



HB2074 HD2
RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION
Senate Committee on Education

March 13, 2024

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB2074 HD2**, 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 (3.0 FTE) classroom positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

For Hawaiians, the life of our language, ‘Olelo Hawai‘i is tied to the health and well-being of our people and culture. “I ka ‘olelo no ke ola, i ka olelo no ka make” is a revered Olelo No‘eau proverb that translates to “Life is in speech/language, death is in speech/language.” Ka Papahana Kaiapuni is an important program that both enhances 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, Section 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.

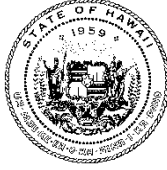
As this bill notes, demand for Hawaiian language immersion education has grown over the past decade despite resources declining. Kaipuni programming requires professionals who have expertise in multiple disciplines including Hawaiian language and their curriculum area or grade level. OHA supports the appropriations of this bill and



HB2074 HD2
RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION
Senate Committee on Education

the 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 HD2**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

DATE: March 13, 2024

TIME: 3:00 pm

LOCATION: Conference Room 229 and Video Conference

TITLE OF BILL: HB2074, HD2 RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION

PURPOSE OF BILL: Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of Kaiapuni education curriculum specialist II positions and Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions. (HD2)

POSITION: Strongly Supports

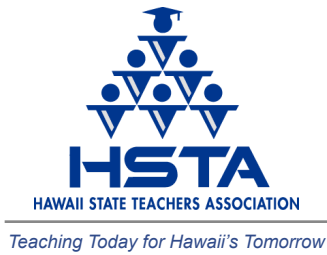
Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee;

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) strongly supports HB2074, HD2, relating 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.

Kaiapuni 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. 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.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Lisa Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: **HB2074 HD2 - Relating to kaiapuni education**
Position: **Support**
Hearing: **March 13, 2024, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 229**
Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** HB2074 HD2 which appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of Kaiapuni education curriculum specialist II positions and Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions.

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

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

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

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

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:42:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha nui kakou, he wahi kama keia no Nu'uuanu e ho'ike nei i ko'u kako'o nui no keia pila.

I am a former kumu kula kaiapuni (Hawaiian immersion school teacher) writing in strong support of this bill because of what it will do to alleviate the uniquely challenging burden that Hawaiian immersion school teachers. Hawaiian immersion school teachers are grossly overburdened in their teaching positions because there are simply not enough teaching positions for the job. This is the result of several unique issues facing Hawaiian immersion schools, listed below:

- 1) the small size and high demand for Hawaiian immersion schools means that teachers often handle very full classrooms, often in the high 20's per class.
- 2) there is a severe shortage of curricula and teaching materials in Hawaiian language, and existing materials are often outdated, so teachers spend a disproportionate amount of time developing their own teaching materials.
- 3) many Secondary/Subject teachers are stretched thin teaching multiple subjects or handling far more classes than any typical HODOE teacher ever would.

I was introduced to the overwhelming burden faced by Hawaiian immersion school teachers when I worked as a Part-Time teacher at Ke Kula 'o Anuenue in Palolo, O'ahu. The high school science teacher at the time had to teach four subjects - Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Plants and Animals of Hawai'i - for the entire 9-12 grade. There were only textbooks for three of the four courses, but it had been translated from an English textbook over 20 years ago, meaning that both the content and language in the text were outdated. The textbook did not come with lesson materials. As a casual hire Part-Time teacher, I lightened the full-time science teacher's load by teaching one of the four subjects, but even then, sometimes there was simply not enough time for either of us to develop teaching materials for lessons each day, and the same lessons were sometimes repeated across multiple subjects.

In any other school, there would be four teachers, one for each subject, but at this Hawaiian immersion school, one single teacher bore the overwhelming burden of teaching four different subjects. Students' learning suffered as a consequence. At the same time, teachers in lower grades at Anuenue frequently had class sizes that were far too big - as many as 29 students - because of the huge and unmet demand for Hawaiian immersion education in Elementary

school. The teaching positions added by this bill would go far to alleviate the overwhelming teaching load that immersion teachers uniquely face.

When I taught secondary science at another Hawaiian immersion school, I was responsible for teaching the science for all of 7-12 grade. This meant I faced a similar challenge of teaching multiple subjects. Because it was my first year teaching full time, I often needed help, but who were the educational support staff designated to help? They were also themselves teachers or administrators who were also overburdened for the same reasons I was. I found myself avoiding seeking help because I did not want to add to their burden, but my teaching praxis suffered as a result, students received a worse education, and I became burned out as a teacher. The curriculum specialist positions proposed by this bill would be an enormous gift that would go far to solve the problems I faced as a kumu kula kaiapuni.

I strongly urge you to move this bill forward and support similar legislation in the future in support of Ka Papahana Kaiapuni in Hawai'i. The kula kaiapuni in Hawai'i are a critical site where we can undo the historical wrongdoings that resulted in the near loss of our language and moreover offer a place to rediscover Hawaiian knowledge and perspectives. The place-based and culturally grounded education that takes place in our schools have been proven in research and practice to improve the education of our students and can serve as a model for other schools. But a prerequisite for this to happen is sufficient staffing for our unique schools' unique needs. Mahalo nui no kau kako'o i keia holomua no ko Hawai'i.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this testimony,
Kyle Kolomona Nakatsuka
kylekolomona@gmail.com

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 1:05:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

SenateCommittee on Education Members

FROM: Tiare Noelani HewLen

Ka La'i a 'Ehu

RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

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

My name is Tiare HewLen and I am a makua/parent and mākua representative for Ke kula o 'Ehunuikaimalino.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

my reasons are:

- 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.

I/we urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Tiare HewLen,

Pelekikena o Ka La'i a 'Ehu

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

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

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

RE: **HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**
Hearing on March 13, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

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

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

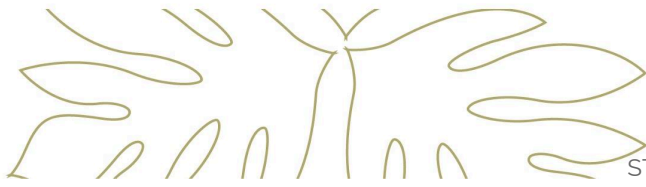
I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2074_HD2 - Relating to Education** because it will:

- **A Pathway to Hawaiian Immersion Access, Equity and Accountability:** This bill will ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8. This bill will also ensure that the State upholds both its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978) and the Clarabal decision where the Hawai‘i Supreme Court found that the State is also constitutionally required to make all reasonable efforts to provide reasonable access to Hawaiian immersion education.
- **Addressing the Exponential Need and Demand for Hawaiian Immersion Education across the Pae‘āina:** There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. The last 10 years has also witnessed an enrollment increase of almost 1,000 students. In recent years, many families wanting to register their children in a kula kaiapuni nearest to them have been turned away by the DOE due to a lack of qualified Hawaiian Immersion teachers and classroom space.

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

We, the Hui Mā kua o Kapolei urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!



TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Education 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: **HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**
Hearing on March 13, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

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

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.

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.

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!!!



Senate Committee on Education

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Support: HB2074 HD2

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and Honorable Committee Members,

HAPA is testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education.*** The statistics speak for themselves: with an increase of 8 Kaiapuni schools in the last decade and nearly 1,000 more students enrolled in Kaiapuni education programs, it's evident that there's a growing demand for resources and support in this area. Currently, the Department of Education funds only 35 teacher positions for 22 schools "statewide." This lack of adequate funding and staffing undermines the quality of education provided to Kaiapuni students and hampers their ability to thrive academically and culturally.

HB2074 HD2 is a crucial step in addressing these disparities and ensuring that Kaiapuni students receive the resources and support they deserve. By allocating additional funding for Kaiapuni education, this bill will enable schools to hire more teachers, develop culturally relevant curriculum, and provide essential resources to support language immersion and cultural enrichment programs.

Furthermore, investing in Kaiapuni education is not just a matter of educational equity; it's also a matter of cultural preservation and revitalization. For many indigenous communities, language is not just a means of communication but a vital component of cultural identity and heritage. By supporting Kaiapuni education, we are not only empowering students to succeed academically but also preserving and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Hawaii.

Please support HB2074 HD2. By investing in Kaiapuni education, we are investing in the future of our communities and ensuring a more equitable and culturally responsive educational system for all students. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



TO: SENATE - COMMITTEE on Education (EDU)
Michelle Kidani –Chair
Donna Kim Mercado – Vice Chair

SUBJECT: **HB2074 HD2 / 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 COMMITTEE on Education 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

NA LEO KAKOʻO O OAHU, INC.
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promote the Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, support teacher professional growth, and result in an increase in qualifications of teacher candidates.

Please urgently pass hearing for measure HB2074 *HD2* 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 Finance Committee and Chairs Kyle Yamashita & Lisa Kitagawa 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 Johnsen-Halas
Pelekikena 2023-2024
Nā Leo Kākoʻo o O'ahu

NA LEO KAKO`O O OAHU, INC.
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Hui Mākua Petition in Support of HB2074
(143) 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, Adrienne 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, Pililuaikēkaiohilo Keala, Dasha Kawakami, Britney Fine

Hui Mākua Palapala Noi in Support of HB2074
(79) 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-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:11:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Testifying for Tahirih Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Tadia Rice and I am the founder of the Tahirih Association, a non profit organization dedicated to the empowerment and education of girls and women.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education because 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). Further, it will ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8, and fulfill the DOE strategic plan Priority II: High Quality Educator Workforce in All Schools. We need more positions to support the education of students.

Mahalo.

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 4:13:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hardy Spoehr	Testifying for The Spoehr Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this critically important measure. From whatever racial or ethnic background we all come, we are island people who are blessed with a host culture which has evolved over more than a thousand years. That culture embodies a language which is inherent to the understanding of our abilities to live on these islands today. The values contained within hold the key to all of our lives. Just as Queen Kap`iolani mostly chose to speak Hawaiian in her position of Queen and most particularly when she would travel, so, too, should we all as residents of these islands have a familiarity with the host language. This measure needs to be supported as it makes possible that ability.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

Hardy Spoehr, president; Spoehr Foundation

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 12:07:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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. My children were former students at ke kula kaiapuni o Ānuenue and my grandchildren attend ke kula kaiapuni o Pa‘ia a me Kalama. 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.**

Ke aloha

A Kanoe Kealoha

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 10:27:37 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Mochida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi:

I am a Native Hawaiian and recently heard of this bill, and the need to fund the DOE positions. I strongly support this bill.

I am emailing in support of HB 2074. Thank you for passing this bill during the first reading and hearing. I feel this bill needs to go through further readings and hearings until it is passed, or the Legislature can determine its importance and choose to appropriate funds for the positions.

Thank you.

Tina Mochida

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 3:40:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FROM: Robert Kai Irwin

RE: HB2074 HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

Aloha mai e ka poe alakai hanohano o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Robert Kai Irwin and I am a Hawaiian language curriculum developer at the Hale Kuamoo Hawaiian Language Center, a former Hawaiian medium teacher at Paia, Puohala, and Kamakau schools, as well as a community member of ‘Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2** - Relating to Kaiapuni Education for the following reasons (and many others):

- Many families are regularly 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 where the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.

- This bill will help ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8.

In conclusion, I support this bill as a means to help address equity for the Hawaiian medium pathway of public education in Hawaii where critical barriers to access remain. I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 4:01:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lehua Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FROM: Lehua Miller, individual

RE: **HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

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

My name is Lehua Miller and I am parent of two teenage boys who attend Ka Umeke Kaeo Public Charter School. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - 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).

- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawaii'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 am in strong support of HB2074 HD2.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA OLELO HAWAII!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 6:09:12 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

I strongly urge your support for HB2074 HD1 relating to Kaiapuni Education.

Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Acknowledged in HIDEOE strategic plan (pg 3).

Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools or less than onl 2 teacher positions per school.

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.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Dr Larry Kimura

Professor, College of Hawaiian Language

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 7:33:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FROM: Dr. Dawn Kaleihökü Kala'i-Aguiar

Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

RE: **HB2074 HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education**

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2

Aloha e ka Luna Ho'omalua Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Mercado Kim, a me nā lālā Kōmike Ho'ona'auao,

My name is Kaleihökü Kala'i-Aguiar and I am a kumu and a proud parent of two graduates from Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Hawaiian Language Medium program. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education**. In the last 10 years, there has been an increase of eight kaiapuni schools and 1,000 kaiapuni students. To support this tremendous growth and to ensure equitable access to resources, additional funding is needed for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni.

I urge the Committee to **PASS HB2074 HD2**. Mahalo nui loa!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:18:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a former Hawaii Board of Education Member (2006-2011), I testify in strong support of HB2074 HD2, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of Kaiapuni education curriculum specialist II positions and Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions.

The Hawaii Supreme Court made it very clear that all students shall have access to Hawaiian Language Immersion Curriculum. It is the Legislature's responsibility to raise and allocate full funding for programs and services which are constitutionally mandated.

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 11:18:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Nakasone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in support of HB2074 to provide funding to support positions for Kaiapuni education.

I have been seeing a great increase in the interest and use of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i in general, which is great to see given that ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i is one of the state’s official languages. In order to support the increase in demand for Kaiapuni education for students, and for those students to receive a quality education we need more positions not only at the school level, but at the state level to support to administer support to school level teachers.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of funding support for Kaiapuni education.

Ke aloha nui,

Karen Nakasone

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:09:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Higbee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Education Committee Chair Senator Kidana and Vice Chair Senator Kim and Education Committee,

Please I urge you to please vote to pass this House Bill measure 2074. I ask for your SUPPORT to please pass this bill. My whole family was able to reconnect with our Hawaiian language and culture due to Kula Kaiapuni. We wil be forever grateful for this. I know they could always use support for curriculum and staff because I work for Hawaii Dept of Ed and know the importance of teachers to get the support they need to help the students as much as possible. For kula kaiapuni, it's even more important they receive the support they need because it's tremendously challenging for them to teach their program without much curriculum developed as long as English language education. The benefits of Native Hawaiians to get this education for their children is tremendous and has a positive ripple effect throughout the family, community, county, state, nation, and world. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Mahalo,

Kanani Higbee

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:19:36 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM


Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rik Masterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Rik Masterson, a resident of Hilo for the last 4 years. I am not a native Hawaiian, but I recognize the harm that was done to the Hawaiian people and their culture, in particular the oppression of their spiritual identity and the use of their mother tongue. With that in mind, I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

- Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

Mahalo 

Rik Masterson

Hilo

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:26:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Kanani Arias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my keiki attend Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Waimānalo, currently located within Blanche Pope Elementary School. I 100% support our kumu and HB2074 because I believe it is of the utmost importance to teach our keiki of who we are, Hawaiian. The life of our culture is in our language. *I ka 'ōlelo nō ke ola, i ka 'ōlelo nō ka make* (In language there is life, in language there is death). In our words, there is life. Please support and pass this bill to care for our kumu for they are pillars in our communities pushing and perpetuating our language for our keiki and for our lāhui, and to continue to keep our culture alive for our keiki and future generations of kānaka maoli. Mahalo piha, Nani from Waimānalo.

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:12:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT for HB 2074HD2 for Kula Kaiapuni .. mahalo

Mary Drayer

557 Imi Dr

Wailuku, Hi 96793

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:10:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha EDU Chair & Committee Members,

My name is Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros and I am writing in strong support of this bill. Kula Kaiapuni schools are excelling in Hawaii and turning out more cultured, fulfilled and educated students. For the future of Hawaii, please continue to fund their needs. This is truly in the interest of all.

Mahalo nui,

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros

(808)866-7409

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:28:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt L	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FROM: Matt Lau

[Group or organization you represent]

RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2

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

My name is Matt Lau and I am a proud member of the Hawaiian community.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

Hawaiian is the official language of the State of Hawai'i. Period. The speakers are increasing every year and we need to act through this legislation to support the growth and perpetuation of the language.

If I am not correct, Hawaiians make up the largest if not the largest voting block in this state.

The many reasons this bill needs to pass:

- **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.**

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:43:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keiko Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FROM: Keiko Kiele Gonzalez

RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

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

My name is Keiko Kiele Gonzalez and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education for 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. 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.

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is an official language of this state. As such, it should be taught throughout the state, and it most definitely needs state support and funding, as do the schools that teach it. ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is also an endangered language. There are more and more ‘ohana who want to learn and help perpetuate it, but they need access to ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i programs and education. The kula kaiapuni offer a Hawaiian education in Hawaiian. They need our support.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

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

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

**RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on March 13, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2**

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

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

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

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

In conclusion, I would also like to make note that it is extremely important to ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8. This bill will help to guide us all in the right direction for the future of Hawaiian medium education and the Hawaiian language access for our keiki.

urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

Na Kayla Lindsey Asing

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:04:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Hussey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2074 HD2 as amended by the House committee report, but in prior versions, appropriated 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. Although the House committee's report blanked out details, the intent of the bill is important to affirm **and resource within the entire Department of Education's budget, as a demonstration of the Board of Education and Department of Education's responsibility for public education in two official languages---Hawaiian and English.**

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:22:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis K Maunakea K Stang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pono kakou e kako'o keia pila no ka mea, he mea nui ka 'olelo Hawai'i ka pilina Hawai'i, 'ike Hawai'i a e hahai kakou I ke alanui no na kupuna I hala. E ola mau ka 'olelo makuahine! E 'olelo Hawai'i I na wahi a pau, I na 'aina a pau, I ko kakou kaiaulu me na 'ohana a pau mai na kula kaiapuni like 'ole. E Aloha kekahi I kekahi a e mālama I na keiki. E holomua kakou no ka pono. E ola ka ha Hawai'i! Mahalo e ke Akua! Me ka ha'aha'a, Alexis Maunakea

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:16:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelley Uyeoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a parent of keiki in Kula Kaiapuni I strongly support this bill.

Mahalo,

Kelley Uyeoka

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:20:22 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm a mother of a Kaiapuni student and the product of the Hawaiian language being made illegal in Hawai'i from the illegal overthrow of 1893 to the 1980s. In an effort to commit to the revitalization of the Hawaiian language we have intentionally chosen the Hawaiian immersion path for our keiki.

Because of the historical injustice the language and thus the people have been subject to, adequate resources have not been allocated to its revitalization over the years.

This bill provides one avenue for the Education Committee to push even just a bit closer to what's needed to correct this wrong.

I urge you to not just use our language in your signature lines and opening statements, but to fund it and resource it's continue existence and more importantly its growth.

E ola ka ʻōlelo Hawai'i. E ola ka aina Hawai'i.
Noel Shaw

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:12:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Delia Ulima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou, my name is Delia Ulima and I am submitting testimony in strong support of this bill. My son is a second grader (Papa 2) at Kula Kaiapuni Ānuenue. The Kumu are tremendously dedicated because of their commitment to the perpetuation of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. They go above and beyond to prepare and develop their own materials. My husband and I chose a kaiapuni education because of its mission to a quality education that focuses on language, Hawaiian knowledge (‘ike) and aloha ‘āina. This is not available in any other DOE setting. It is priceless and sets Hawai‘i apart and looked to as a model by indigenous groups on the continental United States. Please do all you can to support and promote the perpetuation of this important work. It is good for ALL of Hawai‘i. Mahalo!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:33:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Anthony Martinez. I am a teacher and participant of the ‘Aha Kauleo. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

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

In conclusion, I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** and urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity.

E ola mau ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i!

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education
Senate 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

**RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on March 13, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2**

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_HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni 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-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:28:53 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac Ahuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong support of this bill that will appropriate funds specifically for curriculum specialists and teacher positions in the kaiapuni programs.

E ola ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:39:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Torres Fischer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o piha ‘ia kēia pila no ka pono o ka ho‘ona‘auao ‘ia o nā kamali‘i o Hawai‘i nei.

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:18:02 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai,

As a resident of Hawaii and an active voter I am writing in support of HB2074. Perpetuating and restoring 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is our important kuleana to prevent the loss of such a beautiful language. Culture and language are entangled and cannot be separated. If we do not restore 'Ōlelo Hawai'i we will eventually lose the Hawaiian culture. Please support the restoration and perpetuation of such an important and essential culture.

Mahalo nui

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:54:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei K Ayat-Verdadero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in strong SUPPORT of prioritizing and expanding access to Hawaiian immersion education in our state. The Hawai'i Supreme Court has clearly recognized that the state is constitutionally required to make all reasonable efforts to provide access to Hawaiian immersion education. It is crucial to understand that this affirmative duty is specific to immersion education, highlighting its unique role in preserving and revitalizing the Hawaiian language and culture.

Failure to make all reasonable efforts to increase access to Hawaiian immersion education not only undermines the rights of students and families seeking this educational path but also represents a failure to fulfill the state's legal obligations. While other Hawaiian cultural programs are valuable, they cannot replace the essential role of immersion learning in meeting this legal obligation.

It is imperative that we prioritize the expansion of Hawaiian immersion education programs, ensuring that all students who wish to participate have the opportunity to do so. This commitment is not just about education; it is about honoring and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this important matter,

Lei Ayat-Verdadero

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

FROM: Kahea Faria

**RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on March 13, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2**

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 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

HB2074 HD2 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 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB2074 HD2.

E MAU NO KA OLELO O HAWAII NEI!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:00:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Kāko‘o au i kēia pila. I SUPPORT this bill.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:39:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bailey Spry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bailey Spy, a resident of East Maui and an employee of Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, a non-profit serving the community, keiki to kupuna, of East Maui. I support Kaiapuni receiving additional funding for positions and resources per this bill. I have seen firsthand how Hawaiian immersion education has empowered and enriched kumu and haumana alike in East Maui. Please pass this bill.

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:54:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moanikeala Whittle-Wagner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. e ola ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:42:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantal Keliihoomalu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou

I am in support of HB 2074

Funding to support the vital work of immersion schools is necessary to validate and perpetuate the existence of Hawaiian culture and language. Due to the unyielding work of the lahui -- there is more opportunities than before but it is not enough. The roots of the indigenous culture and existence of the Hawaiian people should have priority and be put in front of all other needs.

I am a community social worker Makua of seven native Hawaiian opio and a multitude of nieces and nephews, they all deserve the opportunity to learn thei me culture.

Mahalo

Chantal Keliihoomalu, MSW, LSW

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:58:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicommas Dollar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kaiapuni Testimony

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

FROM: Nicommas Dollar, Hawaii State Teacher

RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

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

My name is Nicommas Dollar and I am currently a Kaiapuni Distance Learning Program teacher. I have recently been informed that due to funding cuts my position as a Middle School and High school science teacher will be terminated. I am a highly qualified teacher of over 23 years of experience and hold an advanced Hawaii state teaching license. We need more positions, not less to support the education of students, as set in the DOE strategic plan Priority II: High Quality Educator Workforce in All Schools.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

It makes no sense that funding for Kaiapuni education is decreasing while Kaiapuni education is growing. 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. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Acknowledged in HIDOE strategic plan (pg 3). I have poured my heart and soul into my job as a Kaiapuni teacher, and am currently taking a Hawaiian language class in the evenings to help ensure equitable access to resources and education for ALL of our youth in both languages. Furthermore, 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).

In conclusion, I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:12:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support.

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

From: Michelle Kukahiko
16-566 Keaau-Pahoa Rd
Ste. 188-112
Kea'au, HI 96749

RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

Aloha mai kākou,

I am resident of Kea'au, Hawai'i and a parent of young children in the public school system. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2- *Relating to Kaiapuni Education.***

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for HB2074_HD2, which aligns with the Department of Education's strategic plan Priority II: High-Quality Educator Workforce in All Schools. As a parent of a young child entering Kindergarten this Fall in Kea'au, Hawai'i, I believe that this bill is essential for improving educational opportunities for all students, especially those in Kaiapuni education.

One of the key reasons why I support HB2074_HD2 is that it ensures equitable access to resources and education, specifically for Hawaiian immersion education, in all public schools across the Hawaiian Islands. This aligns perfectly with the guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8 and reflects our commitment to providing a high-quality education for every child in our state.

Currently, there is a pressing need for more positions to support the education of students, including those in Kaiapuni education. Many families, especially in our area, have experienced the frustration of being turned away by DOE schools during registration due to limited seats in Kaiapuni schools. This not only hinders the educational opportunities for our children but also creates barriers to cultural and linguistic immersion that are essential for their overall development.

Furthermore, it is disheartening to note that there are still six complex areas, including one entire island, where the DOE is not providing access to Kaiapuni education. This is unacceptable, and HB2074_HD2 presents a crucial opportunity to address this issue and ensure that every child in Hawai'i has access to high-quality education in a Kaiapuni setting.

In conclusion, I urge you to lend your strong support to HB2074_HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
March 12, 2024

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

FROM: Eileen Cain

**RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on March 13, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2**

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

Aloha, Senators,

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

My name is Eileen Cain and I have been a resident of Honolulu for nearly 50 years. I firmly believe that 'ōlelo Hawai'i (the Hawaiian language), which is considered an endangered language, needs to be bolstered by our educational system by means of sufficient funding.

Although I am haole (caucasian), I believe that the beautiful Hawaiian language needs to not just survive but thrive here in its native homeland. I was fortunate to have been able to study it.

Use of the Hawaiian language needs to be **normalized** in our society. The Kaiapuni are a crucial means for allowing this to happen. More of them should be funded to meet the needs of students. Students deserve to have these needs met.

Sadly, it is easy to hear English, Spanish, Tagalog and other languages on the street and in the shopping center, but it is unfortunately much less common to hear Hawaiian language. We all have the power to change this.

The use of Hawaiian language needs to become more widespread, and the Kaiapuni are serving this goal. I dream of the day when I will hear Hawaiian spoken all around in its native land.

Furthermore, 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).

I urge the Committee to **PASS HB2074 HD2**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Aloha,

Eileen Cain

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826

E OLA MAU KA 'OLELO HAWAI'!!!!

Eileen Cain
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:54:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marty Martins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawai‘i has two official languages, the oldest being ‘olelo Hawai‘i. Please support continued and increased funding for the Hawaiian immersion schools so the Hawaiian language can be funded into the higher grades. Numerous studies have shown that studying a second language also helps students in math and music.

Mahalo,

Marty Martins

Kihei

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:02:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Support HB2074 HD2

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:00:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the education medium of Hawaiian language and our teachers. They are the direct connection between our cultural practices, language and our future keiki in their ability to learn this through education. Please support our Hawaiian language teachers in hiring and keeping them!! Our community and state needs this to keep growing and moving forward in a positive way.

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:43:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Matsuura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of HB2074, which will appropriate funds to the DOE for Kaiapuni education positions. It is absolutely necessary for the Kaiapuni program to be supported. To be educated in the language of this land is something important for our children, families, and the larger community. The Kaiapuni program should be prioritized; it is clearly important to our community, which is reflected in the growth of our programs. I urge you to appropriate funds that will further expand the Kaiapuni program and further expand ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and its connection to place.

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:56:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a mother of 8 keiki on Maui. My eldest is a pūkana (graduate) of kaiapuni in 2019 and my second keiki will puka (graduate) from kaiapuni this year as the youngest of his papa (class). This graduating class of 2024 will be the largest class so far to have graduated from kaiapuni but they will not get to hold the title for long because the class of 2026 will be graduating 40 haumāna (students). We need more classrooms and we need more teachers! Please pass this bill!

Mahalo nui,

Tricia-Lee Lum Ho

(808) 264-3765

tlumho@gmail.com

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:54:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberley Newhouse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FROM: Kimberley K. Newhouse, Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kekaulike parent

RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

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

My name is Kēhau Newhouse and I am parent and supporter of Kula Kaiapuni and ‘Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education. There are many reasons that supporting Hawaiian Language Immersion Education is necessary to serving the public by:

- Ensuring that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution (1978).
- Ensuring equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- Directly acknowledgment that our public education system has 2 language pathways - English and Hawaiian which is 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.
 - 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.

In conclusion, please support my son who is just one of the thousands of other students and families around Hawai'i who choose this pathway in Kula Kaiapuni. This is your charge as members of the Committee on Education to SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION.

I/we urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 3:39:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 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 HD2**.

Mahalo for your consideration.

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

FROM: Maximus Mananakealoha Paschoal

**RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on March 13, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2**

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

This is Mananakealoha from Paeahu, Honua‘ula, Maui, and I am dialing in from the valley of Mānoa where I dedicate my studies to Hawaiian Language and Animation here at the University of of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Given the incompetence of the majority of our government officials’ inability to understand the official language of Hawai‘i, the language that established this governance in the first place, ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. I see no reason for there to be any controversy or argument when it comes to any potential operations that could be expanding our institutions for reviving its widespread use as the official language that I hope one day the vital importance mother tongue of this land carries will command the respect it deserves from all of you because based on its current accommodations it clearly does not. No government official should need a translator. This is a mockery of accommodation for the foreigners and their language from the same lands that attempted to destroy the Hawaiian language, its people, and their government.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.**

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 4:28:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

strong complete support

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:10:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilyana Koa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FROM: Lilyana Koa

RE: In strong support of HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on March 13, 2024

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

My name is Lilyana Kainoa Koa, and I am a supporter and makua of Kaiapuni 'o Maui.

I am testifying to express my strong support for HB2074 HD2, which is related to Kaiapuni Education. This bill is crucial as there has been a significant increase in the number of students in the past decade, by almost 1,000. Passing 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). It will ensure that Hawaiian immersion education is accessible to all students in public schools across all islands in Hawaii and will uphold the guidelines outlined in BOE policy 105-8.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to pass HB2074 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Lilyana Koa

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:56:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula MacCutcheon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB 2074 HD2.

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:37:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Lalagos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Natalie Lalagos and I am a teacher employed by the Hawai'i Department of Education. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2.

The State must uphold its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978) by providing access to Hawaiian history, culture, and language. This is especially important because 'Olelo Hawai'i is not only an official language of Hawai'i but is also the language of the original stewards of this 'aina. I strongly support HB2074 HD2 is because this bill will ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, upholding guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. This is acknowledged in the HIDOE strategic plan (pg 3).

In conclusion it is for the reasons I mentioned in the previous paragraph that I stand in strong support of HB2074 HD2. I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

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

FROM: Donavan Kamakanimaikalani Albano

**RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on March 13, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2**

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

My name is Donavan Kamakanimaikalani Albano and I am a Kanaka ‘Ōiwi from Kalihi, O‘ahu. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

With the increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years and public education having 2 language pathways: English and Hawaiian, acknowledged in HIDOE strategic plan (pg 3), this bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). It also will ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 3:40:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aokeaokalani West	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill for Kaiapuni Education!

As an educator in the Kaiapuni system, I see that there is a very high demand for Kumu as the enrolment for Kaiapuni students continue to grow. Yet, there are not enough Kumu to support these students.

I currently have a classroom of 27 students in my Kaiapuni classroom for Papa 1 (First Grade). Due to a lack of kumu, it is difficult to split these students up into two seperate classrooms and give them the appropriate education needed.

With this bill passing, Im hoping that the future of Kaiapuni education will be able to grow with the support of more Kumu and kōkua!

Mahalo nui!

Aokeaokalani West

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:20:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Bo Kahui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

FROM: Bo Kahui, Executive Director

Laiopua Community Development Corporation, 501C3

RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

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

My name is Bo Kahui and I am the Executive Director of Laiopua Community Development Corporation, a 501C-3 non-profit corporation.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education** for the following reasons

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

In conclusion and on behalf of Laiopua CDC Board, we urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo

Bo Kahui, ED

Laiopua CDC

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:55:12 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine SanJose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FROM: Elaine Poipe Kealiawahamana SanJose

Kahua O Kākou, LLC

RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

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

My name is Elaine SanJose, I am an Individual who was never given an opportunity because of financial aid to attend any of these Educational Institutions and would like to see many more of our future Kānaka Maoli children have this advantage.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

There are so many reason(s) I support this House Bill and have done my due diligence in researching and below is a list of support:

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 above are the mamny reason(s) of why I acknowledge and support HB2074 HD2.

I/we urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:16:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Soileau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FROM: Kelli Soileau

RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

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

My name is Kelli Soileau and I am a supporter of olelo Hawaii.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

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

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

This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). It is important to ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8

Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian that are acknowledged in HDOE strategic plan and we need a high quality educator workforce in all schools. We need more positions to support the education of students and the growing demand for immersion education..

In conclusion I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui. E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

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

FROM: Kevin Sledge
HIDOE Teacher

**RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on March 13, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2**

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

My name is Kevin Sledge and I am a teacher employed by the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE).

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

One of the reasons why I strongly support HB2074 HD2 is because 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). The state **MUST** provide access to Hawaiian culture, language, and history in public schools, especially given that not only is Hawaiian the language of the first stewards of these islands, but it is also an official language of this state. Another reason why I strongly support HB2074 HD2 is because this bill will ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, upholding guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. This is acknowledged in the HIDOE strategic plan (pg 3).

In conclusion it is for the reasons I mentioned in the previous paragraph that I stand in strong support of HB2074 HD2.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:27:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I live in Mō'ili'ili. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

Hawaiian Knowledge and schools should be uplifted and supported always especially in the Hawaiian Kingdom because it is Hawai'i.

- 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.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:49:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ho'oleia Ka'eo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

FROM: Ho'oleia Ka'eo

RE: HB2074_HD1, Relating to Kaiapuni Education

Hearing on Mar 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2

Aloha e Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim a me ke 'Aha Kenekoa - Kōmike Ho'ona'auao. Mahalo for the opportunity to address this committee on this important issue.

'O Ho'oleia Ka'eo ko'u inoa. No Waiohuli, Maui mai au. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

As a proud graduate of Ka Papahana Kaiapuni at Kekaulike High School, I am grateful for the many opportunities this program has offered me. The most valuable and profound is the return of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i to my own 'ohana. I have experienced firsthand how this educational pathway is not only personally transformation, its impact reaches families and broader communities.

The success of Kaiapuni is reflected in the growth of the program over the years. There has been an increase in enrollment of 1,000 students in the past 10 years. This bill will help to ensure that the growth of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in Public Education is supported by the State of Hawai'i – honoring the official language of Hawai'i and the HIDOE strategic plan (pg. 3).

Kaiapuni education invaluable to public education and should be offered to any family that chooses it for their child(ren). I hope that my future children will not be turned away due to insufficient funding and support.

I urge the Senate Committee on Education to PASS HB2074 HD2.

Mahalo nui,

Ho'oleia Ka'eo

Waiohuli, Maui

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

FROM: Nicole Tadaki

**RE: HB2074_HD2, Relating to Kaiapuni Education
Hearing on March 13, 2024
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074_HD2**

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

My name is Nicole Tadaki and I am a former parent and supporter of all Kula Kaiapuni.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2** - *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*.

Currently, the DOE only funds 35 teacher positions across the entire state for 22 Kula Kaiapuni schools. This does not align with DOE strategic plan Priority II: High Quality Educator Workforce in All Schools. We need more positions to support the education of all students.

In the past 10 years there has been an increase in students by almost 1,000 and an increase in Kula Kaiapuni schools by 8. As well, there are still 6 complex areas including 1 entire island that the DOE is not providing Kula Kaiapuni access to.

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).

In conclusion I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:48:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Kanahele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2074. The allocation of funds toward Hawaiian Language-medium education is related to and supportive of the following:

- Article X, Section 4 of the Hawaii Constitution
- Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii Constitution
- Public Law 103-150
- Senate Concurrent Resolution 103 (2019) - as kanaka, aina, akua connections occur through the fibers of our indigenous language

Mahalo piha,

K. Kuulei Kanahele

March 12, 2024

HONORABLE SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR
HONORABLE SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM, VICE CHAIR
Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Education

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim
and Members of the Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Education:

RE: HB2074_HD2, RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION
Committee on Education Hearing
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
3:00pm, Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Aloha mai kākou. My name is Shannon Alueta and I'm writing today as a private citizen and as a Native Hawaiian to voice my **support** for the aforementioned bill which will appropriate funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of Kaiapuni education curriculum specialist II positions and Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions.

As a former public school librarian at King Kekaulike High School (home of Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kekaulike), I absolutely believe that these additional positions would be of great value to Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools for the following reasons:

1. **There are very few textbooks and resources available in Hawaiian for each level of the K-12 Kaiapuni student population.** Curriculum coordinators would be able to greatly assist in curating and creating these materials for this purpose which would alleviate the burden on the classroom teacher.
2. **The exponential increase in sites and students of Kaiapuni programs statewide more than justify the need for increased staffing.** The staffing levels of Kaiapuni programs have not been keeping pace with increased demand. Highly qualified teachers are needed to support this growth, now more than ever. It is high time to provide staffing to meet demand.
3. **We should not be turning away students who want to enter a Kaiapuni program.** The success of the Kaiapuni program as a whole, as well as the success of Native Hawaiian Language revival efforts rests upon the ongoing, continuous and uninterrupted ability to access learning opportunities in Native Hawaiian for Native Hawaiians. Lack of staffing should not be the deciding factor to allow or block any student's access to Kaiapuni programming or Native Hawaiian curriculum.

In closing, the Ka Papahana Kaiapuni positions noted in HB2074_HD2 are urgently needed and I am asking you to support them through the passage of this bill.

Mahalo for your time and attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Shannon Alueta
Email: shannon_alueta@yahoo.com

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
HB2074 HD2
RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION..

BEFORE THE:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

IN SUPPORT

Welina mai e Chairs Yamashita and Kitagawa and Members of the Committees,

My name is Keala Campbell; I am a Native Hawaiian resident of Hawai'i Island.

I am testifying **in support** of bill HB2074 HD2 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.

'Ōlelo Hawai'i 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.

To ensure that 'olelo Hawai'i is never endangered again and opportunities to learn the Hawaiian language are available for all keiki in Hawai'i, I ask your committee to support this bill.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Keala Campbell

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:40:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iolani Kuoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

E kako‘o au i keia HB2074. Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of Kaiapuni education curriculum specialist II positions and Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions. Effective 7/1/3000. He maika‘i no.

Na‘u no me ka ha‘aha‘a,

‘Iolani Kuoha

LATE

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:07:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelly Tokunaga May	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Senate Committee

I am in support of this bill. I believe more support is needed for Kaiapuni in order for keiki to succeed. These additional funded positions will provide more kumu in the classroom and to provide more 'ōlelo curriculum. As the official and home language of Hawai'i, it is imperative that we continue the language for future generations. Please help us continue to grow the language and normalize 'ōlelo.

Mahalo,

Shelly Tokunaga-May, EdD, LSW

LATE

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:58:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haley Agbayani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Haley Agbayani and I both am parent and teacher and that is testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2074 HD2 - Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools and there has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years by almost 1,000 students, my oldest child is included in this number. 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).

Additionally, 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. Funding more positions will also ensure that more of our keiki and haumāna have access to learning 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, especially those in rural areas!

I urge the Committee to PASS HB2074 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

LATE

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:59:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Kapolei Kiili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha pumehana kākou,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB2074 HD2. I am in **strong support** of this bill and its intentions. My name is Rebecca Kapolei Kiili and I am a Kaiapuni teacher on Maui at Kekaulike High School. I have been a Kumu for my entire public school teaching career of 19 years. As you may know, our program has grown a lot in the past ten years and many schools need more classroom teacher positions to meet the community need and interest.

These classroom teacher positions are crucial to many schools across the state who may not have a large enough weighted student formula allocation to support their needs. Having ten more positions would help alleviate the stress in smaller schools and possibly help larger schools balance out the school level budgets and the state level budgets. For many years, many schools depended on state allocated positions to carry their programs however, with the increased enrollment, schools need to be more inclusive of ensuring that Kaiapuni classrooms can provide quality teachers, curriculum and other supplies. Adding these positions will make a positive impact for many schools and is absolutely necessary at this point in our history.

Kaiapuni communities have worked hard to establish their programs and we need our political leaders to support its continued success, growth, and expansion.

Curriculum specialists are also necessary to support our growing schools. For far too long, curriculum has become a burden on classroom teachers with very little support from the HDOE. The lacking of funding is the reason that these needs were hard to meet. Establishing these positions would supply the curriculum that schools desperately need. Help alleviate the extra work that Kaiapuni teachers have shouldered with no compensation for many years, speaking from personal and professional experience.

Thank you for your time. I urge you all to pass this bill and fund these positions. They are truly overdue and will make a significant impact in many communities across our state.

E kāko‘o i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i no ka hānuna hou aku. Please support Hawaiian language for the next generation.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili

LATE

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:15:19 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Rose Kaolulo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am a parent of keiki kaiapuni. I am writing this testimony to **support** this bill and to represent my keiki and share their stories.

My daughter has been a keiki kaiapuni since she was 2 1/2 years old. In 2021, we were transitioning from Hawai'i Island back to O'ahu. I applied my keiki to kula kaiapuni but my daughter was denied because of space in Papa Mālaa'ō (Kindergarten). We were forced to enroll her into an English-medium school and planned to try again in Papa 1 (First Grade). However, half way through the year she shared how she was punished in class. She told me that when she spoke 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in class, her teacher punished by making her sit on the blue line outside of the classroom. This situation impacted how she felt about 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and her identity. She didn't want to speak 'Ōlelo Hawai'i anymore and was afraid to wear clothing with the language at school in fear of getting punished. When teachers from kula kaiapuni found out about her situation, they reached out to help my daughter. However, she was once again denied due to capacity per Kumu.

My son has a different experience. He has been struggling with comprehension since Covid-19 Pandemic. I have reached out for help but was told that he will not be tested for learning disabilities because he is struggling due to not understanding the language. We asked for support and tutoring but access is limited. He works tirelessly on homework from the time we reach home until 10:30p. We both cry because it is difficult for the both of us. He is told that he isn't listening in class or he is distracted. However, I work with him every day and I believe that the curriculum is not age-level. This is setting them up for failure. I have not seen curriculum that teaches sentence structures and basic comprehension skills. The readings are long and too difficult. It looks like readings that I have translated in Hawaiian language courses at UH Manoa. He wants to succeed. He wants to achieve but he is told that he is not listening and treated as if he is a bad student when in reality he is in need of help and support.

I am testifying in support of this bill to prevent other keiki and mākua from experiencing what we have experienced. If there were more teachers and space available at kula kaiapuni, we would not have experienced the traumatic event for my daughter. No student should be denied access to learn the official language of our State, the mother tongue of the indigenous people of this 'āina. If there were curriculum specialists, they can support teachers in creating age-appropriate curriculum so we can see more success and happiness in our keiki. I am asking you all today to

please provide more funding for space, additional teachers, curriculum specialists, and other student supports like counseling and assistance with learning disabilities.

Mahalo iā 'oukou. Your consideration of this matter and proposed solutions are NEEDED and very much appreciated.

LATE

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 6:13:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lisa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:55:18 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josiah Rodriguez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Josiah Rodriguez, resident of Kalua‘ōlohe, Waikīkī, zipcode 96816, and I am writing in support of HB2074 HD2 to fund positions for Kula Kaiapuni.

LATE

HB-2074-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:39:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Kāko‘o piha. Teachers teaching and students learning in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i should have more support with teachers and the resources needed.