



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
Friday, March 13, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2683 HD1 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2683 HD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports passage of HB 2683 HD1, which seeks to repeal the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani (also known as the College of Hawaiian Language) (CoHL) at UH Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements that were established by Act 46, SLH 2020. The intent is to ensure that the CoHL's Hawaiian-medium laboratory schools are not subject to non-applicable English-medium standards, assessments, ratings, and requirements but instead are able to use rigorous Hawaiian-medium measures and guidelines.

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

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

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

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

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

It is also worth noting that the Early Learning Board's Road Map for the implementation of Act 46, SLH 2020 (as required by SCR 217 in 2022), specifically calls for the permanent exemption of the CoHL's laboratory programs and all Hawaiian Medium learning environments from non-applicable standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements in two of its four action items, which is what HB 2683 HD1 seeks to accomplish.

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



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

March 10, 2024

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

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

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 2683 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support Intent

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) supports H.B. No. 2683 H.D. 1 and defers to the University of Hawai'i.

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

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

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



HB2683 HD1
RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING
Senate Committee on Education

March 13, 2024

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB2683 HD1**, which repeals immediately upon enactment, the restrictions on the laboratory school programs in the college of Hawaiian language at the University of Hawaii at Hilo that could be imposed on July 1, 2026.

The classrooms established by Act 46 (SLH 2020) were envisioned to support the great need for early childhood care and education here in Hawai‘i. When OHA sought to create its strategic plan, one critical need our community expressed was the ability to provide high-quality keiki and kupuna care. The development and continued success of the classrooms not only fulfills the legislature’s vision of Act 46 but also supports a crucial need for Native Hawaiian families on Hawai‘i Island.

OHA has also greatly appreciated the ways these classrooms have been an opportunity for Hawaiian language-medium opportunities to thrive. For Hawaiians, the life of our language, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, is tied to the health and well-being of our people and culture. I ka ‘ōlelo no ke ola, i ka ‘ōlelo no ka make is a revered ‘Ōlelo No‘eau or proverb that translates to “life is in speech/language; death is in speech/language.”

Practically speaking, removing the so-called sunset date of July 1, 2026, simply allows these classrooms to remain open. However, their importance is greater than this practical implication. OHA believes this measure will provide multiple benefits including addressing the early childhood care and shortage on Hawai‘i Island and supporting the continue revitalization of our language.

We urge the Committee to advance HB2683 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



SB3087 SD1
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
Hosue Committee on Education



Committee on Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

March 13, 2024

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the Committee,

We support HB2683 HD1, which repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications and staff training requirements.

As a supporter of equity in education, we support the teaching and learning of Hawaiian language, which is an official language of the State.

University of Hawai'i at Hilo continues to develop its own unique with respect to early learning in the Hawaiian language medium. Repealing the sunset date would allow for its groundbreaking system to be refined and expanded. We support University of Hawai'i at Hilo's testimony on this measure.

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support for this measure represents at least a 75% consensus of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director



Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21

Alliance for Place Based Learning

American Civil Liberties Union

Atherton YMCA

Education Institute of Hawai'i

*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawai'i

*HawaiiKidsCAN

*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and
Economic Justice

*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

*Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawai'i Education Association

Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

* Hawai'i State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Head Start Collaboration Office

It's All About Kids

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Junior Achievement of Hawaii

Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

Kaua'i Ho'okele Council

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

Native Hawaiian Education Council

Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together

*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Special Education Provider Alliance

*Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

* Youth Service Hawai'i

Voting Members () Voting member
organizations vote on action items while
individual and non-voting participants may
collaborate on all efforts within the*

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

SUBJECT: **MEASURE:** H.B. No.2683-RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING
DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, March 13, 2024
TIME: 3:00 PM
LOCATION: Conference Room 229

FROM: Kau'i Kawauchi-Takamine, Student

E ke Kenekoa Kidani, ka Hope Kenekoa Kim, a me nā 'elele o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao, 'ano'ai me ke aloha.

My name is Kau'i Kawauchi-Takamine, I live in Waimea on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Although the commute is long, I am a student at Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u, a P-12 laboratory school of the Hawaiian Language College. I am a proud graduate of the Pūnana Leo program based in Hilo and have attended 'Alo Kēhau o ka 'Āina Mauna which is a satellite school affiliated with Nāwahī. All three campuses have a Hawaiian language curriculum. There is not a moment in my memory where I am educated outside of the Hawaiian medium education I have always known.

I strongly support Bill 2683 relating to access to learning due to its immense support of the continued success of the laboratory schools under the Hawaiian Language College. The erasure of the sunset date of this bill, the exemption of all laboratory schools of the Hawaiian Language College from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, and so on is beneficial to the performance of these programs. It is because of the uniqueness of the education at these schools that Act 46 will no longer serve a beneficial purpose if there is a sunset date. The impact on these schools will be negative.

This is the reason why I strongly urge you to support this bill. Your support will ensure that these schools will continue to provide quality education in the language of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui no kā 'oukou ho'olohe ana mai,
Thank you for your consideration,

Kau'i Kawauchi-Takamine

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

SUBJECT: MEASURE: H.B. No. 2683 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO
LEARNING

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

TIME: 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room 229

FROM: Solomon Makana Keliikuli

Aloha mai kākou ‘o wau ‘o Makana Keliikuli no Puna, Hawai‘i mai au. I am the last of five children who have graduated from Pūnana Leo O Hilo and I am a junior in Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u which is a laboratory school of the Hawaiian Language College.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 2683 that repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian Language College at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

This measure will ensure the continuation of the Hawaiian language programs and the Hawaiian language for future generations. I would like for the future generations to have similar opportunities and experiences to the ones I've had. Just last week, I had the opportunity to visit the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and spend a few days learning more about marine biology, oceanography, and issues concerning our atmosphere. This is one of many opportunities presented to me through my school, which would not be possible without their support.

Again, I strongly support Bill 2683 HD1, because I want to make sure that future generations have the same benefits that I had.

Mahalo me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,
Solomon Makana Keliikuli

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

SUBJECT: **MEASURE:** H.B. No.2683–RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING

FROM: Kamaleiku‘uipookalani Kalehuawehe

Aloha nui e Kenekoa Kidani, ka Hope Kenekoa Kim, a me nā ‘elele o ke Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao, aloha pumehana kākou.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2683. My name is Kamaleiku‘uipookalani Kalehuawehe and I am a proud parent of the Pūnana Leo o Hilo and a teacher at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. I have been an educator at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u for 7 years now and have witnessed first hand the value of education through ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. As an educator I have seen the positive impacts of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i on the lives of students and parents alike. Now, as a parent of a child attending Pūnana Leo o Hilo, I have immense responsibility to ensure that my child is educated within a highly qualified and deeply rooted Hawaiian medium education program.

I support this bill which seeks to repeal the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements that were established by Act 46 in 2020. I am not against assessments and training requirements but I do oppose the requirement of Hawaiian medium schools needing to follow English medium standards and assessments. I instead support Hawaiian medium education programs' access and usage of rigorous Hawaiian-medium measures and guidelines that align with the educational philosophies in which it was founded.

Hawaiian medium education was established to stand apart from English medium education in a sense that it is rooted in culture, language, and Hawaiian philosophy. If our children are required to be assessed by English medium standards and requirements, we are setting up our children to fail. We should really consider creating standards, assessments, and requirements that support the mission and vision of Hawaiian medium education instead of imposing foreign standards of assessments. We need to be diligent in ensuring laws that are in place, protect, preserve, and aid in the well-being of programs such as the Pūnana Leo. We have a long history of fighting for our rights to education through Hawaiian language and we have come a long way. We must do everything in our power to protect and preserve our language and culture in all ways big and small.

I sincerely urge you to support this bill in order to ensure that schools like Pūnana Leo provide quality education through ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and that Hawaiian focused assessments and standards are created to support the mission and vision of these schools.

Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,
Kamaleiku‘uipookalani Kalehuawehe



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Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
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Wednesday, March 13, 2024
TIME: 3:00PM
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Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice chair Mercado Kim and members of the Committee on Education.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo strongly supports HB 2683 HD 1 relating to access to learning.

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Ne'epapa

Kula Kamali'i

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- Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i
- Pūnana Leo o Wai'anāe
- Pūnana Leo o Kona
- Pūnana Leo o Waimea
- Pūnana Leo o Mānoa
- Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Pōko
- Pūnana Leo o Lahaina
- Pūnana Leo o Hāna
- Pūnana Leo o Nu'uānu
- Pūnana Leo o Waiāluā

HB 2683 HD1 will positively impact the laboratory school program of the Hawaiian language college for which the 'Aha Pūnana Leo statewide Hawaiian language medium early learning and care will benefit. Our program serves over 300 preschool age children each year.

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

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


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

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīōkalani'ōpu'u and the Hawaiian language college demonstrate a successful P-25 education system, leading the nation in the indigenous language revitalization movement. Although we have made progress towards a living Hawaiian language, HB 2683 HD 1 and similar legislation is needed to support the growth and expansion of the model being demonstrated.

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

HB 2683 HD 1 will provide an opportunity to continue to grow the body of research and development with the premiere US university program for language revitalization for an equitable Hawaiian medium early learning system. We urge you to pass this bill.

It is also worth noting that the Early Learning Board's Report containing a Road Map for the implementation of Act 46, SLH 2020 (pursuant to SCR 217 in 2022), specifically calls for the permanent exemption of the College of Hawaiian Language's laboratory programs and all Hawaiian Medium learning environments in two of it's four action items, which is in alignment with HB 2683 HD 1.

Mahalo nui,

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



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Committee of Education
 Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
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- Pūnana Leo o Mānoa
- Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko
- Pūnana Leo o Lahaina
- Pūnana Leo o Hāna
- Pūnana Leo o Nu'uuanu
- Pūnana Leo o Waialua

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice chair Mercado Kim and members of the Committee on Education.

The Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i is in strong support of HB 2683 HD 1, which aims to provide access to learning.

This bill will have a positive impact on the Pūnana Leo preschools and is critical for 'Aha Pūnana Leo Hawaiian language medium early learning and child care. Without the protections and considerations provided by this bill, well-intentioned government legislation applying mainstream English language medium program requirements will terminate our current programs and decimate our endangered language.

The standardized qualifications and assessments imposed on our programs are primarily based on research from large English medium universities outside Hawai'i. This research base of mainstream English medium early education includes no knowledge of what it truly takes to revitalize an endangered indigenous language. Therefore, following this research base for our successful 'Aha Pūnana Leo program would be, at a minimum, irresponsible.

Mahalo nui,
 Waialoha Ka'auwai, Site Director
 Pūnohu Meade, Lead Teacher
 Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i



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This bill will have a positive impact on the Pūnana Leo preschools and is critical for 'Aha Pūnana Leo Hawaiian language medium early learning and child care. Without the protections and considerations provided by this bill, well-intentioned government legislation applying mainstream English language medium program requirements will terminate our current programs and decimate our endangered language.

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Mahalo nui,
Keikiokanani Aldridge, Site Director
Kiani Corpuz, Lead Teacher
Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Waialua



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Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
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Pūnana Leo o Waialua

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice chair Mercado Kim and members of the Committee on Education.

The Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i is in strong support of HB 2683 HD 1, which aims to provide access to learning.

This bill will have a positive impact on the Pūnana Leo preschools and is critical for 'Aha Pūnana Leo Hawaiian language medium early learning and child care. Without the protections and considerations provided by this bill, well-intentioned government legislation applying mainstream English language medium program requirements will terminate our current programs and decimate our endangered language.

The standardized qualifications and assessments imposed on our programs are primarily based on research from large English medium universities outside Hawai'i. This research base of mainstream English medium early education includes no knowledge of what it truly takes to revitalize an endangered indigenous language. Therefore, following this research base for our successful 'Aha Pūnana Leo program would be, at a minimum, irresponsible.

Mahalo nui,

Kaipo Maika'i-Kahana'oi, Site Director
Kahea Chang, Lead Teacher
Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko



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Committee of Education
 Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
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Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice chair Mercado Kim and members of the Committee on Education.

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Mahalo nui,

U'i Ramos, Site Director
 Pueo Akina-Sumarnap, Lead Teacher
 Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i



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Aukukui

Ne'epapa

Kula Kamali'i

- Pūnana Leo o Hilo
- Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i
- Pūnana Leo o Maui
- Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i
- Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae
- Pūnana Leo o Kona
- Pūnana Leo o Waimea
- Pūnana Leo o Mānoa
- Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko
- Pūnana Leo o Lahaina
- Pūnana Leo o Hāna
- Pūnana Leo o Nu'uauu
- Pūnana Leo o Waialua

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice chair Mercado Kim and members of the Committee on Education.

The Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i is in strong support of HB 2683 HD 1, which aims to provide access to learning.

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Mahalo nui,

Kapua Rasmussen, Site Director
 Keali'i Rasmussen, Lead Teacher
 Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae



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Committee of Education
 Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
 Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
 Wednesday, March 13, 2024
 TIME: 3:00PM
 Conference Room 229

Ka Papa Alaka'i
Board of Directors

Kauanoē Kamanā
Pelekikena

Lary Kimura

William H. Wilson

Ki'ope Raymond

Huilau Wilson

Keawe Lopes

Ka Luna Ho'okele
Chief Executive Officer
 Ka'iulani J.K.N. Laehā

Ka Luna Ho'okō
Chief Operating Officer
 K. Sean Kekina

Nā Papahana
Pūnana Leo
Pūnana Leo Programs

Aukukui

Ne'epapa

Kula Kamali'i

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Mahalo nui,

Leimomi Anderson, Site Director
 Kamaka Ligon, Lead Teacher
 Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Nu'uānu



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Kula Kamali'i
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Committee of Education
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Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
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Mahalo nui,

Kili Namau'u, Site Director
Kālia Yasak, Lead Teacher
Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Maui



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Mahalo nui,

Ake Tibayan, Site Director
 Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Kona



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Kula Kamall'i

Pūnana Leo o Hilo

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Mahalo nui,

Kaleolani Ahlo, Site Director
 Moani Schenk-Lee, Lead Teacher
 Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Mānoa



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Committee of Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
TIME: 3:00PM
Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice chair Mercado Kim and members of the Committee on Education.

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Mahalo nui,

Kaohe Asing, Site Director
Maluhia O'Donnell, Lead Teacher
Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Waimea

E O I a K a ' Ō I e l o H a w a i ' i



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Committee of Education
 Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
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 TIME: 3:00PM
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The Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i is in strong support of HB 2683 HD 1, which aims to provide access to learning.

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Mahalo nui,

Kawehi Keolanui, Site Director
 Nohea Astrande, Lead Teacher
 Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Hilo



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Committee of Education
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Ka Papa Alaka'i
Board of Directors
 Kauanoa Kamanā
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Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice chair Mercado Kim and members of the Committee on Education.

Larry Kimura
 William H. Wilson
 Ki'ope Raymond
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 Keawe Lopes

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Ka Luna Ho'okele
Chief Executive Officer
 Ka'iulani J.K.N. Laehā

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Chief Operating Officer
 K. Sean Kekina

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Nā Papahana
Pūnana Leo
Pūnana Leo Programs

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 Ne'epapa

Mahalo nui,

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 Pūnana Leo o Nu'uuanu
 Pūnana Leo o Wai'alu

Kapua Rasmussen, Site Director
 Keali'i Rasmussen, Lead Teacher
 Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae



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Committee of Education
 Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
 Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
 Wednesday, March 13, 2024
 TIME: 3:00PM
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Nā Papahana
Pūnana Leo
Pūnana Leo Programs

Aukukui

Ne'epapa

Kula Kamali'i

Mahalo nui,

Pi'ikea Lono, Site Director
 Māleka Tolentino, Lead Teacher
 Kōmike Mākua, Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Pūnana Leo o Hilo
 Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i
 Pūnana Leo o Maui
 Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i
 Pūnana Leo o Wai'anāe
 Pūnana Leo o Kona
 Pūnana Leo o Waimea
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 Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko
 Pūnana Leo o Lahaina
 Pūnana Leo o Hāna
 Pūnana Leo o Nu'uānu
 Pūnana Leo o Waiālua



Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

"No 'Ane'i Ko Kākou Ola"

10 March 2024

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 03-13-2024

Time: 3:00pm

Location: Conference Room 229

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

HB2683, HD1 RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING
STRONGLY SUPPORT

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū Mercado Kim a me nā lālā Kōmike Ho'ona'auao,
Aloha pumehana kākou,

HB2683, HD1 ensures protection under Act 46 (2020) relative to distinctive Early Learning access and support for Hawaiian language medium childcare.

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

Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u **strongly supports HB2683, HD1**. If this bill does not pass, we will not be able to respond and effectively grow our current nationally recognized program. We will not be able to respond and expand our current Hawaiian medium preK program to serve more families on our long waiting list.

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

address the shortage of Hawaiian proficient certified teachers for state and charter elementary Hawaiian language programs, and helps deliver a nationally recognized quality Indigenous language medium early education program.

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

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

Nāwahī is proud to be at the forefront of Hawaiian language medium education. Nāwahī is the most developed and largest program taught through an Indigenous language of the United States. We are recognized by the US government and national foundations funding tribal schools as the gold standard model for Native America. Our program including its preK component have hosted numerous tribal educational leaders, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the head of the Office of Indian Education of the US Department of Education and other national and international education experts. As of October 2023, we were named as a core component of the new National Native American Language Resource Center of the US Department of Education to serve Indigenous language-based education in the fifty states, including the Indigenous peoples of the three US Pacific Island Territories, and the three US compact countries of the former US Trust Territories of the Pacific. The focus of this new National Center is to address education through the medium of Indigenous languages—those formerly banned and/or suppressed under US federally imposed and operated educational laws, policies and programs. HB2683 is integral in assuring Nāwahī’s ability to carry out that federally assigned responsibility.

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

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

Me ka mahalo ‘oia’i‘o,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kauanoe Kamanā". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā
Director, Principal



16-120 'Ōpūkaha'ia St
Kea'au, HI 96749
(808) 982-4260
(808) 966-7821
www.nawahi.org

Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani
'Aipia-Peters,
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,
Hope Pelekikena

Kyla Manzano
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoe
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Kayla Asing

'Ānela Freitas

No 'Ane'i Ko
Kākou Ola!

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 03-13-2024
Time: 3:00pm
Location: Conference Room 229

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

HB 2683 HD1, RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

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

My name is Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, and I am the Governing Board Chair of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki, Laboratory Public Charter School. I am providing written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2683 HD1.

We, the governing board of Nāwahī, **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB 2683 HD1 that repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements.

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

The passage of HB 2683 HD1 indicates an awareness of the significance of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo as they address the needs of and ensure the forward progress of Hawaiian language medium education.

Mahalo,

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



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

To: Senate Committee on Education

Re: **HB2683 HD1 – in strong support**

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 229

March 13, 2024; 3:00PM

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill 2683 HD1 relating to Access to Learning.**

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

By passing this bill, we are investing in the well-being of individual children and laying the foundation for a more equitable and thriving society in Hawai'i and beyond. This bill addresses a fundamental need by providing increased access to early learning opportunities, ensuring that every child, regardless of socioeconomic status, can reach their full potential.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue. **Please pass HB2683 HD1.**

Mahalo,

Chevelle Davis, MPH

Director of Early Childhood and Health Policy

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205
Kane'ohe, HI 96744
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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

For hearing Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Re: HB 2683, HD1 RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING.

Repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Do we really believe there should be universal standards for all Hawaii government schools regardless of which island the school is located on, which race or ethnicity or social class the students and teachers are, and whether the students and teachers are multigeneration kama'aina or newcomers from the mainland USA or first generation immigrants from non-English-speaking backgrounds? Do we really believe we should impose upon all students and staff a minimum set of standards

for curriculum content, assessment of student and staff performance, and staff qualifications and training requirements?

We have imposed such universal standards for many years because the students will grow up needing to make their way in Hawaii's multiracial population and economy. Then why would we want to adopt a different set of standards for ethnic Hawaiian children or children of any race merely because they are being taught through the Hawaiian language?

Do we hope and believe that the children in the laboratory school at UH-Hilo will go to live in some sort of a ghetto where Hawaiian is the predominant language of everyday usage and where employers will tolerate substandard performance? Year after year we see news reports that children in the charter schools are performing very poorly when compared to children in the standard schools; and we know that a majority of the charter schools have ethnic Hawaiian-focus curriculum and an activity-focused instructional method ("Ma ka hana ka 'ike") which fails to provide rigorous intellectual content including logical-deductive reasoning, algebra, U.S. and world history, etc.

To vote in favor of this bill is to adopt the soft bigotry of low expectations, telling the community in general, and the students and staff at these schools, that the diploma they receive is little more than a certificate of attendance and not a certificate of academic, intellectual, or vocational competency. Do not abolish the standards as a way of confessing and acquiescing to the inferiority of the education being provided; instead, fix the curriculum and instructional methods so that students will meet the standards despite the handicap of being pawns in a political game of trying to "normalize" Hawaiian language.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:35:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kupuna for the Mo'opuna	Testifying for Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT for HB 2683 HD1

Mahalo nui loa for this bill!

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 11:52:44 AM

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

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

Comments:

Kāko‘o pila HB2683

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 11:48:15 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I support this bill.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 11:54:12 AM

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

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

Comments:

Kāko‘o HB2683

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 12:00:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse P Neumann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 4:04:45 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 4:22:50 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support bill HB2683 HD 1

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 5:09:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Time: 3:00pm

Location: CR 229 &

Video conference

Testimony of Kēhaulani Medeiros

HB 2683, HD1 RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING. Repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements

KĀKO‘O, STRONGLY SUPPORT

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 5:52:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuheia St. Laurent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian parent of three keiki who attend Hawaiian Immersion at a Public Charter School, Nawahiokalaniopuu, I strongly support this bill.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 7:28:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. William H. Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Kim of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Dr. William H. Wilson. I strongly urge passage of HB 2683 HD1.

I am the longest serving faculty member of the Hawaiian language college here at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. I began here when there were only a few classes on Hawaiian language in the Foreign Language Department. I have witnessed over the past forty plus years the growth of the Hawaiian language and the contribution of that growth to the overall well-being of our state, not only for Native Hawaiians, but for all of us, including my own extended family consisting of various mixtures of Caucasian and Filipino backgrounds including some Native Hawaiians as well. Much of that growth has been due to direct attention to our program from state legislators as called for in HB 2683.

UH Hilo’s program in Hawaiian language began as a response to a grass roots community effort that began with kūpuna who wished to see the survival of the Hawaiian language and culture that they grew up with and shared with family and community members of diverse backgrounds. We have stayed committed to the wishes of those community members and have grown to our present level of development through special attention to that mission from the legislature. The legislature has provided us, as an area of state concern, with distinct structures that have allowed the growth of our program based on local knowledge and expertise, as a choice and alternative to following what is considered best practice in other states.

Specific to this bill that relates to our laboratory school program, I want to emphasize first that the legislature itself established our P-12 laboratory school program through a legislative mandate. That mandate allowed us to move forward with a curriculum based in local knowledge and our research as a College on an international level regarding education through languages and cultures that differ greatly from English and Euro-American culture. The laboratory school status has allowed us to develop such things as teaching initial reading in Hawaiian through a syllabic method that has many parallels with beginning reading instruction in Korea and Japan. We continue to research and develop distinctive ways to move education through Hawaiian

forward and include innovative ways to master English and other languages including Latin and Japanese at the elementary school and high school levels.

We see our laboratory school, especially at the early education level, as a means to develop more Hawaiian speaking teachers for the growing number of schools taught through Hawaiian and other schools in the state that want to include fluent Hawaiian speakers into their programs. Under an existing power granted by the legislature, we take in individuals who lack certification and integrate them into our laboratory early education school program. We do not simply leave them in the classroom. We include them in a week live-in summer program, a fall live-in weekend program and spring live-in weekend program, on-line courses and faculty visits and consultations. This programming then leads up a certification ladder that eventually produces fully certified teacher. These teachers have unique preparation to teach through Hawaiian and how doing so differs from teaching through English. It is a preparation that ties the teachers to local communities and to students, not only at the early education level but through to high school graduation and beyond.

Data from our laboratory school program with high school graduation and college attending rates higher than the state average attest to the benefits of earlier legislative action taken to empower our efforts. HB 2683 HD1 is an extension on an existing action of the legislature which has shown very positive results. I strongly urge passage of HB 2683 HD1.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 7:56:08 AM

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

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

Comments:

Kāko'o i ka pila!

I support this bill.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:38:23 AM

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

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

Comments:

KĀKO‘O i kēia pila e kāpae ana i ka lā palena pau o kekahi pila (Kānāwai 46 Māhele V). He kōkua kēia ma ke kāko‘o i ka holomua a me ka ulu hou a‘e o nā kula ho‘okolohua i ‘ole kāohi ‘ia i loko o ka ‘ōnaehana kaia‘ōlelo Pelekānia o ka moku‘āina.

Mahalo ka ‘ae ‘ana mai i ko‘u kāko‘o,

Na Kaipolani Kim

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 10:04:56 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:

I teach in the Hawaiian language all day. It is unfair to have our students to be tested in a language that is not used in daily instruction.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 10:20:19 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makaiwa kanui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill!

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 12:26:19 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 2:18:26 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

As a mākuā of a student at Ke Kula o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u and as a supporter of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, KĀKO‘O au i kēia pila. I SUPPORT this bill.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 4:17:34 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2683 HD1 relating to access to learning.

Mahalo!

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 6:56:31 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, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FROM: Dr. Dawn Kaleihökü Kala‘i-Aguiar

Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

RE: **HB2683 HD1, Relating to Access to Learning**

Hearing on March 13, 2024

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2683 HD1

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 the Pūnana Leo O Hilo and Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u (Nāwahī) Hawaiian language medium laboratory school programs of Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani (Ka Haka ‘Ula) College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2683 HD1**, which seeks to repeal the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of Ka Haka ‘Ula from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements. Ka Haka ‘Ula has been instrumental in developing Hawaiian-medium standards, assessments, etc. for their laboratory schools since 1997 when the Pūnana Leo and Nāwahī first became laboratory schools. Ka Haka ‘Ula remains committed to leading improvements in Hawaiian language medium education by

fostering innovative ideas in research, curriculum development, teacher training and program growth with the intent of revitalizing the Hawaiian language to its status as a living language once again.

I urge the Committee to **PASS HB2683 HD1**. Mahalo nui loa!

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 3:57:55 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha,

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

Mahalo,

Jess Waia‘u

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:55:23 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support the bill that repeals the sunset date of the exemption of Hawaiian medium school to take English language assessments Please make this exemption indefinite!

mahalo,

Andrea Lehua Kekipi-Aurio, RN, MSN

parent of students of Ke kula 'o Nawahiokalaniopuu

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:23:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hoku Pihana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kākou,

I absolutely support HB2683. My children are a product of the Kula Kaiapuni system and believe their growth and identity as Kanaka 'Ōiwi were strengthened by our Kula Kaiapuni system. It is imperative that our Kula Kaiapuni are supported in perpetuity to ensure the Hawaiian Language lives and thrives and that are Kanaka 'Ōiwi haumana are rooted in who they are as Hawaiians and see themselves as relevant. Passing this legislation must happen and is vital in acknowledging the ancestral and genealogical ties Kanaka 'Ōiwi with Hawai'i Nei.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:44:05 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2683 to allow Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, College of Hawaiian Language, to continue its efforts in revitalizing and normalizing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:14:20 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:

The Committee's support of HB2683 shall insure the quality of Hawai'i's distinct philosophy of Hawaiian medium education the Kumu Honua Maui Ola Hawai'i via the College of Hawaiian Language and its Hawaiian medium laboratory school programs. Mahalo for yourr Kāko'o.

Dr. Larry Kimura

College of Hawaiian Language

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:34:43 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 au i kēia pila no ka pono o ka ho‘ona‘auao ‘ia o nā kamali‘i o Hawai‘i nei.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:31:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Saft	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a professor at UH-Hilo and I fully support this bill.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:30:41 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 HB2683.

Mahalo nui!