



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/01/2024

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2074 RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates moneys to the Department of Education for the establishment of 3 full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) Kaiapuni education curriculum specialist II positions and 10 full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

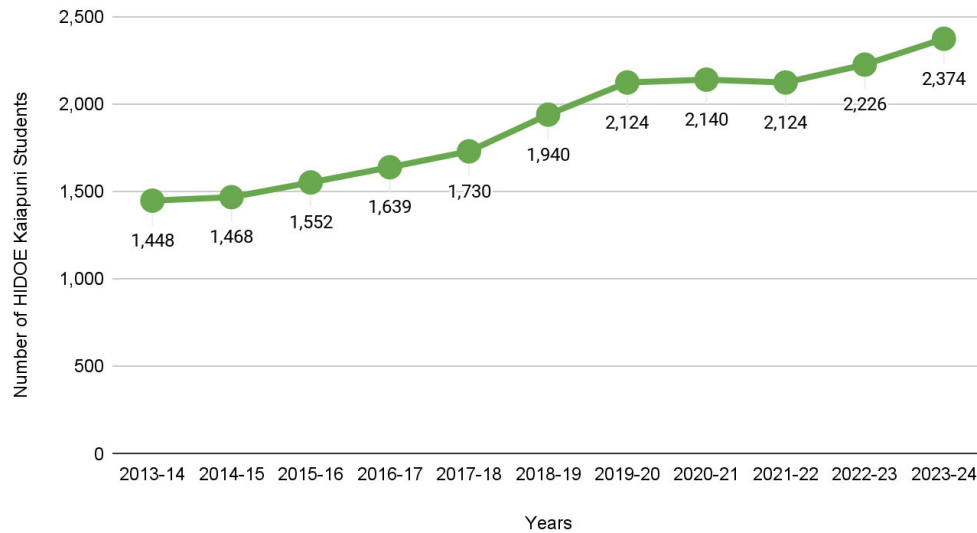
**Department's Position:**

Welina me ke aloha e nā lālā o ka 'Aha 'Ōlelo:

Kāko'o piha ka 'Oihana Ho'ona'auao o ke Aupuni Hawai'i ('Oihana) i ka pila HB 2074. He noi kēia no 10 kūlana kumu Kaiapuni hou a me 3 kūlana laekahi ho'ona'auao Kaiapuni. Ma nā makahiki he 'umi i hala iho nei, ua ulu nō ka papahana Kaiapuni ma ka 'Oihana, he 'ane'ane 1,000 hou a'e a i 2,374 haumāna e kula 'ia ana ma ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i a ua hemo 8 hou kula Kaiapuni a ka 'Oihana a i 22 kula Kaiapuni ma kekahi mau kaiāulu hou a'e.

*The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) fully supports HB 2074. We are requesting 10 additional Kaiapuni teacher positions and 3 Kaiapuni Educational Specialist positions. In the past decade, the Department's Kaiapuni program enrollment has grown by almost 1,000 students to 2,374 students that are being educated in the medium of the Hawaiian language and 8 new schools in the Department to 22 schools in additional communities.*

Growth of HIDOE Kaiapuni Enrollment in the Past Decade



Ua ulu a'e ka papahana Kaiapuni i nā makahiki he 'umi i hala iho nei: 'ane'ane 60% i ulu ai ka heluna kula Kaiapuni a me ka heluna haumāna. E ulu ana ka papahana i ka mālama 'ana i ko nā haumāna a me nā 'ohana 'imi ikaika 'ana i ka hiki ke kula 'ia ma ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma kekahi kula kokoke a i 'ole i loko o ko lākou kaiaulu, ka mea i koi 'ia e ka hihia Clarabal i ka 'Aha Ho'okolokolo Ki'eki'e Loa i ka makahiki 2019.

*The Kaiapuni program has expanded significantly over the last decade: nearly 60% increase in both the number of Kaiapuni programs and student enrollment. The Kaiapuni program has been expanding in response to student and family demand as well as to provide "reasonable access to a Hawaiian immersion program" as required by the Clarabel case in the State Supreme Court in 2019.*

He kōkua nui ka pu'u kālā pekelala a me ka pu'u kālā a ke Kia'āina e kākō'o ai i nā papahana ko'iko'i no ka papahana Kaiapuni i kēia mau makahiki i hala akula. E pau ana kēia mau waihona kālā ma ka hopena o kēia lune i ka wā e pau ai ka makahiki ho'olilo kālā a ka 'Oihana. Ko'iko'i kēia noi kālā 'Aha 'Ōlelo e ho'omau ai i nā papahana e kū nei a me ka ho'oulu 'ana i nā papahana no kēia makahiki kula a'e a ma 'ō aku.

*Federal pandemic education funding and the Governor's discretionary funds provided critical support for Kaiapuni program development over the last few years. These funds conclude at the end of this fiscal year. Legislative funding is necessary to sustain existing programs and to expand growing programs for next year and beyond.*

Mahalo nui 'ia ka 'ae 'ana mai i kā mākou hō'ike 'ana i kēia mau mana'o.

*We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.*





**HOUSE BILL 2074**  
RELATING TO KAIAPUNI PROGRAMS  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 1, 2024

2:00 pm

Room 309

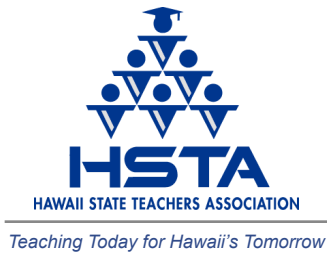
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees (BOT) **SUPPORTS** this House Bill 2074, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) curriculum specialist II positions and ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

For Hawaiians, the life of our language, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, is tied to the health and well-being of our people and culture. I ka ‘ōlelo no ke ola, i ka ‘ōlelo no ka make is a revered ‘Ōlelo No‘eau or proverb that translates to “life is in speech/language; death is in speech/language.” Ka Papahana Kaiapuni is an important program that both advances the revitalization of our language and educates the next generation of students. Its success supports the health and well-being of Hawaiians, our language and our culture.

Ka Papahana Kaiapuni programming has also been and continues to be integral to the State fulfilling its constitutional obligations. Article X §4 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution gives the State the duty to “promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language.” Further, the Constitution states that 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.”

As this bill notes, demand for Hawaiian language immersion education has grown over the past decade despite resources declining. Kaiapuni programming requires professionals who have expertise in multiple disciplines including Hawaiian language and their curriculum area or grade level. OHA supports this bill’s appropriations and establishment of a total of 13 positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni programming. It is an important step to provide Kaiapuni programs the specialized staffing it needs for its expansion and sustainability.

Accordingly, OHA urges this Committee to **SUPPORT** Ka Papahana Kaiapuni by advancing HB2074. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



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**Osa Tui, Jr.**  
President

**Logan Okita**  
Vice President

**Lisa Thompson**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Ann Mahi**  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: **HB2074 - Relating to kaiapuni education**  
Position: **Support**  
Hearing: **February 1, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309**  
Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** HB2074, relating to kaiapuni education. This bill appropriates monies to the Department of Education for the establishment of 3 full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) kaiapuni education Curriculum Specialist II positions and 10 full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) kaiapuni classroom teacher positions.

We know that the Hawaiian language is an official language of the State of Hawai'i. As an official state language, the state has an obligation to support the growth and use of Hawaiian. Currently, the state funds 28 kaiapuni (Hawaiian immersion) schools statewide. The state has also made a promise to increase access to Hawaiian language to all keiki in Hawai'i.

Although promises have been made and documented, the state still has failed to create a sustainable, measurable plan to expand the Hawaiian language to all our students. Although we have 28 kaiapuni schools in Hawai'i, only 15 of these schools have a pipeline to graduation. In addition, at most, only 39 English medium schools offer Hawaiian as a world language.

It is imperative to grow our own Hawaiian language speakers throughout the state so that there is a consistent pipeline of Hawaiian language speakers. These native speakers will be able to fill the critical shortage areas where the Hawaiian language is being taught.

To ensure that 'olelo Hawai'i is never endangered again and those opportunities to learn the Hawaiian language are available for all keiki in Hawai'i, the Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:19:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tricia-Lee Lum Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill!

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:22:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Curen Ohama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kaiapuni needs all the support it can get, we must make Kumu positions as desirable as we can. It will only bring forward more serious individuals to get where we need to go.

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Hali Kanoelani Pacheco  
Kaiapuni Graduate (2015)  
Former Kaiapuni Teacher (2019-2021)  
Kaiapuni Advocate - UH Maui College

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Hali Kanoelani Pacheco and I am a Papahana Kaiapuni graduate (2015), teacher (2019-2021), and now teacher advocate. My work now at the University of Hawai‘i Maui College includes a teacher pathway program for those who are interested in becoming licensed teachers.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education**. Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools. There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them. There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education. 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. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

In conclusion I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education**. I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**



**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:19:46 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Michael Clark and as a resident of Hawaii. I would like to support HB2074. We need to restore Hawaiian language and culture. This bill provides critical funding to continue the work of restoring the language and culture of the great Kingdom of Hawaii.

mahalo

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:56:58 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kahea Faria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Providing testimony in support of HB2074.

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Andrea Dias-Machado  
Hui Mākua o Kapolei

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Andrea Dias-Machado. I am the Hope Pelekikena (Vice President) of Hui Mākua o Kapolei, the parent group of Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kapolei. I am also the alaka‘i, leader, of the EAdeducation ‘Ewa Moku Hui Mākua, the parent group that engaged the community and the HDOE to establish Kapolei in order to address the lack of access to secondary Hawaiian Immersion Education in the ‘Ewa Moku. Kapolei enrolled its first 7th-grade class of 7 students this school year. We will add a second grade level next year in an laser-focused effort to achieve our vision and goal of building a self-contained K-12 kula kaiapuni in the ‘Ewa Moku within 5 years.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Education* because it will:

- **A Pathway to Hawaiian Immersion Access, Equity and Accountability:** 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. This bill will also ensure that the State upholds both its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978) and the Clarabal decision where the Hawai‘i Supreme Court found that the State is also constitutionally required to make all reasonable efforts to provide reasonable access to Hawaiian immersion education.
- **Addressing the Exponential Need and Demand for Hawaiian Immersion Education across the Pae‘āina:** There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. The last 10 years has also witnessed an enrollment increase of almost 1,000 students. In recent years, a significant number of families wanting to register their children in a kula kaiapuni nearest to them have been turned away by the DOE due to a lack of qualified Hawaiian Immersion teachers available as well as classroom space.

In conclusion, there is a clear and compelling case that the kaiapuni model of education needs to be scaled to meet the growing number of families that are choosing this medium of learning.

We, the Hui Mākua o Kapolei urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!**



**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:01:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
K Puaokamele Dizon	Aha Kauleo	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education**

**Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education**

**House Committee on Education Members**

**FROM: K Puaokamele Dizon**

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**

**Hearing on February 1, 2024**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

Welina me ka haahaa e na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

**[Introduce yourself]**

My name is K Puaokamele Dizon. I am a Special Education Hawaiian-Immersion public school teacher on Maui, a parent to Hawaiian-immersion public school students, and an elected representative of Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

Though it is wonderful to see, enrollment in Hawaiian-immersion is rising rapidly and stretching the resources we have to facilitate these numbers in alarming ways. For example, my daughter's third grade class has 27 students with several of them having different abilities requiring accommodations and/or specialized instruction. Though her kumu is exceptional, it is difficult to ensure adequate education under these conditions. Our school is one seeking a DOE/OHE funded position in order to alleviate conditions like these happening across the school.

I hold that the state has a constitutionally mandated obligation to support Hawaiian-immersion education under Article X, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution. The State of Hawaii has historically upheld legislation, such as The Republic of Hawaii's Act 57 passed in 1896, intended to exterminate the native language of this land, the Hawaiian language, which was nearly successful. Therefore, the State has a responsibility to do everything it can to reverse that damage. It has an opportunity to remedy this damage through HB2074, which will fund more Hawaiian-immersion teaching and curriculum specialist positions that the program sorely needs.

In conclusion, due to the increase of students in Hawaiian-immersion causing our schools to be overburdened, and due to the constitutional obligation of the State to further Hawaiian education, I support this bill and I urge the committee to PASS HB 2074.

I ka olelo no ke ola, i ka olelo no ka make

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Hōkūlani Reyes-Perez  
Alumni of Ke Kula ‘o ‘Ehunuikaimalino. Secondary Teacher at Ke Kula ‘o  
‘Ehunuikaimalino

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Stalina Hōkūlani Reyes-Perez and I am a graduate as well as a kumu at Ke Kula ‘o ‘Ehunuikaimalino. Previously in the beginning of my teaching career I represented our Kumu as the kumu representative on ‘Aha Kauleo and am now a kākō‘o. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

There are many reasons why I support this bill. Here are my main 3 reasons why I strongly support HB 2074. Not only does our state acknowledge Hawaiian language as an official language of the state but public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. However, Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education. Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them due to the lack of support from the state. Supporting 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. Lastly, by supporting this bill it 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).

In conclusion I humbly ask that you take my voice into consideration and **support** this bill. I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:14:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ben Sheets	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education House Committee on Education Members

**FROM: Ben Sheets**

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**

**Hearing on February 1, 2024**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Ben Sheets and I am parent of a 3rd grade Kaiapuni student on Lāna‘i and I also serve as the Vice President of our local parent group.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

When my family moved to Lāna‘i three years ago we were blessed with the opportunity for our younger daughter, Emilyn, to be a part of the first Kaiapuni program on the island. The gathering of these students and families has been a source of pride for our family, the families in the program, and the community.



I often lead hiking tours on our island for tourists. I regularly share about the influence of Kaiapuni education here and it's importance. For these guests to our island, it is a point of great interest as they learn of the history of Lāna'i and Hawai'i as a whole.

I strongly support HB 2074 because as my keiki gets older and more advanced, our small island will need more na kumu to teach our haumana. If there is not ongoing support, I fear that parents will be hesitant to enroll their keiki in the program, being uncertain of its viability. This would be a huge detriment to our school, our keiki, and our community.

In conclusion I ask for your ongoing support Kaiapuni education throughout Hawai'i

My spouse Rachel and I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:38:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kade Yam-Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TO:** Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** KADE HEMAKANAKAUANOE‘OKO‘OLAULANI YAM-LUM  
KE KULA KAIAPUNI ‘O KAPOLEI

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

I am KADE HEMAKANAKAUANOE‘OKO‘OLAULANI YAM-LUM and I am graduate and teacher of immersion school and I am currently a Kaiapuni teacher and support fully ‘Aha Kauleo on their stance in support of SB2069.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2069, which aims to ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education in all public schools in Hawai‘i. There are several key reasons that I believe this bill is necessary and will have a positive impact on our education system.

Firstly, the current funding for teacher positions in kaiapuni schools is simply not enough. With 22 schools across the state, only 35 teacher positions are funded by the Department of Education (DOE). This means that many schools are understaffed and unable to provide the necessary support and quality education that our children deserve. SB2069 will address this issue by

allocating more resources and funding to allow for additional teacher positions in kaiapuni schools.

Secondly, there has been a significant increase in the number of kaiapuni schools and students over the past decade. With an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools and nearly 1,000 additional students, it is clear that there is a growing demand for Hawaiian immersion education. However, many families are being turned away by DOE schools at registration because of limited availability. SB2069 will help address this issue by ensuring that families have access to the kaiapuni school that is closest to them, allowing more students to benefit from this valuable educational opportunity.

Lastly, it is crucial that the State uphold its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution. These sections recognize the importance of Hawaiian language and culture, and it is our duty to ensure that Hawaiian immersion education is accessible to all students across the state. SB2069 will help uphold these constitutional principles and ensure that our public education system provides equitable opportunities for all students.

In conclusion, SB2069 is a necessary and important step towards ensuring equitable access to Hawaiian immersion education in Hawai'i's public schools. By increasing funding for teacher positions, addressing the growing demand for kaiapuni schools, and upholding our constitutional responsibilities, this bill will have a positive impact on our education system. I urge you to support and prioritize the passage of SB2069.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kade Hemakanakauano'e'oko'olaulani Yam-Lum

I/we urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Ke‘alohi Foster

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

O au no keia o Kealohi Foster, he kumu ao ma Kawaihuleni, ma ke kula nui o Manoa. Ma mua hoi, he kumu kaiapuni au ma ke kula kaiapuni o Waiau hoi – a o au hoi kai hele aku i kela me keia halawai aha kauleo.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

- Currently, the DOE only funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools.
- There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.
- Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.

In conclusion I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:48:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare HewLen	Ka La'i a 'Ehu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Tiare HewLen On behalf of my 'ohana and as President of Ka La'i a 'Ehu

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**  
**Hearing on February 1, 2024**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

'O Tiare HewLen ko'u inoa. All 8 of my keiki are in Kaiapuni education at Punana Leo o Kona and Ke kula o 'Ehunuikaimalino. I am also a parent representative of Ke kula o 'Ehunuikaimalino in the 'Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education.*

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My daughter is fighting to get into the one of 22 spots open at Ke kula o 'Ehunuikaimalino as they considering capping enrollment due to lack of staffing. This is the only Kaiapuni option in Kona.

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Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools

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There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.

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There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.

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Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.

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There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.

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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).

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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

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Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

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DOE strategic plan states...

In conclusion

We urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**



**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Brandi Cutler, mother to students in Kaiapuni

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Brandi Cutler and I am a mother to two students at Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala (KKOP).

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Education*.

My two children are thriving because of Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala. Their kula kaiapuni, established over 30 years ago, is growing and yet is constantly challenged by lack of staffing. The class sizes are always far too big; their kumu are stretched far too thin. KKOP is part of the growing Hawaiian immersion program throughout Hawai'i: there has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools and there has been an increase in students by almost 1,000 in the past 10 years. The students, kumu, and community of Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala deserve the support from the Department of Education for equitable education.

HB2074 ensures that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). It also ensures equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education in Hawai'i's public schools.

In conclusion I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Brandi Cutler, Kāne'ōhe

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Brandi Cutler, Vice President  
Hui Makua O Pū'ōhala

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Brandi Cutler and I am Vice President of Hui Makua O Pū'ōhala (HMOP).

I am testifying on behalf of HMOP in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Education.**

Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala (KKOP), established over 30 years ago, is a growing kaiapuni in Kāne'ōhe. KKOP consistently has to deal with lack of staff and curriculum. Our class sizes are too large, with far too few kumu for the number of students. KKOP is part of the growing Hawaiian immersion program throughout Hawai'i: there has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools and there has been an increase in students by almost 1,000 in the past 10 years. And yet the DOE only funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools. The students, kumu, and community of Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala deserve the support from the Department of Education for equitable education.

HB2074 ensures that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). It also ensures equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education in Hawai'i's public schools.

In conclusion Hui Makua O Pū'ōhala urges the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Brandi Cutler, Vice President  
Hui Makua O Pū'ōhala

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:37:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leonard Nakoa III	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I support this bill

Testimony in Support of HB2074

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and esteemed members of the House Committee on Education

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my support of HB2074. I would like to ask the legislator to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education.

In seeing that enrollment within the Hawaiian Language Immersion education program has grown and yet the resources provided for the program have declined, it is time to for the appropriate funds to be allocated so the success of the program can only grow higher.

I have seen firsthand the dedication and support from Kaiapuni kumu in Lahaina over the past 6 months. The care they have for their keiki and support they have shown to those most vulnerable after the fire, is something indescribable. To fully support the staff already working diligently, with more resources, I urge the legislature to pass bill HB2074

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Katie Austin

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:09:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

Kāko‘o loa wau i kēia pila me ka ha‘aha‘a a me ka hau‘oli.

mahalo nui,  
kimeona kane

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Leinā‘ala Kuloloio Vedder  
Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā‘ia

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024**

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Leinā‘ala Kuloloio Vedder and I am parent of a student at Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kekaulike and a kumu at Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā‘ia. I have been a kumu representative at many ‘Aha Kauleo statewide meetings in the past 12 years.

I am writing to express my strong support of **HB 2074 - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education***.

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). It will also 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. Public education has two language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian immersion education is not securely represented in the Board of Education and this bill is a step forward to address that gap. In the past 10 years, there has been an increase in student enrollment by almost 1,000 in Kaiapuni schools statewide. As a result, 8 Kaiapuni schools were established to meet the growing needs and desires of our community.

Currently, the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE) funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools which is an insufficient amount for educating our students in the native language of this land. This is less than the total number of Kaiapuni educators teaching in the 7 Kaiapuni schools on the island of Maui alone. The continual financial regulations and lack of civic support for Hawaiian immersion education in the HIDOE has been allowed by this legislative body for over 130 years. This kind of behavior, negligence, and inequality of education controlled by policy makers only festers the deficit of all Kaiapuni schools meeting the DOE Strategic Plan. This bill should not be viewed as a deterrent. The appropriations of this bill is necessary to fully implement the DOE Strategic Plan and prepare Kaiapuni students to be global directors and architects in our changing world.

I urge the Committee to pass HB 2074.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Mikala Masina-Hadley

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Mikala Masina-Hadley and I am teacher, former student, and graduate of Ke Kula ‘o ‘Ehunuikaimalino.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

Kaiapuni schools have increased by 1,000 students in the past ten years and we currently have 25 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools. For the Kaiapuni schools to be successful and revitalize the Hawaiian language and culture we need more certified teachers and professional development to best educate our students. Due to the lack of certified teachers, many families will be turned away because many schools do not have the capacity to meet the demands of the community with this desire to revive the Hawaiian language. More funding is needed to support the growing need of teachers and quality education in Kaiapuni schools.

In conclusion, it is pertinent for Kaiapuni schools to receive more funding.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:46:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theresa Tehiva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Theresa K. Tehiva

Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Kapolei

RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 1, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074

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

My name is Theresa K. Tehiva and I am a parent of a 7th grade Kaiapuni student who currently attends and Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Kapolei.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

- There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.
- There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.
- There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.



- 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).
- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

In conclusion,

I/we urge the Committee to PASS HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:08:24 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia K Kanakaole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairman Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education... Welina me ke aloha nui iā 'oukou!

I would like to offer my support of HB 2074, a bill which would increase teaching and curriculum specialist positions for the Kula Kaiapuni Hawaiian Language Immersion program under the Department of Education. The demand for Hawaiian language is increasing in our respective communities, yet we are never fully staffed by the Department. Instead we are often treated as an after thought despite International and National recognition for our efforts. Please support this bill and equity it seeks to create. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,

P. Kanoë Nacua Kanaka'ole

Community Member

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:11:51 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Morgan Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Morgan Kāla‘e Josephine Parker

Ke Kula ‘o ‘Ehunuikaimalino

RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 1, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074

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

My name is Morgan Kāla‘e Josephine Parker and I am a teacher at Ke Kula ‘o ‘Ehunuikaimalino, which is a member of the ‘Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

We have seen an amazing increase of kaiapuni schools in our state in the last 10 years, 8 new schools along with 1,000 additional students to the kaiapuni program. This is a blessing, but also puts a strain on our teachers and resources. We are not able to provide our students with the curriculum and resources they deserve. We are ready, able, and excited to provide more to our students. In addition, this bill would ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines outlined in BOE policy 105-8.

In conclusion, I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:53:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacob Anthony Kaumualii Titcomb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**My name is Jacob Anthony Kaumuali'i Titcomb and I am a kumu kaiapuni, a Hawaiian immersion teacher, at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenuē.**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

**Choose your top 2-3 to include in (paragraph form) in your letter of support:**

- Currently, the DOE funds ONLY 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools with multiple positions to fill**
- Between the increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years and the surge of students in the immersion program by almost a 1,000 students in the last 10 years alone, us teachers on the frontline are being pushed to the limit!**
- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education. I have been a teacher only 6 years and have felt burnt out each year. Our school is lucky to have so many positions available, a lot more than other schools but we also have a huge student body and we are still in need of more teachers and staff! It is ridiculous how little support the immersion program continues to get. It is the duty of the DOE to fund these positions!**

**In conclusion,**

**Urge the Committee to PASS HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Ka‘anohiokalā Kalama-Macomber

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**  
**Hearing on February 1, 2024**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Ka‘anohiokalā Kalama-Macomber and I am a former Kaiapuni student and a current parent of children in Ka Papahana Kaiapuni.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

As a member of the first graduating class of Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Pū‘ōhala, I experienced firsthand the need for more teacher positions as well as more state level positions to adequately resource Kaiapuni education. More than thirty years later, we are still seeing a lack of resources, less than ideal facility conditions, inadequate access and more with regards to Kaiapuni Education. As a dual language system, the state of Hawai‘i has a legal obligation to provide opportunities for Kaiapuni Education in every community in Hawai‘i; but providing the schools is not enough. We must also provide the resources to nurture, nourish and sustain thriving Kaiapuni communities.

Currently, the DOE funds only 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools and only a single state office regularly focuses on addressing the needs of Kaiapuni Education. It is important to note that the responsibilities of these positions are much greater than that of a normal teaching position as there is not adequate support for curriculum development, instruction and design. For this reason, I urge you to ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools; and to uphold the guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8.

In conclusion, support for HB 2074 will ensure that the state upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution (1978). Our children are watching and questioning us everyday. What message are we sending them when they don’t see themselves in the mo‘olelo?

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:21:32 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lehua Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Darlene Miller and I am a parent of two sons who attend Ka Umeke Kaeo Public Charter School. I am in strong support of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education. Our family had seen an increase number of students at Ka Umeke Kaeo and we have not seen a growth in the number of teachers and staff at the school. The students at Ka Umeke Kaeo deserve an environment with supportive teachers and staff members as we have seen our own two sons show so much pride in their school and they are excelling in their education and extra curricular activities in our community. Mahalo for your support of HB 2074.

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:22:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kuuleialohaonalani Salzer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education**

**Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education**

**House Committee on Education Members**

**FROM: Ku‘ulei Salzer, Kaiapuni Parent**

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**

**Hearing on February 1, 2024**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

**My name is Ku‘ulei Salzer and I am a parent of a student at Kula Kaiapuni o Anuenue I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

**Kaiapuni education has played a vital role in revitalizing the Hawaiian language. Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them. No family should be denied the opportunity to access Hawaiian language schools. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure the expansion and continuation of Hawaiian language schools. This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional**



**responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution (1978).**

**In conclusion, I strongly support HB2074**

**I urge the Committee to PASS HB 2074.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:26:53 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Larry Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiian is an official language of the State of Hawai‘i. The Kaiapuni Hawaiian Immersion Program is an official program of the State DOE. This program’s increase in new school sites and in student enrollment requires your immediate attention and support. I submit my testimony in strong support and resolutely urge your passage of HB2074.

Me ke kākō‘o piha. Larry Kimura

‘Aha Pūnana Leo Board Member

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:28:34 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am in strong support of **HB2074**.

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** S. T. Kauāakeakua Segundo  
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

‘Ano‘ai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

My name is Kauāakeakua Segundo and I am graduate student and a teacher at the University of Hawai‘i College of Hawaiian Language Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the expansion of Hawaiian immersion teaching positions and the allocation of resources for curriculum specialists in alignment with the mandates outlined in Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution. I believe that investing in the growth and enhancement of Hawaiian language immersion education is crucial for preserving our cultural heritage and fostering a stronger sense of identity among the people of Hawaii.

Article X, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution emphasizes the state's responsibility to provide an equitable and quality education for all students. By bolstering Hawaiian immersion teaching positions, we not only fulfill this constitutional obligation but also contribute to the revitalization and perpetuation of the Hawaiian language, an integral part of our unique cultural tapestry.

Furthermore, Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution recognizes the importance of preserving and promoting the culture, traditions, and language of Native Hawaiians. Investing in curriculum specialists dedicated to the development and improvement of Hawaiian immersion curricula is a direct and effective way to ensure that our educational system aligns with the constitutional mandate to protect and enhance the rights and practices of Native Hawaiians.

Hawaiian immersion education not only provides students with linguistic skills but also fosters a deep connection to the rich cultural heritage of Hawaii. As we celebrate and embrace our diversity, it is essential that we prioritize the preservation of the Hawaiian language as an integral part of our shared identity.

By increasing the number of Hawaiian immersion teaching positions and supporting curriculum specialists, we take a significant step towards creating a more inclusive and culturally responsive education system. This investment will benefit not only the current generation of students but will also leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider this proposal earnestly and allocate the necessary resources to support the growth of Hawaiian immersion programs across the state. Let us work together to ensure that our education system reflects the values enshrined in our state constitution and contributes to the flourishing of Hawaii's unique cultural heritage with the **passing** of HB 2074.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

S. T. Kauāakeakua Segundo

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:34:40 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Irwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

E na lunamakainana hanohano o ke komike hoonaaauao, aloha nui oukou!

Honorable representatives of the Education Committee, warm greetings to each and all!

I write in support o HB2074 appropriating funds for 3 Papahana Kaiapuni curriculum specialists, and 10 full-time equivalent Papahana Kaiapuni classroom teachers. As noted in the preamble of the bill, the Hawaiian Language Immersion program has undergone significant growth over the past decade without a correspondingly significant investment of resources to meet the community’s demand for this popular approach to education. Bill HB2074 is a step towards rectifying this inequitable situation.

As a member of the Hawaiian language curriculum and resource development team at the Hale Kuamo‘o Hawaiian Language Center at UH Hilo, I am watching in awe as kaiapuni communities continue to grow due to surging interest across the pae aina (island chain).

I applaud the legislature for its past support of Kaiapuni schools, and urge the members of your esteemed committee to continue appropriating funding supporting the ongoing success of dedicated kumu kaiapuni teachers and curriculum specialists serving the needs of students and families. These resources are critical to support all who wish to pursue an education through the olelo makuahine (mother language) of Hawai‘i, as communities rise to revitalize this heritage language of our places, perpetuating insights, knowledge, terminology, unique perspectives, and cultural identity embedded in the olelo of our aina.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Irwin

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Leimomi Ka‘aihili Leong, DOE SPED/Kaiapuni Teacher, Maunaloa resident, Parent of 2 keiki kaiapuni, member of HSTA Hawaiian Education Special Committee, member of ‘Aha Kauleo, DOE advisory committee

**RE:** **HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**  
**Hearing on February 1, 2024**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Leimomi Ka‘aihili Leong and I am kaiapuni parent, HSTA active member, kaiapuni & SPED teacher at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Ānuenuenu, and a member of ‘Aha Kauleo. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Education.**

The Department of Education has **two educational pathways**, English medium and Hawaiian medium. Kaiapuni (Hawaiian immersion) is not a program outside of the department's educational responsibilities. This bill will be a start to **equitable access to resources and education** for the Hawaiian medium educational pathway on all islands and to **uphold Board of Education policy 105-8.**

By supporting this bill you 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).**

The department has not done its due diligence in equitable access by **funding** 35 positions across the state for 22 schools which **has not changed in over 10 years.** It is clear that the community demand for kaiapuni education is increasing. Student enrollment has increased by almost 1,000 students in the past 10 years but there has not been an increase in resources. This is not for Hawaiian keiki only, students enrolled are of all ethnicities. There is actually a greater demand than 1,000 students because many families are denied access to Hawaiian medium education.

Although 8 new schools have opened in the past 10 years, more communities are trying to open in their community and have licensed teachers (Such as Keonepoko Elementary) but the DOE has not responded to the educational rights of the community. The DOE also does not provide access to kaiapuni on the entire island of Kaua‘i along with 6 other complex areas across the state.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to please **PASS HB 2074** to uphold the State Constitution, Board of Education Policy, and support the DOE strategic plan of increasing Hawaiian education in both English and Hawaiian medium pathways.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,  
Leimomi Ka‘aihili Leong

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I**



**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Keonilei Lealiifano

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Keonilei Lealiifano and I am a parent of 2 current Kaiapuni students, and have 2 more children who will enter next school year. I am also former resource teacher at Kaiapuni and have close relations who are current Kaiapuni faculty.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

There's a large amount of families wanting to choose Kaiapuni schools evident in the demand for more schools opening, 9 new schools in just under 10 years, with an increase of 1,000 students and their families that the Kaiapuni system supports. Our family is one of those families.

Even with increased placements for students, people are still being turned away. We recently returned to live in Hawaii and I dreamed of having my children learn and speak their mother tongue. We were living overseas in New Zealand where there was no Hawaiian education available. It has been a true blessing to have my children attend Kaiapuni, but I know just how lucky we were to get a space for them. I have 2 more keiki who will be entering school soon, and I want to ensure that there is space for them as well.

Currently, only 35 teachers are funded for over 22 schools across the state of Hawaii. With 1 island still without funding for Kaiapuni education. This bill will address the dire need for funding to increase teaching and special resource faculty. My sister is a FTE Kaiapuni teacher in Maui, with the recent wildfires there, their schools have had to pivot and make so many adjustments to their delivery and care for students. I'm immensely proud of the particular way Kaiapuni teachers and staff have welcomed, sheltered, protected and cared for the children and families impacted by the fire. We need more Kaiapuni teachers to meet the needs of the community.

The state of Hawaii has 2 official languages, and therefore rightly so, public education has 2 pathways, English and Hawaiian. Both have equal standing in importance and legality in our state constitution and therefore, we should see more representation of Hawaiian education on the BOE with secure seats for Kaiapuni representation. This secures Hawaiian education within the BOE's objectives and

commitments. Let's make our state successful by meeting the needs of our diverse and distinct community.

This bill, SB2064 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), ensuring 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.

In conclusion, I strongly support SB2074, and feel the state needs to pass this to ensure constitutional requirements of the needs of the state of Hawaii's Hawaiian education community which is undeniably growing in number and support.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:52:11 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Blake J LaBenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support our kaiapuni families!

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:55:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalaniakea Wilson	Hawaiian Kingdom Government	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Department of Education and the State of Hawaii have to apologize and remedy the war crime of Americanization that eliminated the Hawaiian Kingdom national language. This is only a small step in the right direction. If you don't support this bill you will only be continuing the war crime of Americanization.

Kaiapuni Testimony  
Deadline Thurs 1/31 2:00PM

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Sharla Ipolani Medeiros (Kumu)  
Kula Kaiapuni 'O Lāna'i

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Sharla Ipolani Medeiros and I am a teacher in the immersion program on Lāna'i, as well as a member of HSTA, Hawaiian Education Committee.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

It is apparent that funding for Kaiapuni should be a priority as there has been an increase of 8 Kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to Kaiapuni education.

Legislators need to 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. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education and this bill will change that to properly represent our Kaiapuni schools

In conclusion, this is my 33rd year in a Hawaiian Immersion classroom as a Hawaiian Immersion teacher and there has been little to no change in funding and support of Hawaiian education school throughout the years.

I, Sharla Ipolani Medeiros urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Kayla Lindsey Asing  
Parent of keiki at Pūnana Leo o Hilo & Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

‘O ‘Āpuakea, Kāne‘ohe, O‘ahu ku‘u one hānau. ‘O Hawai‘i mokupuni kahi e noho nei. ‘O Maunakea ka mauna. ‘O Waiākea ka wai. ‘O Hilo ka moku. ‘O Waiākea ke ahupua‘a. ‘O ka wao kanaka kahi e noho nei. E ola. My name is Kayla Lindsey Asing and I am parent of three keiki in Hawaiian Medium Education; one attending Pūnana Leo o Hilo & two attending Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. I am also a parent representative for Nāwahī’s Papa Alaka‘i (school governing board) and also parent representative for Nāwahī at the ‘Aha Kauleo meetings.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

Public education in Hawai‘i has two language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian medium education is not securely represented in the Board of Education, and we as parents and community contributors find it especially concerning to the future of education for our keiki. Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools, and there has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. With this demand for more Hawaiian medium education schools, there too needs to be afforded more teaching positions to accommodate this.

In conclusion, I would also like to make note that it is extremely important to 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. This bill will help to guide us all in the right direction for the future of Hawaiian medium education and the Hawaiian language access for our keiki.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

Na Kayla Lindsey Asing

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:37:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Briann Starkey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education**

**Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education**

**House Committee on Education Members**

**FROM: Briann Starkey**

**Kumu A‘oa‘o Kīnānā ma Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kualapuu**

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**

**Hearing on February 1, 2024**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

**My name is Briann Piliiana Starkey and I am a Hawaiian Immersion Special Education teacher at Kula Kaiapuni o Kualapuu on Molokai. I am a supporter and have attended ‘Aha Kauleo Meetings representing my Papahana Kaiapuni on the island of Moloka‘i. However, I am testifying as an individual.**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

**It is for these reasons for my support, first, to 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. Currently I am employed at the only Public Charter School on Molokai and am fortunate that the school I work at is supported currently with 7 Kaiapuni positions and a Curriculum Coordinator. In general, we are all aware of how hard, tiring and somewhat frustrating it is for teachers like myself to work day in and day out for our students. Now to plan, prepare and create units and lessons in another language where our resources are limited; finding the time to do this to students ages 5-12, who are learning a second language and then go home daily; switch hats to become a mom, a wife, a daughter, a college student and then repeat for 5 days of the week. Having Curriculum Coordinator/Specialist positions in our DOE Public Schools will reduce the extra time that our teachers put in to create lessons and curriculum so all they have to do is what they do best: TEACH. Often times, our teachers are found defeated, unmotivated and worn out because of the 'extra' that they put out for our keiki. With this position of the Curriculum specialist, it will be able to support our DOE Public School Kumu colleagues with all the current responsibilities they have on top of teaching equitably. As a Charter school, sure, we are fortunate to have these positions, but what about the equitability of ALL Kaiapuni Teachers at ALL Kaiapuni Schools, regardless if we are a Charter or a DOE school. We are all teaching and working as hard for all of our haumana.**

**Secondly, some of our start up Charter School and DOE Kaiapuni schools are lacking teaching positions. With the increased interest in our Native State language of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, some of our schools are having to combine grades with already a class size of more than 20 students in one grade. Therefore, combining grades with more than 26 students is not good as it makes it difficult to concentrate on Core Curriculum grade level standards. It also makes it hard for new language learners to learn and communicate in their native language. It also violates our teaching ARTICLE VI, A-6. Teacher to student ratio is 15:1.**

**In conclusion I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 for more teacher positions and more Curriculum Specialist positions to ensure equality among ALL teachers at ALL schools.**

**I urge the Committee to PASS HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**



**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:42:27 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Manera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Stephanie Manera

RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 1, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074

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

My name is Stephanie Manera and I am parent of a student currently in Ānuenuē. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

The reason I strongly support this house bill 2074 and everyone I believe should be too is because our teachers/schools need all the support they can get from the community. We all know how poorly funded and how our 'Ōlelo Hawai'i schools always get shafted. They don't deserve that treatment. I also support this house bill because my child is interested in becoming a kumu/teacher. She will need the tools, the right foundation and structure to pursue her career choice. So please pass HB2074

- Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools
- There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.
- There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.
- Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.
- There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.
- 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
- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:11:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keola Ka'uhane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou (greetings all),

O au ‘o Keola Ka‘uhane (I am Keola Ka‘uhane). No Pālama mai au (I‘m from Pālama). I am in full support of HB 2074 to increase educator positions (10 full time kumu and 3 full time Educational Specialist II) to meet the demands of the growing Kaiapuni student population.

In the past 10 years, Kaiapuni student enrollment has increased by more than 50% and schools offering Kaiapuni education has increased by more than 60%. If this is an indicator of the trajectory of the consistent upward slope, the obvious solution is to add more teacher/educator specialist positions to support the increasing demand.

If you do not support this bill and you have a better solution to this issue, I would be interested to hear all about it.

E mālama pono(take care).

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:23:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keokapukoa Kaohelaulii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I am writing in support of HB2074.

Mahalo,

Keo

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Simon Seisho Tajiri, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Lāna'i

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**  
**Hearing on February 1, 2024**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Simon Seisho Tajiri and I am a kumu at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Lāna'i, where I also represent our school at the 'Aha Kauleo. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education**. We have been fighting for over a decade to establish a Kula Kaiapuni on Lāna'i. Although the court case has been resolved, the family who fought this battle for Lāna'i is still not being serviced and their daughters have to attend kaiapuni in Lāhaina because Lāna'i has not provided a high-school immersion program. This is our third year as a kaiapuni and we are in need of more teachers. We currently have three teachers for four grades and next year we will have five grades and will need more kumu. Please vote yes to provide us more kumu, which we desperately need throughout Hawai'i.

Na'u nō me ka leo kāko'o,  
na Simeona Tajiri

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**



TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

SUBJECT: **HB2074**  
HEARING: Thursday, February 1, 2024, 2:00 PM

### **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Thank you for scheduling this measure, HB2074 to be heard. Nā Leo Kākoʻo o Oʻahu, the family organization that exists to promote the educational activities of Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenuē, is in **strong support**.

Our keiki attend Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenuē, the kula kaiapuni nestled in the back of Pālolo Valley. Poʻokumu Babā Yim and the Kumu (teachers) and Limahana (staff) of this kula are uniquely qualified - having knowledge and expertise in both K-12 educational principles as well as fluency in ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi. Through our networks of likeminded ʻohana, we know the commitment to ensure our youth have access to high quality education in their native tongue is one that many families have, yet accessing student seats within kula kaiapuni are limited. There are far fewer seats than interested students.

To address the lack of access to secondary education in the ʻEwa Moku, a group of mākua (parents) engaged the community and the DOE to establish Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kapolei, a satellite site of Ānuenuē based at Kapolei Middle School. Kapolei enrolled its first 7th-grade class of 7 students this school year. As an established K-12 kula kaiapuni, Ānuenuē is providing critical programmatic and administrative support to Kapolei to build its capacity to transition into its own school. Thus, our kula acknowledges that the educational needs and goals of our haumāna (students) and ʻohana (family) are best served within the communities they come from.

Presently, we still feel the urgent need for more regional kula kaiapuni options. Even with Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kapolei, ʻohana from across Oʻahu send their keiki on buses for hours every day to attend school at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenuē. While we remain grateful for the community that our kula kaiapuni provides, and the access to high quality education that the Kumu at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenuē deliver; we see that the demand for kula kaiapuni education is overflowing.

In recognition, this bill comes at the perfect time. Expanding educational resources for Kaiapuni programs, including new programs/site, new FTEs for teacher positions, and classroom materials and equipment are desperately needed. In addition, the curriculum specialists will promote the Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, support teacher professional growth, and result in an increase in qualifications of teacher candidates.

NA LEO KAKOʻO O OAHU, INC.  
C/O ANUENUE SCHOOL  
2528 10TH AVE  
HONOLULU HI 96816  
nlkanuenue@gmail.com



Please pass this measure for HB2074 forward with the enthusiasm and support that matches our excitement. We are so grateful for the opportunity for Kaiapuni's, statewide, to receive these timely and needed resources.

We'd like to extend gratitude to Hawai'i State District Representatives Holt, Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Hussey-Burdick, Ilagan, Kahaloa, Kapela, Lowen, Marten, Morikawa, Perruso, Poepoe, Quinlan, Souza, Tarnas, Ward, and Woodson for introducing this bill that will help to mālama (preserve) Article XV, section 4. Article X, section 4. Article XII, section 7 of our Hawai'i State Constitution. *He 'ike 'ana ia i ka pono.* It is a recognizing of the right thing to do.

Mahalo piha for the opportunity to testify and share the kāhea of our Papa Alaka'i and Hui Mākua who approve this message by way of their supporting Petitions collected in the last 24 hours.

Me Ke Aloha,  
Logan Johnsen-Halas  
*Pelekikena 2023-2024*  
*Nā Leo Kākoʻo o O'ahu*

#### ***Hui Mākua Petition in Support of HB2074***

(123) Recent supporters of <https://forms.gle/S8ekoPgg5aFwUfpt6>

Gail Leilani Kamalani, Meagan Kimsel, Karla Horphin, Shawna Santos, Leona Pi'imanu, Nelekulia Horphin, Anisa Pacapac-Marquez, Keala Pi'imanu, J. English, Jasmine Morisako-Smith, Dara Tuitama, Tweetie Horphin, Andrea Dias-Machado, Anne Au, Jessie Horphin, Kahaunani Glover, Rheann Aki, Jiani Horphin, Lāpule Schultz, La'akea Bertulfo, Pua Perkins, Nikki Arakawa, H. Melelani Pang, Van Velasco, Cindy Oliveira, Tiffany Canonigo-Ong, Angel Cheng, Moani Lee, Fosi Ulima, Lissette Yamase, Pua Pinto, Kuali Mersberg, Nalani Balutski, Cheyenne Kalama, LiulāMersberg, Brigitte Lucey, Kamana'o Ku, Kystassia Glover, Georgette Aki, Kahele Cruz, Joan Craft, Kealani Makaiwi, Kekuamakana Lewis, Liulā Mana, Celine Cumberlander, Tony Conjugacion, Damien Kuamo'o, Kaihilani Wong, Keli'i Makua, Anu Kuamo'o, Nadine Ortega, Iokepa Bagood, Francesca Au, Nicole Cruz, Latasha Feary, Kade Yam-Lum, Kanani Cruz, Sheylyn Vasconcellos, Nele Horphin, Kaulana Vares, Chyanne Cabrera, Kulia Horphin, Jaylene Kaleimamahu, Brandy Pumehana Henderson-De Ramos, Angleak K Dumancus, Darren Amoe, Ka'ikena Amoe, Nathan Nahina, Leimomi Ka'ahili Leong, Keonilei F Lealifano, Kahuanani Kalua-Ching, Ku'uleilani Reyes, Caleana Duffey-Spikes, Laura Rose Reichhardt, Danny Ka'aiali'i, Kamanawa Revilla, Kainulama Carba, Wehi Na'auao, Kau'i Angell, Keana'ai Crabbe, Dhalia Jennings, Korin Lima, Ku'ulei Salzer, Andrea Dias-Machado, Kaylene Loui, Ke'alohilani Horiuchi, Keeley Mantanona, Wai'ale'ale (Li'i) Sarsona, Skye Wong, Tenille Frank, Aaron Wong-Frank, Aaron Wong-Frank, Sanoe Marfil, Lilia Kapuniai, Kēhauanani Llanos, Brutus LaBenz, Adrienne Llanos, Ana Lokelani, Jamie Gruenwald, Kahaunani Glover, Joel Kelley, Genny Kelley, Kawailani Dutro, Kystassia Glover, Jilleina Winchester, Pakalana Chan, O. Wini Terada, Lanakila Makua, Stephanie Manera.

#### ***Hui Mākua Palapala Noi in Support of HB2074***

(63) Recent supporters of <https://chn.gi/RQhxjDycGP>

Catherina Yanagi, Kalena Ann Kai, Cruz Kahele, Kealani Makaiwi, Morgan Plunkett, Darin Lucey, Mackenzie Plunkett, Keku Tauala, Kalena Ann Kai, Kekuamakana Lewis, Tony Conjugacion, Orlando Marquez Neto, Pete Doktor, Michael Emerick, Leticia Montes, Kamakahukilani Plunkett, Andrea Palma, Noel Shaw, Evelyn Kaba, Raquel Aki, Jay E., Rheann Aki, Kade Yam-Lum, Mailikapu Heanu, Brandi Ahlo, Roberta Rabelo, Kystassia Glover, Meagan Kimsel, Lāpule Schultz, Jaylene Kaleimamahu, Loke Kimsel, Brandy Henderson-De Ramos, Mailikapu Heanu, Kade Yam Lim, Jaylene English, Raquel Kealaokahi Aki, Andrea Borsch Palma, Mackenzie Plunkett, Darin Lucey, Uilani Plunkett, Daniel Mahi, Ana Ladeia, Kanani Cruz, Kaulana Vares, Angleak Dumancus, Jennifer Santos, Justin Santos, Nathan Nahina, Renee Price, Ana Colen, Bonnie Kalei Nakamura, Jennifer Kuuipo Thomson, Brandon Kalua-Ching, Kahuanani Malia-Ching, Vanessa Sacho, Rebekah Walker, Lila Mae Lelepali, Lorinda Riley, Isabelle V Leominster Cavicante, Bruna Lomba Alves de Oliveira, Alanna Eicher, Kamanawa Revilla, Priscilla Nascimento, Aline Lima, Fabio Jesus, Shawn Steiman, Leimomi Ka'ahili Leong, Robyn Tasaka, Kawailani Dutro, Jileina Winchester.

NA LEO KAKO'O O OAHU, INC.  
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**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:47:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malia Nickison-Beazley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB2074 as it will help increase the ability to support and expand kaiapuni education.



**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:47:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Delwin Beazley Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I strongly support anything that will continue the teaching and perpetuation of our culture. My generation was not afforded the opportunities that present themselves today. E ola ka lāhui Hawaii.**

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Kapuaonaona Roback

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Kapuaonaona Roback, I am a former student of Hawaiian immersion education and a supporter of the Hawaiian language revitalization movement. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

The recent increase of eight Kaiapuni schools over the last decade, alongside a notable surge in student enrollment by almost 1,000, underscores the growing demand and essential need for Hawaiian immersion education across our state. This expansion is a testament to the dedication of our communities and educators, yet, despite these advancements, many families still face significant barriers. Notably, the current limitation in funding for only 35 teacher positions across 22 schools does not meet the escalating interest and necessity for such programs.

This bill, HB 2074, is a crucial step towards addressing these disparities and ensuring the State of Hawai‘i upholds its constitutional responsibilities as outlined in Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution. It aims to secure equitable access to resources and education for Hawaiian immersion programs across all islands, fulfilling the guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8. This is not just about preserving a language; it's about fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for Hawaiian culture, history, and identity among our youth. Public education in Hawai‘i offers two language pathways, yet the Hawaiian pathway has not been adequately represented or supported within our Board of Education’s strategic planning

In conclusion, the passage of HB 2074 represents more than a legislative victory; it is a commitment to our keiki, our culture, and our future. By ensuring that Hawaiian immersion education receives the support and resources it desperately needs, we can continue to nurture a generation of learners who are not only proficient in the Hawaiian language but are also deeply connected to the values and traditions that shape our identity as a state. I urge the Committee to recognize the importance of this bill and to PASS HB 2074, thereby affirming our collective commitment to a more inclusive and culturally rich educational system. Mahalo for considering my testimony and for your commitment to the future of education in Hawai‘i.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,  
Kapuaonaona Roback

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Uluhani Waialeale  
Kula Kaiapuni O Kualapu‘u - Kumu Papa 1

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Uluhani Waialeale and I am a First Grade Teacher at Kula Kaiapuni O Kualapu‘u on the island of Molokai. I am also a Teacher Representative for the ‘Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

I strongly support HB 2074 because currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools. There has been an increase of 8 Kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years and there has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.

In conclusion I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:50:54 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lyn Belveal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education**

**Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education**

**House Committee on Education Members**

**FROM: Lyn Ku‘ulei Belveal**

**RTI coordinator/kumu**

**Ke Kula ‘o ‘Ehunuikaimalino Hawaiian Immersion School**

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**

**Hearing on February 1, 2024**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

**My name is Ku‘ulei Belveal and I am a teacher at Ke Kula ‘o ‘Ehunuikaimalino School. We are one of the Hawaiian immersion schools that make up the ‘Aha Kauleo. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

**We are in dire need of additional teachers and Hawaiian immersion specialists in our schools. Our classrooms are packed with 30+ students in most of the elementary section of our school. Teachers are contemplating leaving the profession because we do not have enough teachers to fill positions which forces them to take additional students who would normally have a standalone teacher. We are short-staffed and need support from specialists in immersion education in our schools to help new teachers who are also seeking their teaching credentials at the same time. We don't see a decline in our enrollment either.**

**Please consider this bill. Our teachers are tired and some will be leaving the program at the end of the year due to the massive workload that they are going to face next school year. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.**

**In conclusion [closing statement or re-state your position].**

**I urge the Committee to PASS HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Me ka ha'aha'a,**

**Ku'u lei Belveal**

**Ke Kula 'o 'Ehunuikaimalino**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:51:35 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janeen Dunahoo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a kaiapuni parent and I support bill HB 2074 to appropriate funds for the establishment of 3 FTE Kaiapuni curriculum specialist and 10 FTE classroom teachers. This bill strongly supports the growing interest of the Hawaiian language amongst not just the Native Hawaiians but the island communities as a whole.

Despite the continued decline in resources, the kaiapuni education program continues to blossom. It is my sincerest hope that the department stands firm on their desire to honor the qualities and values of the indigenous language and culture of Hawai'i, because no place is Hawai'i the foundation of learning than at a kaiapuni school.

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:59:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leisy Wyman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear House Chair Justin Woodson,

I am a Professor of Indigenous Education and Second Language Acquisition and Teaching at the University of Arizona. My scholarship focuses on Indigenous youth language learning in the Yup'ik region of Alaska, and I have worked with others since 1992 on issues of Indigenous youth language development, education, and language planning and policy.

As a citizen with decades of experience in Indigenous language education, youth language development, and school language programming, I support HB 2074, which will provide necessary resources to grow the capacity of Hawaiian language medium schools and meet the growing demand for Indigenous language medium education in Hawai'i.

A tremendous number of educational leaders and scholars around the country look to the Hawaiian language medium schools as a shining example for how to support the well being of Indigenous youth and families, and how to revitalize and sustain unique, valuable Indigenous languages and related forms of knowledge through schooling.

Kaiapuni schools in Hawai'i are also internationally renowned for their successful and inspirational work creating Hawaiian medium pathways for youth development from early education through higher education, and leadership developing innovative learning opportunities for young people across curriculum content areas, and in multilingual education.

The schools need additional dedicated teacher positions, so that youth and families who are seeking this form of education in Hawai'i can benefit, and others who are looking to Hawai'i can continue to benefit, as well, from the Hawaiian language medium schooling example.

Many stand to benefit from the passage of this bill both in Hawai'i and elsewhere. I strongly support this bill, and ask that you pass the bill without delay, to move the important work in kaiapuni schools forward. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:02:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leilani Kailiawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am in support of this bill. Please pass this bill.

With gratitude,  
Leilani Kailiawa



LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Makanani Cobb-Adams  
**Kamehameha Schools** – Molokai Resource Center

**LATE**

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,  
‘O wau ‘Maka Cobb-Adams. My name is Maka Cobb-Adams and I’m a supporter and of ‘ōlelo Hawaii.  
I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

I hope this letter finds you maika‘i. I am writing to express my kāko‘o for the initiative to increase the number of Hawaiian language teachers in our community. As a lifelong learner of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, I understand the profound cultural and educational significance of preserving and promoting the Hawaiian language.

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, is an integral part of our cultural heritage, reflecting the rich history and traditions of our people. It serves as a unique link to the past, connecting current and future generations with their roots. The revitalization and perpetuation of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i contributes not only to cultural preservation but also to the overall well-being of our community.

By increasing the number of Hawaiian language teachers, we can make significant strides towards fostering a stronger sense of identity and pride among our haumāna. Access to quality language education is key to ensuring that the language is not only learned but also passed down through generations. A robust ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i program in our schools can help create a more inclusive and culturally aware society.

I urge you to consider allocating resources, funding, and support to initiatives that aim to recruit, train, and retain qualified ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i teachers. By doing so, we can actively contribute to the revitalization and preservation of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and culture, ensuring that it remains a vibrant and integral part of our community's identity.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this important matter. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that an increased number of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i teachers will have on our community and future generations. I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Na‘u me ka ha‘ha‘a,

Maka Cobb-Adams

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**LATE**

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Kiani Yasak  
Kumu Kaiapuni at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kalama (Samuel Enoka Kalama Intermediate,  
Makawao, Maui)

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Kiani Yasak and I am a teacher and graduate of Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Maui and I am the kumu representative member of ‘Aha Kauleo for my school.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

These are the reasons I strongly support this bill. First, currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools. Secondly, 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). Lastly, 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.

In conclusion, as a graduate of Kaiapuni (2006) and now a teacher of the same program, it is about time that we see the change in support for Hawaiian Immersion education. The pool of teacher positions should increase to fit the needs of our schools and student population.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**LATE**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:08:26 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Kikukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Finance Members

FROM: Lauren Kikukawa

Molokai community member and former parent of Hawaiian immersion keiki

RE: HB 2284 HD1

Hearing on February 25, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2284 HD1

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

My name is Lauren Kikukawa and I am a former parent of Hawaiian immersion keiki, former kumu, and a strong supporter of Hawaiian language and culture in all of our schools in Hawai'i. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2284 HD1 - Relating to Equitable Distribution of Grow Our Own Resources for Hawaiian Immersion Teachers.

With approximately 50 kaiapuni teacher vacancies across the state for the start of school year 2021-2022 and approximately 60 kaiapuni teacher vacancies for school year 2022-2023 (HIDOE

TATP, 2022) and the rising enrollment of kaiapuni haumāna, we need to allocate moneys for curriculum coordinators and additional kumu to be able to provide quality educational opportunities for our keiki.

This bill requests equitable distribution of an already committed funding resource. We are not asking for an additional budget, but simply equitable distribution of these existing resources for Hawaiian language immersion teachers to meet the critical need and shore up the teacher shortage.

The United States Department of Education has identified Hawaiian language and Hawaiian language immersion (HLI) as Federal Teacher Shortage areas (Hawai'i Superintendent, 2019). This Federal designation, recognized by the State, demonstrates that there is a critical need to increase stakeholder access to Hawaiian language and pedagogical content courses, which will increase Hawaiian language fluency at both the pre-service and in-service levels.

In conclusion we need to support our keiki and the future of our lāhui by ensuring there is funding to hire highly qualified kumu for our kaiapuni schools. If Hawaiian language is one of our official languages, we should be supporting programs like kaiapuni and ensuring that they have the resources they need to be successful!

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2284 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Education Members

**LATE**

**FROM:** Kanoelehua Nakata  
Hawaii State Teachers Association: Hawaiian Education Special Committee

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

My name is Kanoelehua Nakata and I am a Social Studies Teacher at Kalāheo High School and I am a member of the HSTA Hawaiian Education Special Committee.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

I strongly support this bill for multiple reasons. Being a new educator, I strongly believe in public education for all. It is vital that we support both schools of English medium instruction and Hawaiian medium instruction. In Fact I would go as far to say that The “State” of Hawai‘i should put more funding towards Hawaiian medium instruction school. The “State” of Hawai‘i has made strides to support Kaiapuni schools but has ultimately come up short year after year. There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students and an increase in 8 Kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. With this increase in success of Hawaiian Education, funding has remained the same. It is time to increase funding so there can be more Kaiapuni Teachers. This would 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. This bill ultimately effects the students. In order to better support and secure better education for students we need to Appropriate moneys to create positions for Kaiapuni Teachers. I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB 2074. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**TO:** Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Education Members

**FROM:** Wendy S. K. “Kalaekēa” Akioka  
Kumu Kaiapuni, Kailua High School  
HSTA Hawaiian Education Special Committee Chair



**RE: HB2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074**

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

Mai ka lā hiki mai a ke komohana, mai ka moa‘e ahehe a nā kona, aloha e nā hoa o nā kūkulu ‘ehā o ke ao! My name is Wendy Akioka, also known as Kumu Kalae in my community. My son graduated from a kaiapuni school, my daughter attends my school, Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua, and my husband teaches at a kaiapuni school, Pū‘ōhala. I am also an active member of the ‘Aha Kauleo and the chair of the Hawaiian Education Committee for the HSTA. Needless to say, kaiapuni is a part of our ‘ohana and lifestyle.

I can provide a unique perspective, because I have worked in many capacities of the education system, from high school Hawaiian language teacher, to elementary kaiapuni teacher, to OHE resource teacher, to Early College Coordinator for kaiapuni under a grant at Windward Community College, back to high school kaiapuni teacher. I understand this system from various, unique perspectives.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 - Relating to Kaiapuni.**

This is because there is a desperate need for these positions. HB2074 asks for three curriculum specialists. When I worked at the HDOE’s Office of Hawaiian Education (OHE), where these positions would be housed, the task of creating curricula for the entire kaiapuni program seemed insurmountable. I worked on it myself, but one person is not enough. Two people are not enough. In fact, I might argue that three people are not enough. If you take any classroom textbook and look at the credits, there are 10-15 people working for years to produce that one textbook. Now, imagine needing to create comprehensive, rigorous, and appropriate curricula for all subject areas for K-12 grade levels. People often ask why kaiapuni has been around for nearly 30 years, yet no curricula has been created and I often respond, when has there been a team 10-15 people employed for just that - to create curricula? NEVER! All the resources we have are from full-time teachers creating curriculum on their own time, or from 25 year old grant-work, mostly translations. Some of us still use that, because it is what we have! However, our students should have equitable access to cutting edge technology and modern curricula, just as their counterparts do in the English language pathways.

Regarding the ten teaching positions, I admit that this affects me directly. Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua began nearly three years ago out of thin air. My former principal, Stacey Oshio, agreed to make it happen when asked by Phyllis Unebasami, then I came in and voila! We had a program. The importance of a program like mine to its community is to provide a Hawaiian language pathway for all who value our host culture. Unique to Kailua, I provide a continues pathway in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i for the second largest population of Native Hawaiians on O‘ahu, that is for the Ko‘olau Poko area. It was only made possible because of the existing teacher positions from OHE, which were designated for kaiapuni by the legislature in the 1990s to early 2000s. At that time, Hawaiian language immersion programs were in jeopardy due to low numbers. Each school was given 2 positions for elementary, one for middle school, and 2 for high school. Since then, the program has nearly doubled in size, however the number of positions has stayed the same. What happens now is that larger kaiapuni schools give up their positions in order to make room for new programs like mine. The increase in 10 positions would ensure that I do not have to take from someone else to exist.

In conclusion, I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 - Relating to Education.**

I urge the Committee to **PASS** this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**LATE**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:55:27 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pili Keala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, House Committee on Education**

**Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on Education**

**House Committee on Education Members**

**FROM: Dr. Pililuaikekaiohilo Keala**

**Kaiapuni Student, Previous Kaiapuni Teacher, and Current Makua to Keiki Kaiapuni**

**RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**

**Hearing on February 1, 2024**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074**

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

**My name is Pililuaikekaiohilo Keala and I am a former Kaiapuni student, a former Kaiapuni teacher, and current parent of 2 keiki in the Kaiapuni program. I am also a member of the ‘Aha Kauleo and serve on the ‘Aha Ho‘okō board as the secretary.**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**



**I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074 due to the following reasons:**

- **Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools**
- **There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.**
- **There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.**
- **Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.**
- **There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.**
  
- **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**
- **Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.**

**In conclusion, I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education. I urge the Committee to PASS HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**LATE**

**HB-2074**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 10:53:48 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonelle Poe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I kāko'o this bill and implore our legislative bodies to enact immediately!

**LATE**

**LATE**

FROM: Ikaika Kanahele-Nations  
Student, Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School

**LATE**

RE:  
HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074

Aloha, my name is Kaijah Ikaikali'iokalani Kalanipi'o Niau Kanahele-Nations, and I am here in support of HB 2074, relating to kaiapuni education. I attend the 11th grade at Halau Ku Mana and I have been here for 5 years. Throughout my time here I have learned a lot about my culture which makes me want to support this bill even more. One of the many things I learned was 'ōlelo Hawai'i. Although I am not as fluent as I wish I was, I still have lots of friends that go to kaiapuni schools and I greatly respect them for knowing and perpetuating the language. With that respect, I strongly want to support them in continuing their education in 'ōlelo.

I strongly care about this issue because one of the most important things modern day native Hawaiians should have is kaiapuni education. The Hawaiian language was almost entirely lost with some of the last people who knew 'ōlelo Hawai'i on the small island of Ni'ihau and during the Hawaiian renaissance, was when the language finally began to be revived. Now, about 33,000 native Hawaiians can fluently speak in 'ōlelo. However, that is barely a fraction of how many people actually live throughout all the Hawaiians islands, which is about 1,450,000. I believe that all Hawaii residents, Hawaiian or not, should learn about Hawai'i's language and culture.

So once again, I am here to support HB 2074, relating to kaiapuni education and I, along with many other people encourage you to approve this bill. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

E ola mau ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i!

Ikaika Kanahele-Nations

FROM: **Ka'iulani Iaea**  
Student, Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School

**LATE**

RE:  
HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074

**LATE**

Welina mai,

My name is Ka'iulani Iaea I am a seventeen year old student at Hālau Kū Māna. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074. In support of this bill I as a student still know the lack of appropriate funding to support a kaiapuni kula. Although Hālau Kū Māna is not a Kaiapuni School I understand the importance of 'ōlelo Hawai'i being present in Hawai'i youths Education. Currently the Department of Education only helps fund 35 teaching positions for the whole state for 22 kaiapuni schools. That means there is funding for two teacher positions per each school for 22 schools. With this the growth of kaiapuni schools have grown significantly by almost 1,000 in the past decade. Where are the fundings to help these small schools grow? Why is each of these kaiapuni schools forced to find their own funding to hire their teachers. With the lack of supply these schools need they can only accept a small amount of keiki for each class. The fight for equality on fundings for a kaiapuni school is a constant battle Kanaka face, even though 'ōlelo Hawai'i is a legal language of the state. People should be able to access the kinds of education they want for their keiki. Without being turned down or waitlisted due to the lack of teachers to teach and classrooms for kids. I got the privilege to attend a Hawaiian Focused Charter school that is highly infused with 'ōlelo Hawai'i and I can testify that learning and knowing the language is a gateway to our culture . HB 2074 is something that us Hawaiians need for us to further the existence of the Hawaiian language an official language of the State of Hawai'i.

E ola mau ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i!

**Ka'iulani Iaea**

**LATE**

**LATE**

FROM: Tristan Kamuela Ka'imipono Inofinada  
Student, Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School

RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education  
Hearing on February 1, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074

Aloha, 'O Ka'imipono Inofinada ko'u inoa, No Kalihi mai au. He 'umikumāhiku o'u makahiki, he haumāna au o Hālau Kū Māna. My name is Ka'imipono, I am seventeen years old and I have attended Hālau Kū Māna, a Hawaiian-culture focused Public Charter School, since 2019. I am writing this testimony to testify in strong support of HB 2074.

Regarding this bill, I support it due to my experience with Hawaiian based education and the difference it has between DOE schools and schools like Hālau Kū Māna and Ānuenuē. While I have some experience attending kaiapuni schools in summer before completely transitioning my education to a Hawaiian-based school in 2019, I have attended past DOE schools also. As from my experience with Hawaiian Studies classes in these schools, I noticed that these kumus and classes were highly disrespected by students from the DOE. Under this education, I learned little about my culture, history and identity. However, after experiencing kaiapuni schools, in less than a year I have learned so much more about myself from a Hawaiian perspective due to the learning environment I was in than I had under DOE schools. Hence, it was only due to my kumus and school that I was able to become who I am now and converse with other students and speakers under 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

While I am thankful for being enrolled in a Hawaiian-based educational school, I know students who attend kaiapuni schools such as Ānuenuē in Palolo who have to wake up in the early morning to drive from Wai'anae everyday to be able to attend such schools. This is unfair to the community, as having to drive 32 miles everyday to learn in a kaiapuni environment. Not to mention, while there is a higher demand for kaiapuni schools, there aren't enough kumus and classroom space to support students, especially since the DOE only funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools and there are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.

With the passing of HB 2074 in the legislative system, this would potentially change Hawaiian education and properly support kaiapuni schools through the proper funding and resources needed, as due to the increase of 8 kaiapuni schools and an increase of students by nearly 1,000 in the last 10 years, there is an obvious revitalization of Hawaiian culture and identity through education. By funding this revitalization of language, children of the future could change Hawai'i for the better.

Mahalo for your consideration and time.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Tristan Kamuela Ka'imipono Inofinada

--

"It is a blessing to be the color of earth, do you know how often flowers confuse me for home?"  
- rupi kaur

Tristan Kamuela Ka'imipono Inofinada

Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School (HKM)