:53:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Affairs House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Forest Frizzell

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Hearing on February 24, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Forest Frizzell. I am a parent to a young daughter enrolled in an emersion school program at Ke Po‘okumu no Ke Kula Kamali‘i ‘o Hānaiaulu. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1. As a Kanaka Maoli it’s critical that she is able to learn her native language and the school that she attends has access and support to all the resources they need to achieve success.

- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978)
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- BOE has pointed out in their previous testimony they have benefitted from 2 Hawaiian immersion experts who are currently sitting on the Board of Education.
- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Forest Frizzell

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:04:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leimomi Kaaihili Leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Leimomi Ka‘aihil Leong, Hawaiian immersion teacher and parent for 18 years

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to Board of Education

Hearing on February 24th, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1- Relating to Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Leimomi Ka‘aihili Leong and I have been a public school Hawaiian immersion teacher for 18 years. I am currently working at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Ānue as a Special Education teacher. I am testifying in favor of HB1986 HD1

The Hawaiian immersion education which has been in existence for over 40 years is rapidly growing and new schools are opening and new teacher positions are being created each year because of the growing demand for public education in the Hawaiian language.

With the rapid growth of Hawaiian immersion schools, many policies and directives that are being made on a daily basis do not have Hawaiian immersion schools in mind. Many of the resources, and directives exclude Hawaiian immersion schools.

The Board of Education currently has Hawaiian immersion supporters and experts who understand the methodologies of Hawaiian medium education therefore the Board of Education

is currently providing support to the Department of Education on equity for Hawaiian medium education.

We are only asking that this be a sustainable and continue on for years to come. In the past the Board of Education has needed a lot more advising and education about Hawaiian medium schools which has taken a loss in time and resources on the part of the Office of Hawaiian Education. They spent more time advising, advocating and helping the Department of Education and Board of education understand Hawaiian medium in the past. With members who have expertise like we have now, the Office of Hawaiian Education can focus on supporting students and schools.

One current example is the DOE tentative plan to create e-Schools/ virtual schools. Have they considered this for Hawaiian immersion? Is this beneficial for Hawaiian immersion? In the creation and implementation of these types of things, majority of the time Hawaiian immersion is an after thought. The purpose of a dedicated Hawaiian immersion seat is to ensure the equity of the 2 language pathways that Hawaii DOE has to offer.

Many other State boards and agencies have a Hawaiian consultant on their board to ensure these equities. This will not be the first agency to do so.

In conclusion I urge you to PASS HB 1986 HD1. A dedicated seat would ensure equity of the Department's Hawaiian medium pathway and uphold guidances set for in BOE policy 105-8. It will stabilize the Board of Education in making equitable decision making and policies. This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!

To: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Summer P. Maunakea, PhD
Assistant Professor of Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education and Leadership at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Education

Re: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 24, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai kākou,


My name is Summer P. Maunakea and I am an assistant professor at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am testifying in **strong support** of HB1986 HD1 requiring that at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i.

This bill ensures equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools. It also upholds guidelines set forth in [BOE policy 105-8](#) and ensures that State upholds its constitutional responsibility to [Article X, Section 4](#), and [Article XV, Section 4](#) of the Hawai'i State Constitution (1978).

Currently, Hawaiian immersion education is not securely represented in Board of Education leadership and decision-making. While the Board of Education currently has Kaiapuni advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education, Kaiapuni schools experience unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed leadership on the Board of Education. This bill will provide needed expertise to the Board of Education and help ensure decision-making and leadership serve both English and Hawaiian pathways in Hawai'i's public education system.

Together, let's secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat on the Board of Education.
I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. E ola ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Summer P. Maunakea". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'S'.

Summer P. Maunakea, PhD
Assistant Professor of Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Education and Leadership at
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Education

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:31:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
emiko joy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Qurratulayn Joy, Teacher, Kula Kaiapuni O Maui

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Hearing on February 24, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Qurratulayn Emiko Joy and I am teacher. I am testifying in SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1.

I believe that it will: Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian language immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8.

And that it: Has provided benefits to BOE as evident from the past testimony of 2 Hawaiian language immersion experts (currently sitting on the Board of Education).

In conclusion I would like to see that you continue to support our Hawaiian language immersion programs like Kula Kaiapuni, that are indeed hard to staff and constantly struggling for resources, by having experienced Hawaiian language immersion advocates/experts as members on your board.

Mahalo for taking the time to consider my recommendation for the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1.

-E Ola Ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i-

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Bruce Torres Fischer
Student, Ka Haka Ula O Keelikolani College of Hawaiian Language

**RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 24, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education**

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Bruce Torres Fischer and I am a student at Ka Haka Ula O Keelikolani College of Hawaiian Language, as well as a community member concerned for the health and prosperity of the Hawaiian Language.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1. This bill will ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8. The BOE has pointed out in their previous testimony they have benefitted from two Hawaiian immersion experts who are currently sitting on the Board of Education. At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.

I believe that HB1986 is an important step forward for the underrepresented and under-resourced Hawaiian medium education schools. Therefore, I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. E ola ka olelo Hawaii!

Me ka oiaio,
Bruce Torres Fischer

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:25:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaakapua Swain	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Andrea K Reff
Ke Kula 'o 'Ehunikaimalino

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 24, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

My name is Andrea K Reff and I am a teacher at Ke Kula ‘O ‘Ehunikaimalino. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1.

- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education. ● This does not cost money for the State

I am a teacher and a representative of Ke Kula 'o 'Ehunikaimalino teaching in the language of this land.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:47:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Irwin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- **It will ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- **The BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.**
- **Public education has 2 language pathways - English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.**

Mahalo for considering my testimony!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:48:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keala Keo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ke'ala Keo and I am a proud parent of 5 children who have or are going through the Kaiapuni program as part of their education. And I am here to voice my strong support of HB 1986 because I strongly believe that to help the public students of Hawaii we need at least one dedicated seat on the Board of Education with someone who has knowledge of the Kaiapuni program, a deep understanding of Hawaiian values beyond surface material and someone who has a thorough understanding of our language, culture and our history. Such a person would help with ideas for resources needed since Hawaiian curriculum is not mainstream or easily accessible and how to implement said resources. This advocate would undoubtedly help bridge the gap with workable solutions and ideas on what would work for Kaiapuni students and could also help Kaiapuni ideas to be adapted and used in the English curriculum classrooms. I urge you to support HB 1986 and see how this is needed to make things equitable for all students. Thank you for your time,

Ke'ala Keo

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Elizabeth Starr Baer

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 24, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e nā poʻo a me nā lala o ka ʻAha ʻŌlelo,

My name is Elizabeth Starr Baer and I am a parent of a child currently attending Pūnana Leo o Maui and planning to continue Hawaiian language immersion education for my child through the Hawaiʻi public school system.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1.

- This bill will ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawaiʻi's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges, warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ʻŌLELO HAWAIʻI!!!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 1:03:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimo Cashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Attn: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Kimo Alexander Cashman, PhD

RE: HB1986

Hearing on February 24, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Kimo Alexander Cashman and I am parent, teacher, and director of the Aloha Kumu Collective. I am testifying in support of HB1986 for the following reasons:

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.**
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.**
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education**
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**

- **At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.**
- **This does not cost money for the State**
- **This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.**
- **This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 1:10:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kayla Shaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because:

- **This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**
- **BLNR and the Water Commission have Hawaiian experts on their board. They have set a precedent for a Hawaiian expert on a State board or Commission**
- **Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- **BOE has pointed out in their previous testimony they have benefitted from 2 Hawaiian immersion experts who are currently sitting on the Board of Education.**
- **BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.**
- **Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.**

- **Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.**
- **The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education**
- **At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.**
- **This does not cost money for the State**
- **This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.**

TO: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Lori Lei Ishikawa
Paeloko Learning Center

**RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 24, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education**

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Lori Lei Ishikawa and I am grandparent of keiki Kula Kaiapuni, parent of graduates of Kula Kaiapuni, and Program Director of Paeloko Learning Center. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1.

I strongly support HB1986.

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.

In conclusion I strongly support HB1986 HD1.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 1:33:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kirsten Mawyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 1:55:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marlee Kamakaala-Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1986. As an official language of this state, Hawaiian Immersion program should have at least one BOE member with expertise in the Hawaiian language and knowledge of the program. The program will benefit greatly from this.

Mahalo,

Marlee

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 1:57:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Denise Kelekolio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1986. I have been with the Hawaiian Immersion program since 1990 and am currently a kumu at Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo in Keaukaha, Hawai'i. I have seen first hand the struggles of our program since then yet we continue to have to make concessions to our DOE counterparts. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is an official language of our State and should be treated with the same respect and equity as English programs. Having someone on the board of education that can 'ōlelo Hawai'i with Hawaiian immersion knowledge will bring more perspective and understanding to those members who do not know of or acknowledge our existence and importance.

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:51:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
iyan barrera-sandri	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am Iyan Barrera-Sandri an Ed.D student. I am writing in strong support to HB1986 HD1. The passing of this bill will insure that the BOE has members with the ununique understanding of Hawaiian immersion educaiton and the the pedagogy and methodology conneted with that education. Further more insuring that at least member is knowlagable in Hawaiian immersion the BOE will meet its constitutionaly responsibility of section 4, of both Article X and Article XV.

Thank you

LATE

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:56:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brian Faria	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1986 HD1. Please pass this bill in an effort to help address the Hawaiian Language Immersion teacher shortages in our public school system.

LATE

TO: Lunamaka‘āinana Nakashima, Luna Ho‘omalū
Lunamaka‘āinana Matayoshi, Hope Luna Ho‘omalū
Kōmike Ho‘okolokolo & Kuleana Hawai‘i

RE: HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 24, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1 - Relating to the Board of Education

E ka Luna Ho‘omalū Nakashima, e ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalū Matayoshi, a me ke Kōmike Ho‘okolokolo & Kuleana Hawai‘i, aloha ‘oukou,

My name is Kananinohea Māka‘imoku. I am a graduate, a parent, a former classroom teacher, and currently a teacher trainer for the Papahana Kaiapuni, Hawaiian Language Immersion Program (HLIP). I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986.

The last testimony provided by the Board of Education for HB1986 stated that there is “clear value” to having two Hawaiian Immersion experts currently serving on the board. Such experts bear significant knowledge attained through their work and experiences in HLIP and its communities. This bill will secure such an HLIP expert with a dedicated seat.

The program has continuously expanded in the 40 years since HLIP’s first class began. There are 12 Pūnana Leo Preschools, 27 HLIP sites, and almost 4,000 students statewide. The program could not have grown without the foresight of our legislative leaders and our Board of Education members to make fundamental policy changes in support of Hawaiian language, culture, history, and education. At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-1986-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 8:43:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaleleonalani Kekauoha-Schultz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986 HD1.

This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

This does not cost money for the State. However, this will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 HD1. E OLA KA 'OLELO HAWAI'I!!!

TO: Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,
and Members

FROM: Pōhai Kūkea Shultz

RE: HB1986
Hearing on February 24th, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

LATE

Aloha kākou,

My name is Pōhai Kūkea Shultz and I am an Associate Specialist at UH-Mānoa and the Principal Investigator of KĀ'EO (Kaiapuni Assessment of Educational Outcomes). This project works in collaboration with HIDOE to develop and administer assessments in the Hawaiian language for Kaiapuni students in Grades 3 – 8 for the purpose of state and federal accountability. I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

In my current work with the KĀ'EO, the Board of Education has been a key partner in ensuring that policy is reflective of the responsibility that Hawai'i's educational system has to its two official languages, both English and Hawaiian (as articulated in Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978)). The Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) executes these policies in support of this dual language pathway in various ways, but has articulated it specifically in a memo released on October 21, 2020. The memo acknowledges the dual language pathway of our system:

As the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) is committed to being a bilingual system, this memo serves as an affirmation to all stakeholders of the state's adoption of a single set of standards with two language paths, English and Hawaiian.

The fact that HIDOE has documented this kind of support for the dual language pathway of our educational system is a key indicator of the importance of having board members who understand the challenge that Hawaiian immersion education faces in the current educational system. We do not want to leave this up to chance – without a dedicated seat that understands Hawaiian immersion education and can knowledgeably consider the impacts of any of the board's decision not just on the state's English medium students, but also its Hawaiian medium students, we run the risk of denying equitable access and resources to the students and families who choose the Hawaiian language pathway of education within our state.

From my perspective, this is a no-brainer – this bill will not cost the state any money and is a simple way to ensure that representation on the Board of Education justly reflects the dual language pathways of Hawai'i's educational system.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'!!!!