
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 315, Session
2 Laws of Hawaii 1997, mandated the establishment of a Hawaiian
3 language college at the university of Hawaii at Hilo. The
4 language college subsequently played a major role in developing
5 the Imiloa astronomy center to provide bilingual
6 Hawaiian-English science education to the community. The Imiloa
7 center provides outreach and science education from perspectives
8 emanating from Hawaii's distinctive local and indigenous culture
9 and history. Since its establishment, the Imiloa center has
10 worked with the college of Hawaiian language to produce a fully
11 integrated education program, including preschool, kindergarten
12 to grade twelve, a baccalaureate degree, a teacher certification
13 program, a master's degree, and a doctoral program. The Imiloa
14 center's education programs also include direct outreach to the
15 general public using both technology and in-person learning. It
16 is the only fully integrated bilingual education program of its
17 kind in Hawaii.



1 The legislature further finds that the bilingual work of
2 the college of Hawaiian language and Imiloa center is especially
3 important to the State, because the State has two official
4 languages. The State's schools offer both an English language
5 medium education pathway and a Hawaiian language medium
6 education pathway from infant and toddler program to doctoral
7 degrees. Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, appropriated
8 moneys to the Imiloa center and college of Hawaiian language to
9 help establish a pathway for the development of Hawaiian
10 language medium early education. The college of Hawaiian
11 language developed an early education certificate taught
12 entirely in the Hawaiian language and based on
13 Hawaiian-grounded, scientifically-researched concepts of
14 childhood development and cognitive development. Imiloa center
15 has also provided educational outreach to the State's students
16 using innovative approaches and unique delivery methods that
17 help advance Hawaii's goal of expanding Hawaiian language medium
18 early education within the State.

19 The legislature recognizes that the Imiloa center
20 identifies Hawaiian language proficiency development as a
21 bottleneck in the development of Hawaiian language medium early



1 education teachers. The United States Foreign Service estimates
2 that Hawaiian language proficiency requires approximately one
3 thousand one hundred hours of study. This is much more than the
4 standard number of hours currently allocated to Hawaiian
5 language in most degree programs outside of the degree programs
6 at the university of Hawaii at Hilo college of Hawaiian
7 language. Standard models for learning a second language and
8 the limited scheduling of Hawaiian language courses in the
9 State's high schools and universities both present challenges to
10 the development of Hawaiian language medium early education
11 teachers who are proficient in Hawaiian.

12 The legislature believes that implementing an institute
13 model for Hawaiian education at the university of Hawaii at Hilo
14 would allow the Imiloa center's year-round scheduling
15 flexibility to extend to the college of Hawaiian language and
16 would give the center and college greater opportunities to
17 develop Hawaiian language proficiency and Hawaiian language
18 medium early education sites and programs.

19 The legislature also recognizes that the university of
20 Hawaii at Hilo leads the federally-designated National Native
21 American Language Resource Center. This role gives the Imiloa



1 center and college of Hawaiian language unique access to offer
2 coursework, training, consultations, materials, and other
3 services to federal agencies, other states, tribal nations, and
4 mainland communities. Therefore, the development of an
5 institute for indigenous education at the university of Hawaii
6 at Hilo is a matter of both national and statewide concern.

7 The legislature believes that implementing an institute
8 model for Hawaiian language education at the university of
9 Hawaii at Hilo is crucial to the development of a Hawaiian
10 language medium early education pathway and would help reduce
11 the State's large shortage of Hawaiian language medium education
12 teachers. It would also expand the reach of the college of
13 Hawaiian language and Imiloa center to help address the State's
14 and individual communities' Hawaiian language needs. The
15 institute would also serve as a model for language education for
16 other indigenous and marginalized groups, demonstrating how to
17 offer high-quality education from a distinctive language base.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish an
19 institute of indigenous education, science, and outreach within
20 the university of Hawaii at Hilo through a collaboration between
21 the university of Hawaii at Hilo Imiloa center and university of



1 Hawaii at Hilo college of Hawaiian language. The institute
2 shall operate as a distinct unit within the university of Hawaii
3 with flexibility as it relates to scheduling, outreach, and
4 functionality.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new subpart to part IV to be appropriately
7 designated and to read as follows:

8 " INSTITUTE OF INDIGENOUS EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND OUTREACH

9 **§304A- Institute of indigenous education, science and**
10 **outreach; established.** There is established the institute of
11 indigenous education, science, and outreach. The institute
12 shall be placed within the university of Hawaii at Hilo through
13 a collaboration between the university of Hawaii at Hilo Imiloa
14 astronomy center and university of Hawaii at Hilo college of
15 Hawaiian language; provided that the institute shall have
16 flexibility as it relates to scheduling, outreach, and
17 functionality; provided further that the institute may establish
18 appropriate fees for its services and products.

19 **§304- Functions.** The institute of indigenous
20 education, science, and outreach shall:



- 1 (1) Develop and strengthen the Hawaiian language education
2 pathway, from infant and toddler education programs
3 through doctoral degree programs, in cooperation with
4 partners like Aha Punana Leo, Inc.;
- 5 (2) Provide language education services to other
6 indigenous language and autochthonous language groups,
7 including Native American tribal nations;
- 8 (3) Provide outreach to Hawaiians, and other former
9 residents with distinctive ties to the State, who now
10 live outside of Hawaii; and
- 11 (4) Provide outreach to scientific institutions, museums,
12 educational organizations, governmental entities, and
13 others regarding indigenous community engagement and
14 the importance of representation for indigenous
15 peoples, languages, and cultures.

16 **§304A- Patents, copyrights, inventions, discoveries,**
17 **and other rights.** Any patents, copyrights, inventions,
18 discoveries, or other rights arising from activities of the
19 institute of indigenous education, science, and outreach shall
20 belong to the institute and shall be subject to policies or
21 rules adopted by the board of regents."



H.B. NO. 2684

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Ran*

JAN 24 2024



H.B. NO. 2684

Report Title:

UH; College of Hawaiian Language; Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach

Description:

Establishes the Institute of Indigenous Education, Science, and Outreach within the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

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