

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

PERSON TESTIFYING: Felicia Villalobos, Executive Director, on behalf of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board

DATE: February 23, 2024

TIME: 1:00 pm

LOCATION: Conference Room 308 and Video Conference

TITLE OF BILL: HB2074, HD1 RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION

PURPOSE OF BILL: Appropriates funds 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.

POSITION: Supports

Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee;

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports HB2074, HD1, relating to Kaiapuni education.

We need to support our Kaiapuni students and their schools with the licensed teachers and staff they need to meet their learning needs. The Kaiapuni program has expanded significantly over the last decade: they have increased both the number of Kaiapuni programs and their student enrollment; however, they do not have enough teachers and staff to expand fully, and they should. The Kaiapuni program has been expanding in response to student and family demand as to provide "reasonable access to a Hawaiian immersion program" as required by the Clarabel case in the State Supreme Court in 2019. HTSB supports these efforts.

Kaipuni programming requires professionals who have expertise in multiple disciplines including the Hawaiian language and their curriculum area or grade level. HTSB supports this bill's appropriations and the establishment of thirteen more positions for their Kaiapuni programming.

To address the immediate and long-term requirements in response to the growing demand for Kaiapuni education access, HTSB supports this funding that will support positions distributed at the state level, reinforcing educational support to ensure the successful cultural, linguistic, and academic achievement of Kaiapuni students, while also supporting the school level, as these positions will be designated to provide new Kaiapuni program school sites and classrooms with the faculty necessary to facilitate daily student instruction, thereby strengthening the overall educational foundation. It is a very important step to provide Kaiapuni programs with the specialized staffing they need for their expansion and sustainability.

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board asks your committee to support this bill.



HB2074 HD1
RELATING TO KAIAPUNI PROGRAMS
House Committee on Finance

February 23, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB2074 HD1**, 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 Native 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 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/23/2024

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2074, HD1 RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds 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. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

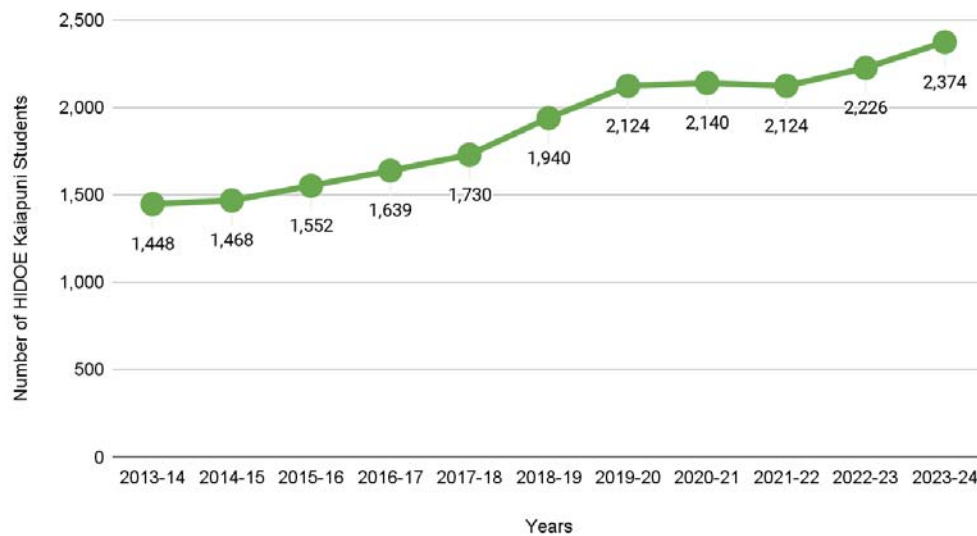
Department's Position:

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, HD1. 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, HD1. The Department is requesting funding for 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 experienced a 60% increase in both the number of available Kaiapuni programs and the number of students enrolled in the program. 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.



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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 FINANCE

Item: **HB2074 HD1 - Relating to kaiapuni education**
Position: **Support**
Hearing: **February 23, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 308**
Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** HB2074 HD1 which appropriates funds 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.

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
House Committee on Finance Members

FROM: Kananinohea Māka‘imoku, Hope Luna Ho‘omalū (Vice Chair)
‘Aha Kauleo, Papahana Kaiapuni (Hawaiian Language Immersion Program)
Statewide Advisory Council to the Office of Hawaiian Education

RE: HB 2074, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074

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

The ‘Aha Kauleo (AKL) is the statewide council for the Papahana Kaiapuni, which provides proactive leadership, direction, and advocacy for the development and growth of its Hawaiian medium schools and advises directly through the Office of Hawaiian Education (OHE) of the Department of Education (DOE). AKL consists of parent and teacher representatives per elementary (K-6), secondary grades (6-12) and/or from each Hawaiian medium education site, and a principal representative, along with representatives from the University of Hawaii Hilo and Manoa, Brigham Young University-Hawaii, University of Hawaii-Maui College, Aha Punana Leo, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate, and the Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center.

The ‘Aha Kauleo is in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074** to appropriate 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.

First and foremost, this bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, “The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language,” Article XV, Section 4, “English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawaii” (Hawaii State Constitution, 1978). Furthermore, the State of Hawaii has two language medium pathways, English and Hawaiian. Whereas the English medium pathway has access to an abundance of resources, including specialists, consultants, and a much larger pool of potential teachers, the Hawaiian medium pathway needs to grow its own expertise amongst its communities and educators. For example, the English medium pathway can and has recruited teachers from out of state to fill teaching positions. Adding more Kaiapuni teachers and specialists to the pool that supports the Hawaiian medium pathway allows for collaboration amongst Hawaiian medium educators across the state’s 29 Kaiapuni schools to expand expertise, curriculum, assessment, resource development, and other vital needs for Kaiapuni education.

Kaiapuni teachers are a distinct specialty area with the linguistic and cultural competencies to teach a range of content, all through the Hawaiian language and worldview. Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the DOE’s twenty-two Kaiapuni schools. In the last decade, the number of Kaiapuni schools increased by eight, and by nearly 1,000 students. Yet, the allocated teaching positions have remained the same. Due to the shortage of teaching positions, the DOE schools have been forced to turn

away many families because of the lack of teachers. Of concern is that there are six complex areas, including one island, where the DOE is not providing access to Kaiapuni education.

We urge the committee to **PASS HB2074** to ensure equitable access to Kaiapuni education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools and uphold guidelines outlined in BOE policy 105-8.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
House Committee on Education Members

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

**RE: HB 2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074_HD1**

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_HD1 - 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_HD1 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_HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Brandi Cutler, Vice President
Hui Makua O Pū'ōhala

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!



TO: HOUSE – Finance Committee (FIN)
Kyle Yamashita, Chair House
Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair House

SUBJECT: **HB2074 / Please pass hearing of House Bill 2074**

Nā Leo Kākoʻo o Oʻahu, the family organization that exists to promote the educational activities of Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenuē, urges the Finance Committee to please pass hearing of HB 2074 for equitable resources for Kaiapuni education.

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 mākuā (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.

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C/O ANUENUE SCHOOL
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Please urgently pass hearing for measure HB2074 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, Garcia, Gates, Hussey-Burdick, Ilagan, Kahaloa, Kapela, La Chica, Lowen, Marten, Martinez, Matayoshi, Mizuno, Morikawa, Perruso, Poepoe, Quinlan, Souza, Tarnas, Todd, Ward, and Woodson along with House Committee on Education Members for introducing and supporting 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 24hours.

Me Ke Aloha,
Logan Johnasen-Halas
Pelekikena 2023-2024
Nā Leo Kāko'o o O'ahu

NA LEO KAKO`O O OAHU, INC.
C/O ANUENUE SCHOOL
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***Hui Mākua Petition in Support of HB2074
(142) 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, Kualī Mersberg, Nalani Balutski, Cheyenne Kalama, Liulā Mersberg, 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 Bagoood, 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 Lealiifano, Kahuanani Kalua-Ching, Ku'uileilani Reyes, Caleana Duffey-Spikes, Laura Rose Reichhardt, Danny Ka'aiali'i, Kamanawa Revilla, Kainulama Carba, Wehi Na'auao, Kauī Angell, Keana'ai Crabbe, Dhālia Jennings, Korin Lima, Ku'uilei 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 Kapuniaī, Kēhaunani Llanos, Brutus LaBenz, Adrianne Llanos, Ana Lokelani, Jamie Gruenwald, Kahaunani Glover, Joel Kelley, Genny Kelley, Kawaiilani Dutro, Kystassia Glover, Jilleina Winchester, Pakalana Chan, O. Wini Terada, Lanakila Makua, Stephanie Manera, Andreas Cravalho II, Keola Notrangelo, Kealani Makaiwi, Nadine Mahiai, Nancy Ravelo, Kamanawa Revilla, Delia Ulima, Makahala Hendricksen, Kona Keala-Quinabo, Larina Benitez, Maryvill Leonen, Charlie Leonen, Sunnie Kupahu, kamaka'onalani kihoi, Lynette Dasher, Chasity Ah Sing, Joseph Ah Sing, Pililuaikekaiohilo Keala, Dasha Kawakami

***Hui Mākua Palapala Noi in Support of HB2074
(80) Recent supporters of <https://chng.it/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 Cavlcante, Bruna Lomba Alves de Oliveira, Alanna Eicher, Kamanawa Revilla, Priscilla Nascimento, Aline Lima, Fabio Jesus, Shawn Steiman, Leimomi Ka'ahili Leong, Robyn Tasaka, Kawaiilani Dutro, Jileina Winchester, Kapela Wong, Kyle Koza, Samantha Lani, Jennifer Sano-Franchini, David Green, Delia Ulima, Hiilani Smith, Kawaiilani Soma, Makalapua Soma, Kehau Llanos, Moani Lee, Kona Keala-Quinabo, Leona Piimanu, Stephanie Teves, Sunnie Kupahu, S P 96808, Dasha Kawakami

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HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:08:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support for our native hawaiian youth attending these awesome schools.

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:05:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia K Kanakaole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

E Nā ‘Elele o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo o Hawai‘i nei...Aloha nui ‘oukou!

I humbly ask that you support HB 2074 HD1 a bill that will provide much needed teacher and educational specialist positions to the Kula Kaiapuni Hawaiian Language Immersion program under the Department of Education. Hawaiian is an official language of this State and building capacity for the Hawaiian language education pathway should be supported. Mahalo.

Na‘u me ka ha‘aha‘a,

P. Kanoe Kanaka‘ole

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:11:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antoinette Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Antoinette Kanoelani Kealoha

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waimānalo

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 23, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

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

‘O Antoinette Kanoelani Kealoha ko‘u inoa, he kumu au ma ke kula kaiapuni o Waimānalo. He lālā au ma ‘Aha Kauleo no ka‘u kula. Kāko‘o nui au i ka pila HB2074 - Pili i ka ho‘ona‘auao Kaiapuni.

My name is Antoinette Kanoelani Kealoha and I am a teacher at ke kula kaiapuni o Waimānalo and I also represent my school as the delegate for ‘Aha Kauleo. I am testifying today in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

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. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian as acknowledged in HIDOE strategic plan (pg 3). Also, included in the DOE

strategic plan Priority II: High Quality Educator Workforce in All Schools. We need more positions to support the education of students.

In conclusion, your support of HB2074 HD1 - relating to Kaiapuni Education will provide more teachers to kaiapuni schools, like Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waimānalo, who are in need of teachers for our growing schools. So that we may continue to provide the best education possible for our students, I urge this Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:37:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hao Kaohelauii	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

He leo aloha no keia ia oukou e na lala o keia hui o ka Oihana Puu Kenikeni,

Eia mai no wau, o Hao Kaohelauii ke **kakoo** aku nei i keia pila HB2074 HD1 no ka pono o makou, na keiki e koho nei i keia ala o ka hoonauao ia ana ma o ka ike o Hawaii nei.

Mahalo,

Owau no o Hao Kaohelauii

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:49:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Anthony Martinez. I am a teacher at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Ānuenue in Pālolo. I am testifying in strong support of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaipuni Education.

I find HB2074 HD1 important because there has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the State Constitution (1978). Lastly, the HDOE strategic plan (pg3) acknowledges that public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiia.

Again, I encourage the Committe to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the oppportunity to testify.

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
House Committee on Education Members

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

**RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1**

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

My name is Leinā‘ala Kuloloio Vedder and I am a kumu at Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā‘ia, a makua at Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kekaulike, and a long time teacher representative with ‘Aha Kauleo. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education.***

I support HB2074 HD1 because it will provide financial support 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. Adding to that, this bill will ensure that the State fulfills its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). In the past 10 years, the student enrollment in Kaiapuni schools have increased by almost 1,000 students expanding the establishment of 8 Kaiapuni schools to meet the needs of parents choosing a Kaiapuni education for their children. Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools which is an insufficient amount. We need more positions to support the education of students.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:11:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keokapukoa Kaohelaulii	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2074 HD1.

I am Keokapukoa Kaohelaulii of Heeia (Kaneohe), Oahu writing in strong support of HB2074 HD1. As a recent high school graduate (May 2023), I was not afforded the right to continue my high school education in Hawaiian in my district. HB2074 HD1 will help with growing Hawaiian immersion schools throughout Hawaii so that current and future students won't be denied their rights to be educated through the Hawaiian language in their own school districts. I am currently a junior at UH Manoa with the goal of becoming a teacher, and to hopefully support the growth of Hawaiian Education.

No neia hanauna,

Keokapukoa Kaohealulii

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Kahea Faria

**RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1**

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

My name is Kahea Faria, a parent of Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Puohala testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education.***

HB2074 HD1 will provide the Hawaii Department of Education with the much needed resources to address the State of Hawaii's 1978 Constitutional mandates (Article X, Section 4 and Article XV, Section 4).

I strongly urge the committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB2074 HD1.

E MAU NO KA OLELO O HAWAII NEI!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 12:23:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehau Llanos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Kēhaunani Llanos

Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Ānuenue

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 23, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

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

My name is Kēhaunani Llanos and I am teacher at Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Ānuenue and our school is a member of ‘Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools. This is definitely not an adequate amount of teacher positions for this many schools. Afterall, Hawaiian is the official language of the state.

There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years proving that the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program is successful but we need support from the legislature to keep the program running.

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). Does the Hawaii State Constitution not contain laws which should be abided all the time? This constitution was passed in 1978. We should be doing everything in our power to abide by it.

In conclusion, I believe Hawaiian language is very important in our state. I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 5:43:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani Puniwai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support resources to create additional positions.

22 February 2024

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair, Committee on Finance (FIN)

Date of Hearing: 2/23/2024 Time: 1:00pm Location: Conference Room 308

Personal testimony of Dr. Makalapua Alencastre

REGARDING: HB2074 HD1 Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Appropriates funds to the Dept of Education for the establishment of 3 FTE Kaiapuni curriculum specialists and 10 Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions.

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha kākou e Lunamaka‘āinana Yamashita a me nā lālā kōmike e ho‘olohe ana i ka pila HB2074 HD1,

As a Native Hawaiian educator, parent, and grandparent of Papahana Kaiapuni graduates and current students, I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2074 HD1. As a founding ‘Aha Pūnana Leo and Papahana Kaiapuni ‘ohana, and a life-long Hawaiian medium-immersion educator committed to the Hawaiian language and culture, I have experienced first-hand the critical shortage of resources - especially teachers and curriculum - that continues to exist today-after over thirty-seven years of Kaiapuni education establishment! While the Papahana Kaiapuni has grown to meet the needs and aspirations of communities throughout our islands, a lack of funding for essential resources has hampered the quality of existing schools, as well as the establishment of additional schools.

HB2074 HD1 appropriately addresses the urgent need to support Hawaiian language education as an important investment recognizing, valuing and promoting the distinct and essential needs for Hawaiian medium-immersion education to flourish.

I strongly urge your committees’ passage with sufficient funding. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Ke‘alohi Foster

**RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1**

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

O wau no keia o Ke‘alohi Foster, and I am a parent, a former teacher and a former student of the Papahana Kaiapuni and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

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

In conclusion I would very much appreciate to see the Hawaiian language grow through the wonderful papahana Kaiapuni and I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:16:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Supporting Hawaiian Immersion School Teachers and Positions

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of HB2074, which seeks to provide additional funding for Hawaiian immersion school teachers and positions. I firmly believe that investing in Hawaiian immersion education is crucial for the preservation and revitalization of Native Hawaiian language, culture, and traditions.

Hawaiian immersion schools play a critical role in nurturing and promoting the Hawaiian language. These schools provide a unique learning environment where students are fully immersed in the language from an early age, allowing them to develop strong fluency and cultural competence. This ensures that the Hawaiian language continues to thrive for generations to come.

However, the success of these immersion programs heavily relies on the dedication and expertise of highly qualified teachers. Currently, there is a shortage of such educators, which has an adverse impact on the quality of education and the sustainability of these programs. Hawaiian immersion teachers require specialized training, certification, and an in-depth understanding of the language, culture, and traditions. Providing adequate funding for these teachers will attract more qualified individuals to the profession and help retain experienced educators, ultimately benefitting the students.

Furthermore, increased funding for Hawaiian immersion schools will allow for the creation of more teaching positions. This means lower student-teacher ratios, leading to enhanced individualized attention and support for each student. Consequently, this will improve learning outcomes and create a more nurturing and inclusive educational environment.

Additionally, the vitality of the Hawaiian language is inextricably linked to the overall well-being and cultural identity of Native Hawaiian communities. By providing additional funding for Hawaiian immersion schools, we are investing in the cultural resilience and pride of our Native Hawaiian community. This investment fosters a sense of belonging, self-worth, and empowerment among the students, who will go on to become the future leaders and advocates for the Hawaiian language and culture.

In conclusion, HB2074 is a critical piece of legislation that aims to provide more funding for Hawaiian immersion school teachers and positions. By investing in these teachers and programs, we are investing in the preservation and revitalization of the Hawaiian language and culture. I wholeheartedly urge you to support this bill and ensure a brighter future for the Hawaiian language and the generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kade Yam-Lum

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:34:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rain K. Kahula Yong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o piha!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:42:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Misty Fontanilla	Kula Kaiapuni o Hana, Na Leo Kakoo o Ka Punana Leo o Hana & Aha Kauleo	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Misty Fontanilla

Aha Kauleo, Member

Kula Kaiapuni o Hana, Parent

Na Leo Kakoo o Ka Punana Leo o Hana, Board Member

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 23, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

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

My name is Misty Fontanilla from Hana, Maui, and I am a parent of two keiki in Kula Kaiapuni o Hana, a member of the Aha Kauleo and board member of Na Leo Kakoo o Ka Punana Leo o Hana.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - 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). This bill 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, as many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them. Lastly, as identified in the DOE strategic plan Priority II: High Quality Educator Workforce in All Schools, we need more positions to support the education of students!

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘OLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:03:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Jennifer Stevens

Teacher, Hawaii DOE

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 23, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

Aloha mai,

My name is Jennifer Stevens and I am a DOE Teacher in the North Kohala community on Hawai'i island.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

I currently am a Hawaiian Studies teacher at Kohala Middle School and I have seen the wealth of our program thriving in our students. We do not have a Kaiapuni school in our

district, but this would be a wonderful opportunity for the students and families that wish this for themselves. There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to Kaiapuni education. This Bill could 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

.

As the Hawaiian language becomes more commonplace, which it should, it will benefit our students , families and communities to teach the language and culture in the school settings.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:40:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ululani Gouveia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Ululani Gouveia

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 23, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

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

My name is Ululani Gouveia and I am a parent, teacher, student, former student, graduate, and supporter of Kaiapuni education.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - 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). Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools, as a result, many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the Kaiapuni school that is closest to them. This would not be if the DOE strategic plan Priority II: High Quality Educator Workforce in All Schools, and the aforementioned articles, were upheld. We need more positions to support the education of our students.

In conclusion,

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

E OLA MAU KA LĀHUI HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:06:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Irwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance, Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance, House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Robert Kai Irwin

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

I am a curriculum project design and development manager at the Hale Kuamoo Hawaiian Language Center at UH Hilo and a community member of the Aha Kauleo consortium. I am testifying in strong support of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

In my work as a Hawaiian language curriculum and book developer and manager of a team funded by unreliable "soft" grant funding, I am acutely aware through various relationships with my kaiapuni educator colleagues, families, and students (including kaiapuni program graduates who serve as excellent staff at our Center), of the acute need for additional resources and positions to support the rapid community-driven growth of the program. This legislation will help to address some of those critical needs by providing permanent DOE teacher and curriculum specialist positions helping ensure that all interested ohana are equitably served and not turned away (as is too often the case at present) from a quality 21st Century public education through the medium of the Hawaiian language. Such development is in alignment with the 2 language pathways (English/Hawaiian) supported by the HIDOE strategic plan (p. 3).

Mahalo for considering and passing HB2074 HD1 to more closely approach equity in funding an expanding kaiapuni learning community of excellence in public education, which is a beacon for other indigenous language revitalization communities across the globe.

Me ke kakoo piha,

Robert Kai Irwin

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:06:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Ho, Jr.	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou.

I strongly support this bill. Kaiapuni continues to grow, yet facilities, personnel, and funding for the same are stagnant.

Ke aloha pū.
kenneth

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:24:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kiana ornellas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Kiana Ornellas

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 23, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

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

Eia nō au, ‘o Kiana Ornellas, ke keiki a Allen lāua ‘o Darlynda. As an alumni, teacher and parent of Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui, I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

I am writing to express my strong support for this bill, which aims to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists for 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. The demand for Hawaiian language public education has grown significantly, necessitating additional resources. It provides essential support for new teacher positions, program expansion, and classroom materials. This investment is vital for preserving Hawaiian culture and preparing students for a diverse world.. I urge you to support HB2074 to ensure a high-quality education and attract qualified educators for Kaiapuni programs.

In conclusion, I would like to express my strong support for HB 2074 and urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
House Committee on Education Members

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

**RE: HB 2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074_HD1**

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 on behalf of HMOP in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074_HD1 - 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_HD1 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_HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Brandi Cutler, Kāne'ōhe

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:34:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jasmyn kaiwi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Jasmyn K. Kaiwi

Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā'ia

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 23, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

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

'O au kēia 'o Ke'ala Kaiwi, he pūkana, kumu a makua Kaiapuni au ma ka mokupuni 'o Maui. My name is Jasmyn Ke'ala Kaiwi and I am graduate, parent and teacher of Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui and a proxy for 'Aha Kauleo under Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā'ia.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education. Below are my reasons for strongly supporting HB2074 HD1;

- 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 with student population increasing 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 due to over enrollment.**

- **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).**
- **DOE strategic plan Priority II: High Quality Educator Workforce in All Schools. We need more positions to support the education of students.**

In conclusion by passing this bill, you will provide the positions that are in great need for our Kaiapuni schools across the state including 3 curriculum specialist and 10 classroom teachers.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Rebecca Kapolei Kiili
Kumu Kaiapuni, Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kekaulike
Hawaiian Language Immersion Program Teacher, King Kekaulike High School

**RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1**

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

My name is Rebecca Kapolei Kiili and I am a Hawaiian Language Immersion Program (HLIP) teacher at King Kekaulike High School. My entire public school teaching career of 18 years has been as a Kumu Kaiapuni on Maui. I taught for five years at Pā‘ia from 2005-2010 and then moved to Kekaulike where I still work today. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education**.

In the length of my teaching career, our program enrollment has increased across the state in many of our communities. At Kekaulike alone, our enrollment tripled in the last four years. Our current senior class has 20 students enrolled, then 23 in the junior class followed by 39 in the sophomore class and 28 in our freshman class. The demand for Kaiapuni has significantly increased although the resources to meet these needs have not necessarily followed.

The current allocation of 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools is insufficient and school budgets cannot necessarily carry the needs of each school as elementary, middle and high school campuses all vary. The funding of ten more teacher positions would significantly support the growth across school campuses, especially new schools who are working hard to grow and sustain their programs and rural communities whose weighted student formula and budget allocations are too small.

Funding three curriculum specialist positions will also support schools with much needed curriculum. For all these years, the responsibility of curriculum has fallen onto the shoulders of classroom teachers which adds more to our work to our workload. This does not happen for teachers who teach in mainstream classrooms because the curriculum is readily available to them. Supporting teachers with quality curriculum through these positions also ensures that our students are learning and that teachers have access to high quality materials. And that we have more time to focus on honing our teaching practice and pedagogy.

In conclusion, Kaiapuni schools and communities deserve the support that we desperately need as one of two educational pathways in our public school system. Every child's success is dependent on the quality of their education regardless of the language of instruction. Kaiapuni schools urgently need these positions and support. I humbly urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili

Maui

Auli'i A Mafi
Special Education Teacher
aulii.mafi@k12.hi.us or 808-594-1110
February 22, 2024

Dear Sirs/Ma'ams,

I am writing to express my unwavering support for the funding of the Hawaiian Language Immersion School. As a member of the Hawaiian language community and a dedicated advocate for language preservation and education, I have witnessed firsthand the invaluable contributions that immersion programs make to our communities.

The Hawaiian Language Immersion School stands as a beacon of cultural preservation and educational excellence. It not only serves as a vital institution for the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language but also cultivates a profound sense of identity and belonging among its students. By immersing children in the language and culture of their ancestors, the school instills in them a deep appreciation for their heritage and a strong connection to their roots.

Furthermore, research has consistently shown that bilingual education not only enhances cognitive abilities but also fosters greater cultural awareness and empathy. In a world that is increasingly interconnected, it is imperative that we equip our future generations with the linguistic and cultural competencies necessary to thrive in diverse global environments. The Hawaiian Language Immersion School plays a pivotal role in this endeavor, empowering its students to navigate both local and global landscapes with confidence and competence.

Moreover, investing in the Hawaiian Language Immersion School is not merely an act of cultural preservation but also a strategic investment in the economic prosperity of Hawaii. By nurturing a generation of bilingual and bicultural individuals, we are equipping our workforce with the skills and perspectives needed to compete in a rapidly evolving global economy. Additionally, the school serves as a magnet for cultural tourism, attracting visitors from around the world who are eager to experience the richness of Hawaiian language and culture.

In light of the profound cultural, educational, and economic benefits that the Hawaiian Language Immersion School offers, I urge you to prioritize its funding and support. By doing so, we are not only investing in the future of our children but also honoring and preserving the rich tapestry of Hawaiian culture for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Auli'i A Mafi

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Kaleialoha Kaniaupio-Crozier

**RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1**

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

My name is Kaleialoha Kaniaupio-Crozier and I am a Hawaiian Immersion teacher, a former student, and a supporter of Kula kaiapuni. I am also a member of the ‘Aha Kauleo. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

Our Hawaiian immersion program schools are growing; there has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years, with an increase of almost 1,000 students. This act will meet the growing demands and needs of our kaiapuni schools by providing teaching and curriculum-building positions. Our haumāna kaiapuni needs teachers who are fluent in Hawaiian. HB2074 HD1 will meet the needs of more positions to support the education of our students.

In conclusion, I strongly support HB2074 HD1.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:52:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moiwai Victor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o HB2074

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:52:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan Mokuahi Hayes	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am giving testimony to you today with a heartfelt plea for your support of HB 2074 which aims to allocate funding for Hawaiian Immersion School teachers and curriculum specialists. It is crucial that we honor our ancestors and kupuna that have passed on who worked tirelessly for the preservation of our culture through language by ensuring that our Keiki have access to quality education in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i.

The history of our language is one of resilience and revival. At the dawn of the 20th century, our language faced near-extinction due to colonial policies aimed at eradicating indigenous languages and cultures. However, through the enduring spirit of our kupuna, a renaissance of the language emerged in the 1970s, igniting a renewed sense of pride and identity among our community.

The establishment of Hawaiian immersion schools marked a significant milestone in this revival. These schools provide our Keiki with an invaluable opportunity to immerse themselves in the language and culture of their ancestors from a young age, fostering a deep connection to our heritage that reverberates through generations.

As someone who is now working to reclaim my language, I understand the profound impact of language immersion from childhood. Language is more than just a mode of communication; it is a conduit for understanding and preserving our cultural identity.

Hawaiian Immersion School teachers and curriculum specialists serve as stewards of this cultural revival, bridging the gap between past and present and ensuring that our traditions endure. Their work is not merely educational; it is a sacred duty thrust upon them and a gift to future generations.

HB 2074 offers a vital opportunity to invest in the future of our community by providing funding for three full-time kaiapuni education curriculum specialist positions and ten full-time kaiapuni classroom teacher positions. By supporting these bills, we affirm our commitment to our Keiki's education, the preservation of our cultural heritage, and the creation of job opportunities within our community.

Of all the bills presented to you, this should be voted on with a resounding "yes," as anything in opposition would be viewed as anti-Hawaiian and against the well-being of our lāhui.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this matter. I trust in your commitment to our lāhui's prosperity and cultural preservation.

Always in Aloha,

Evan Mokuahi Hayes

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:56:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Kāko‘o HB2074

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:59:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Kapalihiwa Bilyeu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kāua,

‘O Kapali Bilyeu ko‘u inoa. No Wailuanuahō‘ano, Kaua‘i mai au. No‘u ka pōmaika‘i i ka wā ho‘ona‘auao ma nā kula ‘ike Hawai‘i a me nā kula kaiapuni Hawai‘i mai ko‘u wā ‘ōpio mai. Ua ‘ike maka wau i ka holomua o nā polokalamu kaiapuni Hawai‘i a maopopo nō ia‘u ke ko‘iko‘i o ka ho‘onui kāko‘o no ka wā e hiki mai ana.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education. I support HB2074 HD1 because:

- Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.
- HB2074 HD1 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
- HB2074 HD1 addresses the DOE strategic plan Priority II: High Quality Educator Workforce in All Schools. We need more positions to support the education of students in Kaiapuni.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:02:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uluwehi Ornellas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Uluwehi Ornellas
Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

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

Eia nō au, ‘o Uluwehi Ornellas, ke keiki a Allan lāua ‘o Hokuloa. As an alumni, teacher and parent of Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui, I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

I am writing to express my strong support for this bill, which aims to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists for 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. The demand for Hawaiian language public education has grown significantly, necessitating additional resources. It provides essential support for new teacher positions, program expansion, and classroom materials. This investment is vital for preserving Hawaiian culture and preparing students for a diverse world.. I urge you to support HB2074 to ensure a high-quality education and attract qualified educators for Kaiapuni programs.

In conclusion, I would like to express my strong support for HB 2074 and urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:10:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I am in strong support of **HB2074 HD1**. Mahalo.

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
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: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1**

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 HB2074 HD1 - 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 HB2074 HD1** 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

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:17:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davelyn Lokelani Han	Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kualapuʻu - Kualapuʻu Public Conversion Charter School - MOLOKAʻI	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Davelyn Lokelani Han

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kualapuu/ Kualapuu Public Conversion Charter School - MOLOKAʻI

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 23, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

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

‘O wau no ‘o Davelyn Lokelani Han, he pulapula mai ka mokupuni ‘o Molokaʻi, ka moku ‘o Pālāʻau, ka ahupuaʻa ‘o Hoʻolehua, ke kuleana ‘o Puʻu Kapele. I am parent, grandparent and kumu from Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kualapuʻu & Kualapuʻu Public Conversion Charter School on Molokaʻi. I have represented my island and my school in these different roles on ‘Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - 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.**
- **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. Acknowledged in HODOE strategic plan (pg 3)**

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to support our Kaiapuni programs statewide to ensure equitable access to the resources desperately needed specifically for Hawaiian Immersion education.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:20:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tiare lawrence	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support! E Ola ka olelo Hawai'i! Our keiki deserve better. With Hawaiian language comes Hawaiian valued which Hawaii desperately needs!

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance;
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance;
House Committee on Finance Members; Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair,
House Committee on Education; Trish La Chica, Vice Chair, House Committee on
Education; House Committee on Education Members.

FROM: Ron Solis

**RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1**

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

My name is Ron Solis, I am from O‘ahu and I am Kanaka ‘Ōiwi. And I am a supporter of Kaiapuni Education.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

Support for Kaiapuni Education needs to be automatic. The legislature should have done this since 1987, the first year that Kaiapuni schools opened. It didn't happen. So now is the time to begin to do that. Hawai‘i’s children, especially, Hawai‘i’s Kanaka ‘Ōiwi children, deserve to have superior quality Kaiapuni Education. There is no other place in the world where our children are able to go to learn through Kaiapuni Education. HB2074 HD1 must be supported!

Further, the State of Hawai‘i has an inherent responsibility to ensure that the needs of our kaiapuni students are met. The fulfillment of that responsibility has been spotty at best. One of the first things that should be done at the beginning of each legislative session should be to discuss with Kau‘i Sang of the Office of Hawaiian Education of the Department of Education to see the current needs of Kaiapuni Education and then they need to be fulfilled by the State of Hawai‘i. This will ensure that no families registering for Kaiapuni Education will be turned away by the DOE. And this will also ensure that there is equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and also that guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8 are upheld. HB2074 HD1 must be supported!

In conclusion, the State of Hawai‘i must fulfill its obligation to the people of Hawai‘i and moreso Native Hawaiians who have the desire to learn the language of our kūpuna. Our people have an intrinsic right to Kaiapuni Education and for that education to be exceptional. Passing HB2074 HD1 is definitely the way to begin achieving those goals.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:41:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Chun Comstock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

My name is Beth Chun Comstock, and I am a parent of a student attending a public Hawaiian language immersion school, writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2074 HD1.

The State of Hawaii has a responsibility to ensure that Hawaii's students get a high quality education in either of the official languages: Hawaiian and English. The Hawaiian immersion program has seen huge growth in recent years, and funding has not kept up with demand. For many children, Hawaiian language immersion is the best option for their educational and personal development, yet not all have access to it. Funding is badly needed to expand programming and adequately support students, teachers, and families.

Meeting the growing demand for Hawaiian language immersion programs is fair and good for Hawaii's future. Please **PASS** HB2074 HD1.

Mahalo nui. Beth Chun Comstock (Kaneohe)

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:49:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipo Correa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Kaipo Correa

Community School Coordinator at

Blanche Pope Elementary ame Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Waimānalo

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 23, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

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

My name is Kaipo Correa and I am a strong supporter of Kaiapuni education and serve as the Community School Coordinator at Blanche Pope Elementary ame Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Waimānalo.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

Watching Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Waimānalo grow over the past five years has been exciting. Hearing ‘olelo Hawaii being spoken throughout the campus has filled the hearts for many. With a pre-k classroom this year and the first Kaiapuni class moving onto grade 6 next year we have felt the need for Kumu and curriculum over the years. The numbers in Kaiapuni have grown exponentially and the need for classroom support and curriculum is essential.

- **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. Acknowledged in HIDOE strategic plan (pg 3)**
- **DOE strategic plan Priority II: High Quality Educator Workforce in All Schools. We need more positions to support the education of students.**

In conclusion I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 11:54:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikiya White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2074. Mahalo!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 12:08:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemary Keamoai-Strickland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

‘O Ka‘imilei Keamoai-Strickland ko‘u inoa a he kumu wau ma Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waimānalo. Kāko‘o a paipai nui au i ka pila helu 2074 no ka ho‘oka‘awale a hā‘awi ‘ana i kālā i mea e ho‘okumu i mau ‘oihana kula kaiapuni. He huahana au o ka papahana kaiapuni, no laila, ‘ike le‘a au i ka waiwai, ka piko a me ka nohona i ho‘āmana ‘ia ma luna o nā keiki kaiapuni. ‘Oiai ke ho‘omāhuahua ‘ia nei ka nui o nā keiki kaiapuni, he pono ka ho‘onui ‘ana i nā kumu kaiapuni. Nani palena ‘ole ka holomua o ka papahana kaiapuni ma Hawai‘i nei, a he mea ko‘iko‘i ke kālele ‘ana i ia wahi holomua. ‘O ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i ka mea e ho‘ōla mau ai i ia mea he Hawai‘i, a ‘o ka hānai ‘ana i ka ‘ōlelo i nā keiki ka mea e pane‘e ai kākou, nā ‘ōiwi o nei ‘āina, i ka na‘auao.

My name is Ka‘imilei Keamoai-Strickland and I am a teacher at Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waimānalo. I am in strong support of HB2074, which will appropriate funds to establish kaiapuni support and classroom positions. As I am a product of the kaiapuni program, I can personally attest to the enrichment, sense of self-identity & world view one is empowered with through kaiapuni. In lieu of the increasing numbers of kaiapuni students, there is a high need for more support and classroom staff. It is so exquisite to see the progression of the kaiapuni program here in Hawai‘i, and it is important to support that progression. It is the Hawaiian language that helps us to sustain who we are as Hawai‘i, and nourishing our children with our language is what will help us, the indigenous peoples of this land, to reach enlightenment.

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-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 12:59:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Losano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support Kula Kaiapuni education growth by supporting HB 2074. Language is imperative to culture and as a Kaiapuni makua I know first hand what an amazing program Kula Kaiapuni is and how it has shaped both of my keiki in such a unique and empowering way. Kaiapuni keiki grow up to be proud of who they are and where they come from, and become amazing leaders of our lāhui, leading by example in ways that only Kaiapuni education can teach and nurture. Please support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Gretchen Losano

Lahaina, Maui

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance
House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Daphne Honma
Honoka‘a High & Inter. School

**RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on February 23, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1**

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

My name is Daphne Honma and I am a teacher at Honoka‘a High & Inter. School and we have our Kaiapuni School - Alo Kehau and participate in workshops and some meetings with/sponsored by ‘Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

We need to make sure our Kaiapuni schools have enough teachers at each school to meet student needs. Kaiapuni schools are growing because many parents are interested in their children attending a Kaiapuni school or want them to learn ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and cultural practices. I feel that each public school should have a Kaiapuni option especially since the Hawaiian language is part of the DOE strategic plan.

Every family should have access to education in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and Hawaiian culture. Each school should have equal access to resources to provide the best education possible for all students. This bill will make sure that the State will uphold it’s constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4 and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution and the guidelines set forth in the BOE policy 105-8.

In conclusion I strongly support HB2074 HD1 because this would be in the best interest of all the students in this state. It would help to create a stronger sense of belonging and who we are as a people of Hawai‘i.

I urge the Committee to please **PASS** HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:57:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Nakatsuka	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a former kaiapuni teacher, I am intimately familiar with the unique struggle faced by our Hawaiian immersion teachers. I was the sole science teacher for 7-12 grade science at Ke Kula o Kamakau and was frequently overwhelmed with the task of developing curriculum and lesson plans for multiple different classes when textbooks and other materials were not available in our language. At Ke Kula o Anuenue the one high school science teacher had to teach four different subjects. In both schools, there are no other science teachers to consult with for support. This bill offers a relatively low inexpensive measure that would do a lot to support teachers and reduce teaching load to achieve the goal of our papahana kaiapuni and promote learning for our keiki.

HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:18:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainalu Steward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui, my name is Kainalu Steward and I am from Lahaina, Maui however currently reside in Hilo. I am writing this testimony in strong support of HB2074. As a part time Hawaiian language educator, I firmly believe in the perpetuation of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i through our education system for many beneficial reasons. Within learning the native language, our children also grow as individuals who value each other, our land, waters, ‘ohana, and overall community that is grounded in place. Having sufficient funds to support the kaiapuni system is crucial, especially as the demand grows and there is a constant lack of kumu and support from the DOE to our kaiapuni community over the years. I strongly urge to pass this bill for our future keiki and those kumu who go above and beyond to ensure that our language thrives among our communities. Mahalo nui for your time.

Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country	Signed On
Nā Leo Kākoʻo o Oʻahu Hui Mākua				US	1/30/2024
Logan Johnasen Halas	Kaneohe	HI	96744	US	1/30/2024
Catherine Yanagi	Honolulu	HI	96816	US	1/30/2024
Kalena Ann Kai	waianae	HI	96792	US	1/30/2024
Cruz Kahele	Honolulu	HI	96825	US	1/30/2024
Kekuamakana Lewis	Honolulu	HI	96813	US	1/30/2024
Tony Conjugacion	Honolulu	HI	96813	US	1/30/2024
Orlando Marques Neto	Honolulu	HI	96825	US	1/30/2024
Pete Doktor	Honolulu	HI	96819	US	1/30/2024
Michel Emerick	Honolulu	HI	96818	US	1/30/2024
Leticia Montes	Honolulu	HI	96825	US	1/30/2024
Jaylene Kaleimamahu	Honolulu	HI	96816	US	1/30/2024
Lāpule Schultz	Honolulu	HI	96822	US	1/30/2024
Loke Kimsel	Waianae	HI	96792	US	1/30/2024
Kystassia Glover	Honolulu	HI	96819	US	1/30/2024
Roberta Rabelo	Worcester	MA	1603	US	1/30/2024
Brandi Ahlo	Honolulu	HI	96826	US	1/30/2024
Brandy Henderson-De Ramos	Waianae	HI	96792	US	1/30/2024
Mailikapu Heanu	Honolulu	HI	96813	US	1/30/2024
Kade Yam-Lum	Kapolei	HI	96707	US	1/30/2024
Rheann Aki	Kapolei	HI	96707	US	1/30/2024
Jaylene English	Honolulu	HI	96816	US	1/30/2024
Raquel Kealalōkahi Aki	Honolulu	HI	96819	US	1/30/2024
Evelyn Kaba	Kailua	HI	96734	US	1/30/2024
Noel Shaw	Honolulu	HI	96814	US	1/30/2024
Andrea Brosch Palma	Kailua	HI	96734	US	1/30/2024
Kamakahukilani Plunkett	Hauula	HI	96717	US	1/30/2024
Keku Tauala	Waianae		96792	US	1/30/2024
Mackenzie Plunkett	Kaaawa	HI	96730	US	1/30/2024
Darin Lucey	'Ewa Beach	HI	96706	US	1/30/2024
Uilani Plunkett	Honolulu	HI	96817	US	1/30/2024
Kealani Makaiwi	Kapolei	HI	96707	US	1/30/2024
Daniel Mahi	Mililani Town	HI	96789	US	1/30/2024
Ana Ladeia	Honolulu	HI	96717	US	1/30/2024
kanani Cruz	Anaheim	CA	92802	US	1/30/2024
Kaulana Vares	Honolulu	HI	96821	US	1/30/2024
Angleak Dumancus	Honolulu	HI	96818	US	1/30/2024
Jennifer Santos	Kapolei	HI	96707	US	1/30/2024
Justin Santos	Ewa Beach	HI	96706	US	1/30/2024
Nathan Nahina	wahiawa	HI	96786	US	1/30/2024
Renee Price	Ewa Beach	HI	96706	US	1/31/2024
Ana Colen	'Ewa Beach	HI	96706	US	1/31/2024
Bonnie Kalei Nakamura	Honolulu	HI	96826	US	1/31/2024
Jennifer Thomson	Keaāau	HI	96749	US	1/31/2024
Brandon Kalua-Ching	Honolulu	HI	96817	US	1/31/2024
Vanessa Sacho	Sydney		2161	Australia	1/31/2024

Rebekah Walker	Hauula	HI	96717 US	1/31/2024
Lila Mae Lelepali	La'ie	HI	96762 US	1/31/2024
Lorinda Riley	Honolulu	HI	96816 US	1/31/2024
Isabelle V	Leominster	MA	1453 US	1/31/2024
Bruna Lomba Alves de Oliveir	Honolulu	HI	96817 US	1/31/2024
Alanna Eicher	Miami	FL	33018 US	1/31/2024
Kamanawa Revilla	Honolulu	HI	96819 US	1/31/2024
pricila nascimento	Honolulu	HI	96815 US	1/31/2024
Aline Rodrigues	Fontana	CA	92335 US	1/31/2024
Fabio Jesus	Los Angeles	CA	90034 US	1/31/2024
Dhalia Jennings	Honolulu	HI	96825 US	1/31/2024
Elaine Gaspar	Honolulu	HI	96818 US	1/31/2024
Shawn Steiman	Honolulu	HI	96816 US	1/31/2024
Leimomi Ka'aihili Leong	Honolulu	HI	96822 US	1/31/2024
Robyn Tasaka	Mililani	HI	96789 US	1/31/2024
Kawailani Dutro	Honolulu	HI	96826 US	1/31/2024
Jilleina Winchester	Honolulu	HI	96813 US	1/31/2024

Inoa (Name)	City	Zip
Kahuanani Kalua-Ching	Ewa Beach	96706
Kaihilani Wong	'Ewa Beach	96706
Kystassia glover	Waianae	96792
Nele Horpin	Waianae	96792
Kulia Horpin	Waianae	96792
Karla Horpin	Waianae	96792
Nelekulia	Waianae	96792
Tweetie Horpin	Waianae	96792
Jessie Horpin	Waianae	96792
Jianni Horpin	Waianae	96792
Kuali Mesberg	Waianae	96792
Kekuamakana Lewis	Honolulu	96816
Danny Ka'aialii	Honolulu	96816
Jaylene Kaleimamahu	Honolulu	96816
Keonilei F Lealiifano	Honolulu	96821
Celine Cumberlander	'Ewa Beach	96706
Kade Yam-Lum	Ewa	96706
Lisette Yamase	Ewa	96706
Lāpule Schultz	Ewa Beach	96706
Leona Pi`imanu	Ewa Beach	96706
La`akea Bertulfo	Ewa Beach	96706
Nadine Ortega	Ewa Beach	96706
Rheann Aki	Ewa Beach	96706
Dara Tuitama	Kapolei	96707
Chyanne Cabrera	Kapolei	96707
Kealani Makaiwi	Kapolei	96707
Ku`uleilani Reyes	Kaaawa	96730
Pua Pinto	Kailua	96734
Joan craft	Kailua	96734
Gail Leilani Kamalani	Kaneohe	96744
Kaulana Vares	Kaneohe	96745
Andrea Dias-Machado	Pearl City	96782
Sheylyn Vasconcellos	Pearl City	96782
Anisa Pacapac-Marquez	Waianae	96792
Kahaunani Glover	Waianae	96792
Meagan Kimsel	Waianae	96792
Brandy Pumehana Henderson-De	Waianae	96792
Keli'i Makua	Waimanalo	96795
Francesca Au	Waimanalo	96795
Keala Pi`imanu	Waimea	96796
Shawna Santos	Honolulu	96813
Tony Conjugacion	Honolulu	96813
Caleana Duffey-Spikes	Honolulu	96813
Jasmine Morisako-Smith	Honolulu	96814
Nicole Cruz	Honolulu	96814
Kanani Cruz	Honolulu	96814
Anne Au	Honolulu	96815
Cindy Oliveira	Honolulu	96816
Moani Lee	Honolulu	96816
Kamana'o Ku	Honolulu	96816
Latasha Feary	Honolulu	96816
J. English	Honolulu	96816
Pua Perkins	Honolulu	96816

Angel Cheng	Honolulu	96816
Laura Rose Reichhardt	Honolulu	96816
Nalani Balutski	Ewa	96817
H. Melelani Pang	Honolulu	96817
Van Velasco	Honolulu	96817
Angleak Kuuipo Dumancus	Honolulu	96818
Darren Amoe	Honolulu	96818
Ka'ikena Amoe	Honolulu	96818
Nikki Arakawa	Honolulu	96819
Iokepa Bagood	Honolulu	96819
Brigitte Lucey	Honolulu	96819
Cheyenne Kalama	Honolulu	96822
Kahele Cruz	Honolulu	96825
Leimomi Ka'aihili Leong	Honolulu	96825
Tiffany Canonigo-Ong	Honolulu	96825

**Petition of Support for SB2069 / HB2074
32nd Legislative Session of the State of Hawaii, 2024**

SB2069 / HB2074 asks the legislature to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education. These resources are needed to:

- Meet increased demand for access to Hawaiian language public education programming.
- New program/sites
- FTEs for new teacher positions
- Classroom materials and equipment

Provide expertise to promote: Kaiapuni pedagogy training; Curriculum development; Support for Kaiapuni teacher growth; An increase in qualified teacher candidates.

We, the undersigned support SB2069 / HB2074 which seeks to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education

	Inoa Name	Helu Wahi Address
1	Gandharva Mahina Hou Ross	P .O. Box 1461 Kaunakakai Hi 96748
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Petition of Support for SB 2069

32nd Legislative Session of the State of Hawaii, 2024

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	Inoa Name	Helu Wahi Address
1	Puuhua Kedin	46-256 Nahawai St
2	MOHAI GIBSON	41-041 Mahana St. 06745 Waimanalo HI
3	Rona Kessman - Perreira	47-420 Auu Iwa St. B306 Kaneohe, HI, 96744
4	MAKALENA NAGAO-Vallejo	5210 LIKINI St. Apt. 303 Honolulu HI 96818
5	Kānana Kelling	46-348 haiku Plantations DR.
6	Teaweroa Heather	45-412 Kona Pl, Kaneohe
7	Konrad Heather	45-412 Kona Pl. Kaneohe
8	Leimomi Kaahili Leong	731 Kalahe St. Honolulu 96825
9	Ui Bombardo	1250 Kupa St., Kailua 96744
10	Noelani Chow	46-229 Kalanika St. #F403 Kaneohe 96744
11	Makiyei Ichikawa	3218 B Mokihana, HI 96816
12	Leialii Manoi-Cuban	47-724 Hui Kela St #4 96744
13	Magny M. Miranda	2131 Araniu Ln
14	Kaliko Baker	47-636 Ukaes Pl Kaneohe HI 96744
15	Hadiyana Baker	47-636 Ukaes Pl. Kaneohe, HI 96744
16	Kaimu Baker	811 15th Ave Honolulu 96816
17	Hao Kaohelaulii	46-318 Haiku Rd, Kaneohe 96744

Petition of Support for SB 2069
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We, the undersigned support SB 2069 which seeks to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education,

	Inoa Name	Helu Wahi Address
1	Jarom H.K. Laimana	45-520 ALOKAHI ST KANEHOHE HI
2	Kalaniana'ole Hoapili	Kanehohe, HI
3	Shinoe Bishop	47475 Ahulimanu Place
4	Meliana K. Miralumbas	2031 Akaia Ln
5	Abigail K. Laimana	45-520 Alokahi St Kaneohe HI
6	Kamakahi Kuramitsu	HI, Haliipuu
7	Kaharuhoula Wilhelm	46-315 Hoela
8	Leraha Chun	P.O. Box 680, Kekaha, 96752
9	Appala Coloma	96744 Okana Rd
10	Kira Bishop	47475 Ahulimanu Place
11	Waiaruahea Walk	41400 Anahulu Rd. 96744
12	Kamalei Ho	Waimanalo, Hawaii,
13	Nana Hashimoto	91-1679 Huhukua Ln
14	Kulmi Etiani	2324 Amosua St. Pearl City 96788
15	Gwen K Bruhn	1250 Kopeu St, Kailua, HI 96734
16	Brian C.K. Faria	46-318 Haiku Road, Kaneohe 96744
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Petition of Support for SB 2069
32nd Legislative Session of the State of Hawaii, 2024

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We, the undersigned support SB 2069 which seeks to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education,

	Inoa Name	Helu Wahi Address
1	Napua Barbiero	1250 Kupaia St, Kailua 96734
2	Maile Judd	45-714 Ko Street, Kaneohe 96744
3	Panohu Judd	45-714 Ko Street, Kaneohe 96744
4	Pumehana Henderson-De Ramos	87-2138-2 Heleluia Pl.
5	Casey Kanaa De Ramos	87-2138-2 Heleluia Pl.
6	Dasia Nakao'opi'i	54-056 Kukunani Hauula 96717
7	Ethan Waters	1615 Pahia Ln, 96734
8	Mlayna Keawe'aike	1105 Lumaanela St, Kailua 96734
9	Vade Akeo	53-648 Kamehameha Highway
10	Kamuela Akeo	96717
11	Keolackalani Rieman	46-22a Kahuhipa St H503 Kaneohe
12	Qualani Mayola	91-525 Napalua St #102 Ewa Beach HI
13	Cranni Kekahuna	99-10605 Halawa Hts Rd Area HI 96761
14	Kassie Kelly	54-132 Kamaopuna St Hanalei HI 96726
15	CARLY LASCORVIA	45-311 Peninsula Pl Kaneohe HI 96744
16	Audriana Leialua	44-094 Kananani Dr, Kaneohe 96744
17	Puna Watson	1708 Wilhelmina St Kaimula

**Petition of Support for SB 2069
32nd Legislative Session of the State of Hawaii, 2024**

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We, the undersigned support SB 2069 which seeks to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education,

	Inoa Name	Helu Wahi Address
1	Emma Koa	45-736 Waiawi St HI Kaneohe 96744
2	Lindsey Ostrowski	45-153 Mikihina St. Kaneohe HI 96744
3	Kahele Asing	98-873 Kōpū St. Aiea HI 96701
4	Makani	87-124 Kūkaʻānuu P. Waimanalo HI 01672
5	Amber Nanitehau Keama Castillo-Puu	45-044 Waiʻāluā Pk Kaneohe, HI 96744
6	Kahu Wong	2271 DORM CIRCLE APT 5C HONOLULU 96817
7	Kilipaki Solataro	2271 DORM CIRCLE APT 5B HONOLULU HI 96817
8	Adam Laimana	47-720 AKAKOA PI # A, KANEOHE, HI 96744
9	Nancy Laimana	47-720 AKAKOA PI # A, KANEOHE HI 96744
10	Shanelia Laimana	45-359 NAKULUAI ST. KANEOHE, HI 96744
11	Jordan Laimana	45-359 NAKULUAI ST. KANEOHE, HI 96744
12	JASON CUSTINO	4172-2 Keolu St. HON HI 96816
13	Kehaulani Custino	4172-2 Keolu St HONOLULU HI 96816
14	Pueneru Kama	41-009 Iwa'ole St. Waimanalo, HI 96795
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**Petition of Support for SB 2069
32nd Legislative Session of the State of Hawaii, 2024**

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We, the undersigned support SB 2069 which seeks to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education,

	Inoa Name	Helu Wahi Address
1	Reece Flores	45-579 Alokahi Street 96709
2	J. Mahalani Mc Clellan	634 Olomana St., Kailua 96734
3	Keli Evensen	45-741 Ko St, Kaneohe HI 96744
4	Lorraine Ward	2547B Lai Rd Honolulu 96816
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HB-2074-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 11:22:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

House Committee on Education Members

FROM: Dr. Pililuaikekaiohilo Keala

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

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on February 23, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD1

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 HB2074 HD1 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD1 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 HB2074 HD1. I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!