



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

February 21, 2024

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

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.

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

FROM: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: **Measure:** H.B. No. 2683 HD 1 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING
Hearing Date: Friday, February 23, 2024
Time: 10:00 am
Location: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 308

Early Learning Board Position: Support Intent

The Early Learning Board, governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning, supports H.B. No. 2683 HD 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 family’s home language and culture into our collective work on behalf of children. EOEL 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 the Early Learning Board, through the “Road Map, Including Proposed Legislation, for Implementation of Act 046, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020” pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 217 (2022).

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

By
Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor

HB 2683 HD1 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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 can 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 in-service 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.



HB2683 HD1
RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING
House Committee on Finance

February 23, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 308

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 sunset 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 education shortage on Hawai‘i Island and supporting the continued revitalization of our language.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2683 HD1, especially during ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Month. **We urge the committee to pass this measure.**

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



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Date: Friday, February, 23, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Room: 308

HB 2683, HD1 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha,

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act beneficiary kūpuna farmers from Pana'ewa, Hawai'i, submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2683, HD1**.

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

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

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

Please support and pass HB 2683, HD1. Mahalo!

To: House Committee on Finance

Re: HB2683 HD1 – in strong support

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 308

February 23, 2024; 10:00AM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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



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Ka Papa Alaka'i
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Nā Papahana
Pūnana Leo
Pūnana Leo Programs

Aukukui

Ne'epapa

Kula Kamali'i

- Pūnana Leo o Hilo
- Pūnana Leo o Kaula'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'uanu
- Pūnana Leo o Waiāluā

Committee of Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Friday, February 23, 2024
TIME: 10:00am
Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee on Finance.

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

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.

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 over 300 Hawaiian language speaking families each year in various communities throughout the state.

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

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and the Hawaiian language college demonstrate a successful P-25 education system, leading the nation in the indigenous language revitalization movement. Although we have made progress towards a living Hawaiian language, 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 its 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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Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani
'Aipia-Peters,
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,
Hope Pelekikena

Kyla Manzano
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoe
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Kayla Asing

'Ānela Freitas

No 'Ane'i Ko
Kākou Ola!

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 02-23-2024
Time: 10:00am
Location: Conference Room 309

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 Mālama Kālā, 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 ensure the continuance of our progress in Hawaiian Medium education and language revitalization. These exemptions also address the need for strategic and relevant assessments that do not defer to English Medium education laws and policies.

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

Māhalo,

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



Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

"No 'Ane'i Ko Kākou Ola"

22 February 2024

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: 02-23-2024

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Conference Room 308

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

HB2683, RELATING ACCESS TO LEARNING **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Yamashita, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kitagawa a me nā lālā Kōmike Kālā, Aloha pumehana kākou,

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

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

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 professional 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 Mauli Ola philosophy and in the full use and study of the Hawaiian language.

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

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

Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u **strongly supports HB2683**. If this bill does not pass, we will not be able to respond and effectively grow our current nationally recognized program. We will not be able to respond and expand our current Hawaiian medium preK program to serve more families on our long waiting list. Nāwahī is not opposed to the Governor’s Office of Early Education developing a means for the state to provide early education through Hawaiian following the law and its provisions that are based in years of research by the national English medium preschool research establishment in major universities. We support that as a choice for families.

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

Me ka mahalo ‘oia‘i‘o,



Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā
Director, Principal

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:51:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:58:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair, Vice Chair, a me Committee Members,

As a makua of 2 keiki in Hawaiian Immersion School I support this bill. Please pass HB2683.

Mahalo nui loa,

Shannon M.

Ola'a Resident

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:23:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Kāko‘o HB2683

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 3:49:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a makua of 3 keiki who are currently attending Hawaiian Immersion schools, I support this bill!

E ola ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:01:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2683 as a parent of keiki that attend Hawaiian Immersion schools.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:04:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin ODonnell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

As a parent of a Hawaiian language medium education student, I support this bill!

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:18:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Taelalii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Mahalo.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:05:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:00:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: Friday, February 23, 2024

Time: 10:00am

Location: House conference room 308

Via Video conference

Testimony of Kēhaulani Medeiros

HB2683 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)

KĀKO‘O, STRONGLY SUPPORT

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:30:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:49:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2683. Mahalo!

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 5:59:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Kāko‘o HB2683

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:30:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Kāko‘o piha!

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 8:59:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Vice Chair Kitagawa of the House Finance Committee,

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

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 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 is an extension on an existing action of the legislature which has shown very positive results. I strongly urge passage of HB 2683.

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:06:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Welina,

KĀKO‘O au i nei 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.

Na Kaipolani Kim

HB-2683-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:06:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB2683! Please support it also!

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Lā Ho‘olohe: Po‘alima, 23 Pepeluali 2024

Hola: 10:00am

Wahi: Conference Room 308

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike na:

Kyla Manzano

PO Box 492528

Kea‘au HI 96749

HB 2683 HD 1 Relating to Access to Learning

STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Aloha mai e ka mea heluhelu,

My name is Kyla Keakealani Manzano and I am writing in support of HB 2683 HD 1. As an educator in the Hawaiian Medium Education pathway I know first hand how vital it is for our school, our teachers and our students not to be put in the same category box as an English Medium school. We are not the same and we should not be held back by the standards and requirements of the English Medium Education way.

Mahalo nui,

Kyla Manzano

KELEPONA: (808)205-4376

HELU WAHI: PO BOX 492528 KEA‘AU HI 96749