



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

January 30, 2024

TO: Representative Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 2683 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING
Hearing Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Time: 2:10 pm
Location: Conference Room 309

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support Intent

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) supports H.B. No. 2683 and defers to the University of Hawai'i.

EOEL is guided by the principles of diversity and multilingualism, recognizing that a strong Hawai'i weaves families' home language and culture into our collective work on behalf of children. Our Office is committed to providing high-quality early learning programs and services to all keiki across the State, including in the Hawaiian language and supports the sustenance and expansion of Hawaiian medium early learning programs.

This measure would ensure the continuation of a laboratory school program, which is currently a Hawaiian medium program, at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. It is also in alignment with the recommendations put forth from our governing board, the Early Learning Board, through the "Road Map, Including Proposed Legislation, for Implementation of Act 046, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020" pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 217 (2022).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 2:10 p.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2683 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2683. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports passage of HB 2683, which seeks to repeal the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani (also known as the College of Hawaiian Language) (CoHL) at UH Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements that were established by Act 46, SLH 2020. The intent is to ensure that the CoHL's Hawaiian-medium laboratory schools are not subject to non-applicable English-medium standards, assessments, ratings and requirements, but instead are able to use rigorous Hawaiian-medium measures and guidelines.

The legislature established the CoHL under HRS §§ 304A-1301-1302 in 1997, providing for the incorporation of laboratory schools that now include four K-12 charter schools as well as all of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo's ('APL) Hawaiian Medium preschools (13 Pūnana Leo) throughout the state. These Hawaiian Medium Pūnana Leo laboratory preschools are directly impacted by Act 46.

The purpose of Act 46 was to increase access to child care and early learning opportunities for children in Hawai'i while ensuring "that the implementation of new and expanded programs pursuant to this Act aligns with other statutory provisions that provide distinctive support for education through the medium of the Hawaiian language." Some of these statutory provisions include Act 47, SLH 1986 that affirmed the DOE's power and duties to include programs in the Hawaiian language; Act 79 of the same year that exempted teachers in Hawaiian language early childhood programs from academic certification; as well as Act 178, SLH 2012 that established the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and affirmed that the state's public pre-kindergarten program shall prepare children for school and active participation in society through through the use of either of Hawai'i's two official languages.

This statutory support for public education through the Hawaiian language has allowed for the development of Hawaiian-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements. The CoHL has worked in partnership with the 'APL for over 40 years to develop performance standards and tools

to assess progress across domains including Cognitive Development, Leadership and Team Building Skills, Literacy Development, and Hawaiian Language Proficiency. Testing instruments include Hawaiian-medium Curriculum-Based Measures that are being used at various sites for kindergarten entry assessments as required by §302A-1165. The CoHL and 'AHL partnership also provides preservice and inservice teacher training via coursework in the CoHL's Kahuawaiola teacher education program as well as ongoing professional development training to cultivate highly competent educators, addressing Hawaiian language proficiency, pedagogy, assessment, family engagement, and curriculum.

Furthermore, in October 2023, the CoHL was designated as the inaugural National Native American Language Resource Center that, in partnership with the 'AHL, will continue this work of developing standards, curriculum, teacher training and assessments not only for Hawaiian medium programs, but for Native American Language communities nationwide.

It is also worth noting that the Early Learning Board's Road Map for the implementation of Act 46, SLH 2020 (as required by SCR 217 in 2022), specifically calls for the permanent exemption of the CoHL's laboratory programs and all Hawaiian Medium learning environments from non-applicable standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements in two of its four action items, which is what HB 2683 seeks to accomplish.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Representative Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 01-31-2024
Time: 2:00pm
Location: Conference Room 309

Testimony of Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā, Director, Principal
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

HB2683, RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY
STRONGLY SUPPORT

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Perruso, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kapela a me nā lālā Kōmike Ho'ona'auao Kulanui me ka 'Enehana, Aloha pumehana kākou,

My name is Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā, Director and Principal of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u (Nāwahī), a P-12 laboratory school of the Hawaiian Language College, Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani (KH'UOK) at UH-Hilo. Nāwahī's current enrollment is 670 and is the largest of any school taught entirely through Hawaiian in the state. Nāwahī's main campus is located in Kea'au, Hawai'i and has two satellite sites, one in Wai'anae, O'ahu and the other in Waimea, Hawai'i.

Our PreK program is fully integrated in a seamless system with our four kindergarten classrooms and indeed with our full system through elementary, middle school and high school. Parents choose Nāwahī for its integrity, research history and a nearly 30-year reputation of providing quality education rooted in the Kumu Honua Mauli Ola philosophy and in the full use and study of the Hawaiian language.

We draw students on our three campuses primarily from what are considered "high risk" populations – Hawaiian Homes populations in Wai'anae, Waimea, Pana'ewa, Maku'u and from the Native Hawaiian population in the district of Puna. These are populations where the mainstream state education system has had major challenges. Yet, having worked over time with this population of students and families, Nāwahī has maintained a high graduation rate as well as a high college-going rate. Our data show averages to be higher than the state public school average for Native Hawaiians. Indeed, our outcomes exceed the state average for public school students.

Nāwahī is proud to be at the forefront of Hawaiian language medium education. Nāwahī is the most developed and largest program taught through an Indigenous language of the United States. We are recognized by the US government and national foundations funding tribal schools as the gold standard model for Native America. Our program including its preK component have hosted numerous tribal educational leaders, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the head of the Office of Indian Education of the US Department of Education and other national and international education experts. As of October 2023, we were named as a core component of the new National Native American Language Resource Center of the US Department of Education to serve Indigenous

language-based education in the fifty states, including the Indigenous peoples of the three US Pacific Island Territories, and the three US compact countries of the former US Trust Territories of the Pacific. The focus of this new National Center is to address education through the medium of Indigenous languages—those formerly banned and/or suppressed under US federally imposed and operated educational laws, policies and programs. HB2683 is integral in assuring Nāwahī's ability to carry out that federally assigned responsibility.

Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u **strongly supports HB2683**. If this bill does not pass, we will not be able to respond and effectively grow our current nationally recognized program. We will not be able to respond and expand our current Hawaiian medium preK program to serve more families on our long waiting list.

Nāwahī is not opposed to the Governor's Office of Early Education developing a means for the state to provide early education through Hawaiian following the law and its provisions that are based in years of research by the national English medium preschool research establishment in major universities. We support that as a choice for families.

As a PreK laboratory school, Nāwahī fulfills the requirements of the Hawaiian Language College. Some of which are: aligning with the College's required rigorous total Hawaiian medium curriculum, required parent program, rigorous scientifically developed assessments and Fall-Spring-and Summer live-in trainings. We and others in the College's PreK laboratory school program commit to having our teachers access the College's electronically delivered courses in Hawaiian medium early education taught through Hawaiian and the College's progression of Hawaiian language and culture courses taught through Hawaiian. The College also has a progression of courses that move individuals in our program from being an unlicensed PreK-teacher in a laboratory school to a fully licensed teacher for early elementary education. The program is, therefore, also a teacher development incubator. It helps address the shortage of Hawaiian proficient certified teachers for state and charter elementary Hawaiian language programs, and helps deliver a nationally recognized quality Indigenous language medium early education program.

The legislature itself established the UHH Hawaiian Language College and its laboratory school program. The legislature itself initiated the current exemption. Both have been highly successful. HB2683 builds upon that proven success. Again, I urge passage.

Me ka mahalo 'oia'i'o,



Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā
Director, Principal

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come
kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Time: 2:10 p.m.
Place: Room 309

HB 2683 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha,

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act beneficiary kūpuna farmers from Pana'ewa, Hawai'i, submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2683**.

We strongly support repealing the sunset date for the exemption of the laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo from the state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements.

Repealing the sunset date will allow the laboratory school programs to continue to flourish under the guidance and authority of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, the world-renowned college of Hawaiian language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani is recognized worldwide as being the leader in Indigenous education and is highly regarded in the area of education standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements. The standard of high quality Indigenous education exemplified by the Hawaiian language college is the entity relied upon for inspiration and guidance to ensure academic excellence through living Indigenous languages worldwide

We are confident that repealing this unnecessary sunset date will allow the Hawaiian language college to focus more intently on providing excellent guidance and authority over its laboratory schools. Mahalo nui for this bill!

Please support and pass HB 2683.

Mahalo,
Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna



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ahapunanaleo.org

Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
TIME: 2:10 p.m.
Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela and members of the Committee on Higher Education & Technology,

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo strongly supports HB2683 relating to access to learning.

Ka Papa Alaka'i
Board of Directors

- Kauanoë Kamañā
Pelekikena
- Larry Kimura
- William H. Wilson
- Ki'ope Raymond
- Huilau Wilson
- Keawe Lopes

Ka Luna Ho'okele
Chief Executive Officer

Ka'iulani J.K.N. Laehā

Ka Luna Ho'okō
Chief Operating Officer

K. Sean Kekina

Nā Papahana
Pūnana Leo

Pūnana Leo Programs

Aukukui

Ne'epapa

Kula Kamali'i

- Pūnana Leo o Hilo
- Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i
- Pūnana Leo o Maui
- Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i
- Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae
- Pūnana Leo o Kona
- Pūnana Leo o Waimea
- Pūnana Leo o Mānoa
- Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Piko
- Pūnana Leo o Lahaina
- Pūnana Leo o Hāna
- Pūnana Leo o Nu'uuanu
- Pūnana Leo o Waiālua

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo, a laboratory school of the Hawaiian language college, was founded on the desire to save our 'ōlelo Hawai'i and opened its early learning child care centers 40 years ago staffed by uncertified proficient Hawaiian speakers trained by us and the Hawaiian speaking faculty of UH Hilo. Pūnana Leo keiki became fluent in Hawaiian and families engaged in their children's education. The Pūnana Leo is internationally renown and is the base from which the state DOE and Charter Hawaiian medium and immersion programs have grown.

When we began there were less than 50 children who spoke the Hawaiian language. It was through our own traditional beliefs, knowledge and practices and dedicated non-certified kupuna and kumu, UH Hilo linguist designed curriculum, federally supported assessments and linguistically aligned training designed by UH Hilo professors that the Pūnana Leo movement continues. Today we have 12 licensed child care centers, 2 licensed infant toddler programs, and a recently established Lahaina family engagement program to support our keiki that were displaced from the Pūnana Leo o Lahaina that was lost to the fire. We serve over 300 Hawaiian language speaking families each year in various communities throughout the state.

Our Pūnana Leo graduates are successfully serving our communities in various roles as entrepreneurs, kumu/teachers, physicians, police and fire rescue, EMTs, lawyers, licensed contractors, musicians, composers, Grammy artists, professors including at prestigious colleges like Oxford in England.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and the Hawaiian language college demonstrate a successful P-25 education system, leading the nation in the indigenous language revitalization movement. Although we have made progress towards a living Hawaiian language, HB2683 and similar legislation is needed to support the growth and expansion of the model being demonstrated.

This bill is critical for the existence of 'Aha Pūnana Leo Hawaiian language medium early learning and child care. Without protections and considerations like these, well-intentioned government legislation applying mainstream English language medium program requirements will terminate our current programs and decimate our endangered language. The research base of the standardized qualifications and assessments imposed on our programs is primarily from large English medium universities outside Hawai'i. That research base of mainstream English medium early education includes no knowledge of what it truly takes to revitalize an endangered indigenous language. To our successful 'Aha Pūnana Leo program to follow the mainstream English research base is at a minimum irresponsible.

HR2683 will provide an opportunity to continue to grow the body of research and development with the premiere US university program for language revitalization for an equitable Hawaiian medium early learning system. We urge you to pass this bill.

It is also worth noting that the EOEL's Report containing a Road Map for the implementation of Act 46, SLH 2020 (pursuant to SCR 217 in 2022), specifically calls for the permanent exemption of the College of Hawaiian Language's laboratory programs and all Hawaiian Medium learning environments in two of it's four action items, which is in alignment with HB 2683.

Mahalo nui,

Ka'iulani Laehā
Luna Ho'okele (CEO)
'Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc.



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Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani
'Aipia-Peters,
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,
Hope Pelekikena

Kyla Manzano
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoe
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Kayla Asing

'Ānela Freitas

No 'Ane'i Ko
Kākou Ola!

Representative Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 01-31-2024
Time: 2:10pm
Location: Conference Room 309

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

HB 2683, RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

E nā Po'o Kōmike a me nā Lālā Kōmike o ka Ho'ona'auao a me ka 'Enehana, aloha nui kākou

My name is Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, and I am the Governing Board Chair of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki, Laboratory Public Charter School. I am providing written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2683.

We, the governing board of Nāwahī, **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB 2683 that repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements.

Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u is a laboratory school program of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani, the Hawaiian Language college at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Repealing the sunset date of these exemptions ensure the continuance of our progress in Hawaiian Medium education and language revitalization. These exemptions also address the need for strategic and relevant assessments that do not defer to English Medium education laws and policies.

The passage of HB 2683 indicates an awareness of the significance of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo as they address the needs of and ensure the forward progress of Hawaiian language medium education.

Mahalo,

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

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

Re: **HB 2683 – in strong support**

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 309

January 31, 2024; 2:10PM

Aloha Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela and members of the committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill 2683 relating to Access to Learning.**

Investing in early childhood education is a crucial step towards fostering a more equitable future. Early learning experiences play a pivotal role in shaping a child's cognitive and socio-emotional development. Research consistently underscores the long-term benefits of quality early education, including improved academic performance, enhanced social skills, and a reduced likelihood of future challenges.

By passing this bill, we are not only investing in the well-being of individual children, but also laying the foundation for a more equitable and thriving society in Hawai'i and beyond. This bill addresses a fundamental need by providing increased access to early learning opportunities, which will ensure that every child, regardless of socio-economic status, has the chance to reach their full potential.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue. **Please pass HB 2683.**

Mahalo,

Deborah Zysman, MPH

Executive Director

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:29:01 AM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridgit Bales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support of this significant Bill. Mahalo.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:03:05 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aiko English	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!! HB2683

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:03:30 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Rehmert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My children attend a laboratory school of the Hawaiian Language college and I support this bill.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:14:10 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipolani Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB2683 relating to access to learning that repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements.

Mahalo,

D Kaipolani Kim

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:16:08 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Kalei Hoku Kalai-Aguiar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Rep. Amy Perruso, Chair, House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology Members

FROM: Dr. Dawn Kaleihökü Kala'i-Aguiar

Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

RE: **HB2683**

Hearing on January 31, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2683

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

My name is Kaleihökü Kala'i-Aguiar and I am a kumu and a proud parent of two graduates from the Pūnana Leo O Hilo and Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u (Nāwahī) Hawaiian language medium laboratory school programs of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani (Ka Haka 'Ula) College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2683**, which seeks to repeal the sunset date for exemption of laboratory school programs of Ka Haka 'Ula from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements. Ka Haka 'Ula has been instrumental in developing Hawaiian-medium standards, assessments, etc. for their laboratory schools since 1997 when the Pūnana Leo and Nāwahī first became laboratory schools. Ka Haka 'Ula remains committed to leading improvements in Hawaiian language medium education by fostering innovative ideas in research, curriculum development, teacher training and program growth with the intent of revitalizing the Hawaiian language to its status as a living language once again.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2683. Mahalo nui loa!

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:16:28 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair a me members of the committee,

As a makua of 2 keiki in Hawaiian Language Immersion program I strongly support this bill.

Mahalo nui loa,

Shannon M.

Puna Resident

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:17:33 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hiilei Vuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

He mau haumana kau mau keiki ma ke Kula o Nawahiokalaniopuu. Ua puka wau, kou kaikuaana, a me kou mau kaikaina mai keia kula mai. Nui na pomaikai o keia ano hele kula ana. He mea nui ka hiki ke hoomau i keia ano kula ana no keia hanauna a me keia hanauna ae.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:27:47 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haliaka Bird	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB2683 relating to access to learning. This bill repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements. Mahalo nui!!

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:27:59 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Uilani K Palis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:30:40 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Mailelailii Enos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:30:47 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsey Goodhue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and our Hawaiian language schools.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:31:59 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna Loo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kakoo piha wau i keia pila.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:37:27 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawailele Aki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o HB2683

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:37:38 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ahia Dye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

As a parent of a student of a lab school of the college, I support this bill to repeal the sunset date. Language revitalization of the Hawaiian language does not need ENGLISH medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications and staff training requirements.

Mahalo nui,

Ahia Dye

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:40:30 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
T. Viliami Tukuafu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou!

As a parent of 3 elementary and preschool aged youth at Punana Leo o Hilo and Ke Kula o Nawahikalaniopu‘u and a former educator and current cultural practitioner, I support this bill and the proposed ammendments to repeal the sunset date for the exemption of labratory school programs of the Hawaiian Language College at UH Hilo from state english medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications and staff training requirements. I support repealing the sunset clause, because as an educator deeply involved with student assessment and increasing educator proficiency through programs designed to increase vocational skill capacity in CTE fields, I have seen how english language medium and hawaiian language medium not only differ in the languages used for instruction, but also how learners (and kumu) build relational understandings about the world around us. This difference of perspective goes beyond the content of what is required of youth to be able to demonstrate knowledge, it requires us to look at our learners differently, so that we can help them to communicate their knowledge in ways that are in alignment with the goals we seek for students who graduate from High School and College in Hawaiian Language Medium instruction. While both perspectives of English language instruction and Hawaiian language instruction are valuable and neither one is better or worse, they fundamentally deliver different experiences for the learner. Holding a learner of any language medium to a standard that is built upon experiences unrelated to the learning path that a student navigates, will only create undesired outcomes. Let us invest in the next phase of the revitalization of the Hawaiian Language Learning experience and take the time to rebuild a new assessment framework, with standards and performance metrics that truly define what success looks like for Hawaiian language speakers. Let us invest in more time to train staff to be qualified to be Hawaiian Language leaders. Let us complete this journey that was started 40 years ago, by **NOT** sunsetting this exemption and allow our native language educators and learners to be able to continue forward in this "new" experience. It took nearly 70 years to systematically attempt to extinguish ‘Olelo Hawai‘i. We need to afford more time for ‘Olelo Hawai‘i standardization, student assessment and training of ‘Olelo Hawai‘i educators. If we repeal this expemption we may end up forcing english medium standards to be applied to the Hawaiian Language Medium framework, that simply can not lead to the learning outcomes we are seeking as a community. We need to continue with separate analyses of the learning experience for English and ‘Olelo Hawai‘i learners. It may take another 30 years to be able to build a dual language learning system that works, but only then will we have spent as many years rebuilding the Hawaiian learning perspective as prior generations spent trying to rid our society of the burden of the language and perspectives of our kupuna. Please support this bill and any

other bills that invest in perpetuating ‘Olelo Hawai‘i in our schools and communities. E ola ka
‘olelo Hawai‘i!

T. Viliami Tukuafu

Keaau, HI

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:42:38 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davielynn Briones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill as a makua with keiki who attend Ke Kula ‘o Nawahiokalaniopu‘u Lab Public Charter School.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:47:48 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyla Manzano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

Kāko‘o piha wau i ka pila HB2683 no ka holoī ‘ia o ka wā palena pau no ka helu ‘ole ‘ia o nā kula ho‘okolohua o Ke Kulanui ‘O Ka Haka ‘Ula ‘O Ke‘elikōlani ma nā lōina, loiloī, ke koina kumu, a pēlā wale aku nō o ka ‘ao‘ao Pelekānia.

I completely support HB2683 that repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements.

Mahalo nui,

Kyla Manzano

Kumu Papa Mālaa‘o, Makua o Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

(Kindergarten teacher and parent here at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u)

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:47:55 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Leach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. My son is blessed to receive an education at a full Hawaiian immersion school. Further testing & teacher requirements don't align with our school's goals and would only take away from my son's educational experience.

Thank you

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:50:31 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheyenne Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support holding a hearing for SB 2947, HB 2683

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:57:54 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekuamakana Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kekuamakana Lewis. I am in support of HB 2683. Being a former Hawaiian language student I was privileged to have this foundational knowledge and understanding to be able to practice culture and now apply it in my daily life. This will create more opportunities for the future generations to have access and resources to do the same.

me ka ha'aha'a,

Kekuamakana Lewis

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:58:09 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy De Lima-Suganuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2683.

Respectfully submitted.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:10:07 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keone Taaca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Keone Taaca I am a parent of children who attending Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. I am writing to show my support of HB2683.

Na‘u me ka ha‘aha‘a,

na Keone Taaca

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:10:33 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Schafer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My son attends a Hawaiian language medium school on Hawai'i Island. I support the removal of sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:12:30 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Kekipi-Aurio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am in support of the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements. My children attend Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and I feel that they are doing well without taking any standardized assessments. Please repeal the sunset date for their exemption or make the exemption indefinite.

Mahalo for your consideration of the voice of the families,

Lehua Kekipi-Aurio

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:27:03 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolinda Fortunato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

kako‘o wau kēia pila HB2683.

Mahalo,

Jolinda

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:31:11 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Waia'u	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

‘O wau ‘o Jess Waia‘u. He makuahine wau no ke keiki kaiapuni ma ke kula o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. I support this bill as my son is currently in Kindergarten at a Hawaiian Immersion school.

Mahalo,

Jess Waia‘u

Waiākea, Hawai‘i

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:35:09 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellen Kelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e nā lālā hanohano o ka Hale Lunamaka‘āinana.

My name is Kellen Kelson, and I am a teacher at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u, in Kea‘au, Hawai‘i, Our school is a laboratory school affiliated with Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani, the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. I am testifying in strong support of HB2683.

I very often hear positive impressions that my students leave with people outside of our school. This is not only because of their fluency in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, but because of something harder to pinpoint. Students at Nāwahī have a sense of responsibility and respect that is becoming more and more rare among their peers. This sort of "Hawaiian-ness" is not accidentally instilled within my students. It is a direct result of our school's guiding philosophy called Kumu Honua Maui Ola. This philosophy guides all of our decision making from classroom lessons to community involvement and to family engagement.

The English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements of the State of Hawai‘i can not accurately measure the proficiency of our school, as our school is founded on a totally separate set of standards. The same separate set of standards that are so generally applauded by community members, international allies, as well as esteemed members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature.

I strongly support HB2683. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my testimony.

Kellen Kelson

Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:46:06 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Salanoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I believe that Hawaiian Immersion schools should not have English medium standards and assessments

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:48:15 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Namaka	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Rep. Perruso, Chair; Rep.Kapela Vice Chair; and members of the Committee on Higher Education and Technology

Aloha,

I strongly support HB2683.

Today my mo‘opuna enjoy life and schooling in a total Hawaiian medium education at Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. They are proud graduates of Pūnana Leo. We must support the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo's Hawaiian language college oversight of its laboratory schools. Its expertise and long history of serving our ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i community to provide curriculum, standards, assessments and qualifications through the perspective of a Hawaiian medium lens is very important to an excellent education.

Mahalo nui for your support of HB2683

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:51:46 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealii Pooloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent of children attending a Hawaiian language immersion school and I fully support the continued education efforts to revitalize our Hawaiian language and I support SB 2683.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:56:26 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalei Kalehuawehe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB2683 RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:59:02 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o au i kēia

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:00:48 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly N Martin-Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Kelly Nalei Martin-Young, strongly support HB2683. As a parent and teacher of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u, I've seen first hand that our children/students who are taught only in the Hawaiian language are not assessed accurately or fairly by current guidelines.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:04:51 PM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Mokuhalii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As 'Ohana of Ke Kula 'o Nawahiokalaniopuu, i am in support of this bill.

HB-2683

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:26:52 AM

Testimony for HET on 1/31/2024 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Roseville Datario	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the continuation of this program because it is providing a benefit to our students. Im a parent of two students in the immersion school system.