



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Committee on Education  
Thursday, March 23, 2023, 2:00 pm  
By  
Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HCR 143/HR 145 – E HOOKIKINA AKU ANA I KA OIHANA HOONAAUAO I KA APONO ANA I KOMIKE E HOOPUKA ANA I KA HOOLALA E HIKI AI KE KA ANA IA MA KA HOOULU ANA I KE AO OLELO HAWAII I NA HAUMANA A PAU LOA

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on HCR 143/HR 145 which requests the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) to appoint a committee of key stakeholders to develop a measurable plan to increase Hawaiian language education in every complex.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this measure but defers to the DOE on provisions applicable to their department.

UH Hilo is home to Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language, that has been leading efforts to revitalize the Hawaiian language while also serving as a model to national and international Indigenous communities who also seek to revive their endangered languages. The College also has a laboratory school program that includes the majority of preschools and charter schools where students are taught through Hawaiian. In addition, in 1995 the legislature established the Hale Kuamo'o Hawaiian language center at UH Hilo to serve the use of Hawaiian in schools. Hale Kuamo'o provides curriculum support and resource services to Hawaiian medium programs, and Hawaiian language coursework.

Our faculty at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani have worked for decades to expand Hawaiian language and increase accessibility of the Hawaiian language across the state. We are willing to participate as one of the key stakeholders on this committee and look forward to working with the others involved.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



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

**Date:** 03/23/2023

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 0143 E HOOKIKINA AKU ANA I KA OIHAN  
HOONAAUAO I KA APONO ANA I KOMIKE E HOOPUKA ANA I  
KA HOOLALA E HIKI AI KE KA ANA IA MA KA HOOLU ANA I  
KE AO OLELO HAWAII I NA HAUMANA A PAU LOA.

**Department's Position:**

Kāko'o 'ia nō ka mana'o kuhi o ka pila helu HCR 143 inā nō 'a'ohē hopena kū'oko'a e ili ai ma luna o kō ka 'Oihana Ho'ona'auao o ke Aupuni Hawai'i ('Oihana) mau koina hana a i 'ole ma luna o ka mo'olelo kālā i 'āpono mua 'ia e ka Papa Ho'ona'auao o ke Aupuni Hawai'i ma ka 'āpono 'ia 'ana o ka pila. No ka nui o ka hana e koi 'ia nei ma ka 'ōlelo o kēia pila, e pono ana ke ka'a pū 'ana mai o nā waiwai keu i ka 'Oihana e kō ai nā kuhina.

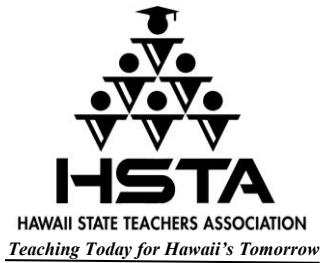
*The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HCR 143 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Board of Education-approved budget. Given the additional workload identified in this bill, the Department asks that additional resources be included to fulfill these requirements.*

I ka makahiki 2015, ua ho'okumu 'ia ke Ke'ena Ho'ona'auao Hawai'i (KHH), he ke'ena ia ma lalo o ka luna ho'ona'auao. No ia ke'ena ke kuleana o ka ho'olālā 'ana i ka papahana 'ōlelo Hawai'i no nā haumāna a me nā limahana kekahi o ka 'Oihana. Ke holomua nei nō nā limahana KHH ma ka ho'olālā 'ana i ka lua o kō ke KHH palapala ho'okele a ma ia palapala i kuhi 'ia ai ka mana'o e ho'okele 'ana i ka hana o ke KHH 'o ia ho'i, "Kūkulu 'ia a kālele 'ia ho'i ke ala e ho'oulu ai ke aloha 'āina me ona 'ike i ko Hawai'i pono'ī" i loko o ka 'Oihana.

*In 2015, the Office of Hawaiian Education (OHE) was established as an office reporting directly to the Superintendent. It is the responsibility of this office to plan for Hawaiian language programming for all students and staff in the Department. Department staff from OHE continues to plan and implement strategies within the Department that is guided by the second OHE delivery plan mission to “ground education in Hawaiian ways of knowing so that all Hawai‘i may thrive.”*

I mea kēia ‘ōlelo e komo pū ai ka mapuna hoe me ‘oukou ka ‘aha ‘ōlelo e paipai a ho‘oikaika i ke a‘o ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i i laha ka ‘ōlelo ma Hawai‘i pae ‘āina. Mahalo ‘ia ka ‘ae ‘ana mai i kā mākou hō‘ike ‘ana i ka mana‘o.

*This testimony affirms the Department’s alignment to this legislation to support and strengthen Hawaiian language teaching and learning for a broader impact across Hawai‘i. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.*



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

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## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HCR 143/ HR 145 E HOOKIKINA AKU ANA I KA OIHANA HOONAAUAO  
I KA AONO ANA I KOMIKE E HOOPUKA ANA I KA HOOLALA E HIKI  
AI KE KA ANA IA MA KA HOULU ANA I KE AO OLELO HAWAII I NA  
HAUMANA A PAU LOA.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAI'I. STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Aloha e ka luna Justin H. Woodson, Luna hope Lisa Marten a me nā lālā kōmike  
ho'ona'auao;

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **strongly supports HCR143/HR145**  
relating to Hawaiian Education. This resolution urges the state to take action and  
appoint a committee that develops a measurable plan to expand Hawaiian Language  
education for all students.

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 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  
by capitalizing on our existing Hawaiian pathways, including kaiapuni and the post-  
secondary levels, and finding true equity for our English-medium pathways, 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. The state needs to create and execute a plan to ensure that opportunities for  
learning the Hawaiian Language is provided to all keiki in Hawai'i for generations  
to come.

**To ensure that 'Ōlelo 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 resolution.**



## 'AHA KAULEO

STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR KA PAPAHAHA KAIAPUNI

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Date: March 21, 2023

To: House Committee on Education  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and Members

From: Kahele Dukelow, Luna Ho'omalu (President)  
'Aha Kauleo Statewide Council for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni  
Advisory to the Office of Hawaiian Education

Aloha e ka Luna Justin H. Woodson, Luna hope Lisa Marten a me nā lālā kōmike ho'ona'auao,

RE: **STRONG Support** for **HR145 & HCR 143** - E HOOKIKINA AKU ANA I KA OIHANA HOONAAUAO I KA AONO ANA I KOMIKE E HOOPUKA ANA I KA HOOLALA E HIKI AI KE KA ANA IA MA KA HOULU ANA I KE AO OLELO HAWAII I NA HAUMANA A PAU LOA \* *REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO 2 DEVELOP A MEASURABLE PLAN TO EXPAND HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE 3 EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS.*

The 'Aha Kauleo represents 28 Kaiapuni schools, community organizations and University partners and advises the Office of Hawaiian Education within Hawai'i's Department of Education. Our organization urges you to please vote in support of HR145 and HCR143. The Hawai'i Department of Education needs to start the work that is already embedded in Hawai'i Board of Education Policy and the State of Hawai'i's Constitution (1978) to support the growth and development of Hawaiian language education.

Hawaiian language teaching positions are on the federal critical shortage list and have been flagged as some of the hardest positions to fill. Increasing Hawaiian language proficiency among all students in Hawai'i, increases the pool of potential teachers for Hawaiian language classes and Kaiapuni education for the future. Therefore, supporting this resolution is an investment in producing the teachers Hawai'i desperately needs in these hard to fill areas.

There are currently 28 kaiapuni schools across the state which continues to increase yearly due to the overwhelming demand for keiki to be educated in the Hawaiian medium pathway of the Department of Education. Supporting this resolution is a proactive approach to the increasing need for reasonable access to Hawaiian medium education.

*Membership: Alo Kehau o ka Aina Mauna (Honokaa High, 9-10), Ke Kula o Ehunuiikaimalino (K-6), Ke Kula o Ehunuiikaimalino (7-12), Ka Umeke Kaeo HI PCS (K-6), Ka Umeke Kaeo HI PCS (7-12), Ke Kula o Nawahikalaniopuu Iki PCS (K-8), Ke Kula o Nawahikalaniopuu (Hilo High, 9-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Hana (K-5), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahaina (6-8), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahainaluna (9-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kalama (6-8), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kekaulike (9-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Paia (K-5), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Nahienaena (K-5), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lanai (K-1), Kualapuu PCS (K-6), O Hina i ka Malama (Molokai Middle, 7-8), O Hina i ka Malama (Molokai High, 9-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Anuenue (K-6), Ke Kula Kaiapuni Anuenue (7-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Hauula (K-6), Ke Kula Kaiapuni Hawaii o Kahuku Academy (7-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua (9-10), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Nanakuli (K-6), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Puohala (K-9), Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau PCS (K-6), Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau (7-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waiiau (K-6), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waimanalo ma Blanche Pope (K-2), Kawaikini PCS (K-6), Kawaikini PCS (7-12), Ke Kula Niihau o Kekaha PCS (K-6), Ke Kula Niihau o Kekaha PCS (7-12), UH Hilo-Hale Kuamoo, UH-Hilo-Ka Haka Ula o Keelikolani, UH-Hilo Kahuawaiola, Brigham Young University, Aha Punana Leo, Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, UH-Manoa COE, UH-Manoa Kamakakuokalani, UH-Manoa Kawaihuelani, & UH-Maui E Hooulu Lahui.*

**HCR-143**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:57:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support of HCR 143

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HCR143- RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Aloha e ka luna Justin H. Woodson, Luna hope Lisa Marten a me nā lālā  
kōmike ho‘ona‘auao,

My name is Ka‘ala Fay Camara and I am a kumu kaiapuni at Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kualapu‘u on the island of Moloka‘i. I urge you to please vote in support of HCR143. It is very appropriate for the Hawai‘i Department of Education to start the work that is already embedded in Hawai‘i Board of Education Policy and Hawai‘i’s Constitution to create a committee in order to expand the access of Hawaiian language to all students. I strongly support this resolution because we have a duty to provide high quality Hawaiian language education access to all families and children of our communities, as Hawaiian is an official language of the State of Hawai‘i. This includes funding for important resources, equal access to high quality educational opportunities, and staffing of our schools.

Mahalo for supporting the equity of Hawaiian language growth for all citizens of Hawai‘i.



22 o Malaki 2023

Aloha e ka luna Justin H. Woodson, Luna hope Lisa Marten a me nā lālā kōmike ho‘ona‘auao, my name is Kanoë Kealoha and I am a teacher at Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waimānalo. I urge you to please vote in support of HR145 and HCR143. I feel it is not only appropriate but important that the Hawai‘i Department of Education start the work that is already embedded in the Hawai‘i Board of Education Policy and Hawai‘i’s Constitution to create a committee in order to expand the access of Hawaiian language to all students. I strongly support this resolution because all students in Hawai‘i should have the opportunity to learn about the host culture. The Hawaiian language for many years was banned from schools in Hawai‘i, and since the revitalization of the Hawaiian culture, traditions and language throughout the pae ‘āina o Hawai‘i it is now more than ever the appropriate time to create a committee to expand access to the Hawaiian language.

Mahalo for supporting the equity of Hawaiian language growth for all citizens of Hawai‘i.

Me ke aloha pumehana

Kanoë Kealoha



**HCR-143**

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 10:48:12 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 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:

Aloha e ka luna Justin H. Woodson, Luna hope Lisa Marten a me nā lālā kōmike ho‘ona‘auao,

My name is Robert Irwin and I am a Hawaiian language curriculum and project design manager. I urge you to please vote in support of HCR143. It is very appropriate for the Hawai‘i Department of Education to start the work that is already embedded in Hawai‘i Board of Education Policy and Hawai‘i’s Constitution to create a committee in order to expand the access of Hawaiian language to all students. I strongly support this resolution because Hawaiian language is the beautiful first language of this land and should be accessible to all students interested in learning it.

Mahalo for supporting the equity of Hawaiian language growth for all citizens of Hawai‘i.

**HCR-143**

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 11:23:28 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayle Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Dayle Tanaka and I am a community memeber and a parent. As a non Hawaiian born and raised on O'ahu I can see the importance of having the Hawaiian language beings more accessible in our school systems for all students of all ages.

For me personally, the Hawaiian values that have been instilled in me through many Hawaiian elders has greatly shaped who I am today. My fondest memories growing up in a public elementary school was when the kumu (teacher) played the ukulele and we learned the Hawaiian language through mele (songs). We were told mo'olelo (stories) that had valuable life lessons in them. The Hawaiian elders just knew that if you want the keiki (children) to listen and learn, you tell them a story. Being brought up surrounded by this kind of aloha (love) has shaped my life and has planted this deep aloha and appreciation for the language and culture. I mahalo the many that have planted the seeds and nutured the growth within me.

As an adult continuing my learning in the Hawaiian language it hasn't been easy finding resources. And due to not having the financial means I have to find other options outside of a formal school setting.

The Hawaiian language is a very beautiful language. It's very expressive often through the medium of nature. The Hawaiians understood their connection to nature. Not through the lense of hierarchy but through ancestral relation. It's amazing how much is learned just through the language alone. The Hawaiian language isn't exclusive to communicating with people only, it communicates with nature and to our own body as the words are spoken or being chanted. As one of my kumu shared with me there is no "practicing" oli (chanting) because the mana (power) or the words are being heard by the 'aina (land). Which leads me to one of my favorite 'olelo no'eau. I ka 'olelo ke ola, i ka 'olelo ka make. In the language there is life, In the language there is death. It is a reminder to be mindful of the words we breathe into existence. A very important Hawaiian value.

There is so much value in having the Hawaiian language apart of the school system for all students of all ages to access. It builds a stronger foundation for all the people of Hawai'i to experience the richness of the language in their own way. And for some, school is the only solid foundation they have to nurish their growth.

So I ask you to please vote in support of HR145 and HRC143 so we can start building a stronger foundation and future for all the people of Hawai'i and generations to come.

Me ke Aloha,

Dayle Tanaka