

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 5:56:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Curen Ohama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill, I've bin substituting for Kaiapuni o Kekaulike full time this year & I need help. I'm trying my best but I'm mainly there because the new Kumu position didn't get filled over the summer. We lose many Kumu to Kamehameha because the cost of living is just so high here at home in Hawaii. The state has to try it's best to increase pay and resources.  
please pass SB2609

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 8:18:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keke Manera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I fully support Senate Bill 2069. We need more kumus for our ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i schools. After all we're in Hawai‘i.**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 1:06:08 PM

# Testimony for Measure SB-2072

ony

Comments:

Until culture based education is incorporated into the DOE, funding, in all ways possible, culture based immersion schools is what is going to continue to uplift the lāhui and keep the true essence of Hawai‘i alive. So yes, I support all bills that will fund the hiring and keeping of staff and curriculum that will achieve such goals.

January 28, 2024

Aloha mai e Senator Kidani, Senator Kim, and the members of the Education Committee,

My name is Rebecca Kapolei Kiili. I am writing to express my **strong support** for SB 2069. As a Kumu Kaiapuni, Hawaiian Language Immersion Program (HLIP) teacher for my entire public school teaching career of 18 years on Maui, I can attest to the need for more positions to support the growth of our program here and across the state. Maui has a total of seven schools in three communities that have Kula Kaiapuni programs. The communities are Lahaina, Hamakua-Kula, and Hāna. Island wide, we have approximately 800 students in grades K-12 and approximately 90 in the three 'Aha Pūnana Leo preschools. This is almost one thousand students just in Maui who are enrolled in our Hawaiian language programs.

Teacher positions are critical to meeting this high demand in growth at all schools-elementary, middle, and high school in each of the three communities. The current weighted student formula that school's use for student enrollment does not necessarily work for all school types. For example, a rural school like Hāna has to balance out the need for upper level teachers in content areas for middle and high school programs with the need for more elementary teachers. Funding ten more teacher positions would not only help support smaller schools, but also support schools like mine where our program is a part of a larger high school.

Having curriculum specialist positions would also support our programs statewide to develop curriculum for all grade levels. For a long time, many Kaiapuni teachers have had to create their own curriculum because there were no dedicated positions to support this. Respectfully, the HIDOE is behind in providing curriculum specialists. As a long time teacher, I feel some sense of relief and hope that these positions will significantly improve the quality of curriculum for our students. I do hope that the positions will be equally allocated across all of the islands so that neighbor island schools get just as much attention as O'ahu schools.

Funding these teacher positions and curriculum specialists positions is vital to our program's continued success. Reaching the milestone of 30 years of Hawaiian language education in the HIDOE, these positions are essential and paramount. Again, I **strongly support** SB 2069 and trust that all of you will support the intentions of this bill which are to further the education of our students in the native Hawaiian language of our state.

Thank you for your time and supporting your constituents.

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Kapolei Kiili*

Rebecca Kapolei Kiili

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 6:06:21 PM

# Testimony for Measure SB-2069

ony

Comments:

Aloha Senate Chair Kidani and Legislators.

The passage of Senate Bill 2069 to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists is a common sense measure that would support the continued growth and demand for Hawaiian immersion education ma Hawai‘i nei. As an official language of this ‘āina, the State of Hawai‘i needs to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated so that those keiki and ‘ohana who choose Kula Kaiapuni receive the quality education they deserve.

I urge you to support Ka Papahana Kaiapuni and the cultural legacy that they represent by passing this bill.

Me ka mahalo,

Kapulani Antonio

kapulani66@gmail.com

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 7:17:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin ODonnell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai ka ‘āina o ka Ua Kīpu‘upu‘u,

My name is Erin ODonnell, I submit testimony in SUPPORT of SB2069 as someone who has been a part of the Hawaiian Medium Education Movement for over 14 years and is a parent of student in a kula kaia‘ōlelo. Resources are SLIM for kula kaiapuni schools as well as kula kaia‘ōlelo. Our students deserve to be treated as more than 2nd class citizens, they deserve the same, if not MORE, resources as English Medium Education. It is the DUTY of the state to fulfill it’s commitment to 2 pathways of education, especially given the history of Hawai‘i and how we went from a thriving DOE system under the Kingdom of Hawai‘i with over 400 schools teaching students all subjects in Hawaiian to 0 after the overthrow of our Kingdom and the law which followed and was upheld until 1986 which banned the use of Hawaiian as a language of instruction. This proved critically detrimental to our language, nearly causing its extinction. To right this wrong as our kula kaiapuni and kula kaia‘ōlelo schools increase due to demand, so should its resources, increasing the number of teachers is the MINIMUM the state can do at this point. This should not be the only additional resource, our students and their teachers deserve better facilities and more support. Kaiapuni teachers put in exponentially more hours to ensure their students AND their families are engaged. Not only do kaiapuni teachers have to put in extra hours preparing lesson plans, they have to be out engaging in the community to garner support. Please PASS 2069 and consult with OHE, the teachers union, and other organizations to learn the countless other ways the State needs to show it’s support of kaiapuni and kaia‘ōlelo schools. Mahalo for your time.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 7:42:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Napua Casson-Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and the allocation of resources for more staff for our kula kaiapuni in Hawaii.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:55:12 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The greatest need in the DOE and Education system in Hawaii is to bring the funding and support to kaiapuni program . The needs is great and the additional funds and teacher expansion in needed. Please support the well deserved funding and support as being asked for in this bill.

I am in full support

Pahnelopi McKenzie



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:08:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vanessa Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Sending a written testimony of why I support this bill. WE ARE HAWAII. We live and breathe Hawai'i and our language and culture cannot be depleted or ignored. The more resources and backing we have for our communities will keep our Hawaiian culture/language growing. We will be able to normalize what was once frowned upon, into something so beautiful again. All of my 3 keiki go to a Hawaiian Language speaking and learning school. I've found it to be so important for our Hawaiian people to be able to confidently speak our native language. Others from all over the world speak of their native languages, and Hawai'i needs to be more active and more encouraging for Hawaiians to speak Hawaiian. Even if you are not Hawaiian and you are of this place. We practice Hawaiian culture thankfully through many different ways still to this day. Hula, imu, canoe paddling and so forth. We are missing the language. This is a great step in the right direction. Please continue to keep our place, special.

mahalo nui,

Vanessa Lum

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2069 - RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024

Chair Kidani, Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kaala Fay Camara and I am a charter school Hawaiian Language Immersion curriculum coordinator at Kualapuu Conversion Charter School on the island of Molokai, and I support Bill SB 2069, relating to the department of education. This bill appropriates funds to the DEO for the establishment of 3 full time curriculum specialist positions and 10 full time classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

Even though our Conversion Charter Elementary school is small compared to other schools in Hawaii, we provide the only Elementary Hawaiian Immersion program on the island of Molokai for the past 30 years, beginning in 1993. As so, we have had to develop a much needed curriculum from the ground up for grades K-6. Regardless, the quality of education provided our students is of great priority, ensuring standards aligned curriculum is integrated in all subject areas, teacher certification is sought and pedagogy and research based strategies and assessments are provided. We are grateful for materials and resources that have been developed by Hale Kuamoo of UH-Hilo Ka Haka Ula o Keelikolani program, KS Publishing, and the Aha Punana Leo. But all of these still fall short of the State's obligation to provide much needed reading, writing, math and science resources for our growing population of Hawaiian Language learners, especially when it comes to modified instruction, materials and manipulatives for Hawaiian Language Special Education students and the services that should be provided to them. Because of the lack of materials, we, at Kualapu'u school have also grown to develop our own reading materials published and sold on amazon for other Kaiapuni schools to use. All of these forward thinking processes and resource development at our small school on Molokai has been due to the foresight of great leaders, administration, and teachers that see the importance and need for Curriculum Resource positions in our schools to continue to develop resources that help fill the gap in our Papahana Kaiapuni programs when it comes to certified teachers and standard aligned and research based curriculum and assessments. In the past we have had to write for our own state and federal grants to help supplement our Curriculum Coordinator position for many years, and now use our student weighted formula funds to continue to have this position that helps develop curriculum and support our Kaiapuni teachers with the most up to date research based strategies for student engagement and achievement.

To provide much needed resources for our growing Papahana Kaiapuni Schools and to fill the gap of years of lack of necessary resources, we ask your committee to support this bill.

Mahalo nui loa!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:30:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Duke H.Au Hoon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a kanaka Maoli of the Hawaiian Kingdom, As the ‘Aha Kauleo parent representative of Kalama intermediate school, Maui grades 6-8. As the head of my family. We are in full support of Senate bill SB2069 .Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) curriculum specialist II positions and ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:05:16 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katina Soares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Katina Soares and I am the principal/po‘okumu of Molokai High School and O Hina I Ka Malama (our Hawaiian Language Immersion Program). As a small, remote and Kaiapuni school, we struggle to have enough funds to effectively support student learning goals. Kaiapuni is no exception. We currently have 2.5 Kaiapuni teachers who cover all high school content areas. One (1) of the 2.5 positions is funded through these categorical funds and our program would be non-existent without it. As a Committee on Weights member, I have explored through the committee, funding these positions through Weighed Student Formula (WSF) Funds to meet the growing demand of Kaipuni across the state. There is just not enough WSF funding to go around. I ask you to please pass Senate Biill 2069 as it is all of our responsibility to ensure that Hawaiian Language, Culture and Education thrives.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:14:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bruce Fischer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support Senate Bill 2069 to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists as we experience a growth in Hawaiian-medium education statewide. These positions are essential to sustaining healthy growth of programs so that our children receive a quality education in Hawaiian.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:54:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Irwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

E na kenekoa hanohano o ke komike hoonaauao, aloha nui oukou!

Honorable senators of the Education Committee, warm greetings to each and all!

I write in support o SB2069 appropriating funds for 3 Papahana Kaiapuni curriculum specialists, and 10 full-time equivalent Papahana Kaiapuni classroom teachers. As noted in the preamble of the bill, the Hawaiian Language Immersion program has undergone significant growth over the past decade without a correspondingly significant investment of resources to meet the community’s demand for this popular approach to education. Bill SB2069 is a step towards rectifying this inequitable situation.

As a member of the Hawaiian language curriculum and resource development team at the Hale Kuamo‘o Hawaiian Language Center at UH Hilo, I am watching in awe as kaiapuni communities continue to grow due to surging interest across the pae aina (island chain).

I applaud the legislature for its past support of Kaiapuni schools, and urge the members of your esteemed committee to continue appropriating funding supporting the ongoing success of dedicated kumu kaiapuni teachers and curriculum specialists serving the needs of students and families. These resources are critical to support all who wish to pursue an education through the olelo makuahine (mother language) of Hawai‘i, as communities rise to revitalize this heritage language of our places, perpetuating insights, knowledge, terminology, unique perspectives, and cultural identity embedded in the olelo of our aina.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Irwin

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:09:24 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hokulani Holt-Padilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings, It is with great pleasure that I submit support of SB2069. I have experienced first-hand the benefits of Hawaiian language immersion education. My daughter experienced her entire P-12 education in the Hawaiian language Kaiapuni system and has flourished in her personal and professional life. She currently has a PhD and is working on her second one. All this means is that her Hawaiian immersion education has given her a love for education and her culture. This only could have happened because she had caring teachers who gave her the support and education that she needed to flourish in her language. I support with no reservation SB2069.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:11:31 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lehua Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2069 as Kaiapuni Schools are always short on teachers and this bill is not asking for too much. Please support our students in Kaiapuni Schools. Mahalo.



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:31:59 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
casie pearce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support this bill to appropriate funding for teachers. we need good teachers just like every other school everywhere, and teachers need funding. they took the time to get their degrees and certifications, they deserve to be thought about and honored and appropriately compensated.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:54:44 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacquelyn Naeole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaiian Immersian program is essential to the continued growth and revitalization of the Hawaiian Language, culture, and it's people. The program has been in dire need of more teachers and suport staff for years. Any 'ohana and/or keiki who want to be educated deserve the chance. Passing this bill will allow more 'ohana to actively participate in their culture and continue to educate and support the next generation of Native Hawaiian leaders. Though the program and the native hawaiian community need and deserve more; this bill is a start.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:05:11 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kulamanu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support SB 2069 to

meet the resources and support kaiapuni demands:

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

Provide expertise to promote Kaiapuni pedagogy training, Curriculum development, Support for Kaiapuni teacher growth, and increase qualified teacher candidates.

Mahalo for your support and vote to pass this bill.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:11:45 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hope McKeen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui e nā lālā ho‘ona‘auao

I encourage you to fund these positions. Hawaiian Immersion has grown exponentially in the last 20 years and the budget has not. These positions will support the already growing choice of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i for keiki of Hawai‘i.

Na‘u nō

Hope Pualani McKeen

January 29, 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: SB 2069, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Committee on Education Hearing  
Wednesday, January 31, 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 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 if passed.

As a former public school librarian, I do 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. **There is a tremendous lack of ready resources that offer the perspective of the Hawaiian world view.** That means, not only do Kaiapuni teachers need to find, translate and teach from resources that others have created, they also need to switch from a Western/Non-Hawaiian perspective to that of a Native Hawaiian perspective to ensure that no matter the content area, Hawaiian culture, language, and ways of being are being taught. Having more curriculum coordinators would help to lighten this load on the classroom teacher by assisting in finding and developing these materials as needed.
3. **Kaipuni classroom teacher position numbers are not keeping pace with student growth.** More and more students are choosing to immerse themselves in Hawaiian language, history and culture, yet the number of Ka Papahana Kaiapuni teachers has not grown along with it. Successful immersion programs rely heavily on teacher quality AND quantity. It's high time to make this right.

In closing, the Ka Papahana Kaiapuni positions noted in SB 2069 are badly needed and I am urging 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

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:21:28 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Noel Shaw and I am writing in support of SB 2069 to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialist for the Kula Kaiapuni.

Our eldest keiki is a student at Anuenue and our middle keiki a student at Pūnana leo O Mānoa preschool. Their great grandfather was told not to speak Hawaiian growing up. Their grandmother was not allowed to learn it in schools and taught it was a waste of time unless used for commercial gain. And the Hawaiian immersion program was just starting when I was a kid, thus I'm trying to learn now. It's been three generations since we've been able to commit to learning Hawaiian or have had some resource to be able to do so, including the political will.

The increased demand for access to Hawaiian language public education comes with a collective understanding that restorative justice requires us to make 'ike Hawai'i central to how Hawai'i functions. It comes on cusp of reclaiming Hawaiian knowledge ways as crucial to our collective ability to continue to live in Hawai'i.

This bill push us closer to supporting the needs of our Hawaiian immersion programs. Justice demands bringing back resources to spaces that they were wrongfully taken from. The increased enrollment in the Kaiapuni also demonstrate how families are invested in the Kaiapuni as an educational track for their keiki.

Let us full heartedly commit to resourcing these spaces!

Mahalo,

Noel

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:29:33 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of **SB2069**. Mahalo.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:35:28 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori Lei Ishikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I support SB2069 relating to the Department of Education Hawaiian Language Immersion Education Ka Papahana Kaiapuni Schools. I support the appropriate funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of three full-time Papahana Kaiapuni curriculum, specialist II, and 10 full-time equivalent Ka Papahana Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions.

Dr. Lori Lei Ishikawa



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:40:03 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Wieting	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Julia Wieting and I am a parent of a first grade student at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Anuenue. I am also a former teacher, at Le Jardin Academy and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

Please fund teacher and support positions at kula kaupuni so that schools may open or expand close to where students live. It's clear that kula kaiapuni like 'Anuenue do everything they can to leverage the resources they has to educate all of its students. It would be much easier for them to meet the needs of their students if some students did not have to come so far. Although the hours spent bussing from the West side are a testament to students' (and their 'ohana's) dedication, it must take a toll on their ability to be present and high functioning in class. Practically, well functioning students are much easier to teach than poorly functioning students--any teacher would agree. While the State cannot influence many aspects of students' lives, it can at least influence how easy it is for them to get to school.

Funding educator positions at kaupuni also addresses equitable access to Hawaiian language education. Students should have the option to attend kaiapuni schools as close as possibly to their own communities, especially those that have large Hawaiian populations. My daughter is fortunate that we live within walking distance of Anuenue school -- one of the handful that do. In many ways my family does not face the challenges of other kaiapuni families. I wish for them what my child benefits from.

In conclusion, please pass SB2069 to increase the number of teachers available at kula kaupuni. The new positions will relieve significant pressure that already exists on the schools and their families. School enrollment is unlikely to go down significantly at current campuses given the overall increasing demand for kaiapuni education. Teacher funding will demonstrate the state's support to successful Hawaiian language education pathways.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

ke aloha,

Julia Wieting

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** Keonilei Lealiifano

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

E ola ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

My name is Keonilei Lealiifano and I am a Parent of 2 children in Kaiapuni, and 1 soon to enter in 2024-2025 school year, also have a sister who is a Kaiapuni teacher for nearly 10 years, and also taught in a Kaiapuni school. I am an affiliate of ‘aha kauleo. He ‘ohana kaiapuni kākou.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

There’s a large amount of families wanting to choose Kaiapuni schools which we’ve seen in the demand for more schools opening, 9 new schools in just under 10 years, with an increase of 1,000 students and their families that the Kaiapuni system supports. Still, with increased placements for students, people are still being turned away. Currently, only 35 teachers are funded for over 22 schools across the state of Hawaii. With 1 island still without funding for Kaiapuni education. This bill SB2069 will address the dire need for funding to increase teaching and special resource faculty.

The state of Hawaii has 2 official languages, and therefore rightly so, public education has 2 pathways, English and Hawaiian. Both have equal standing in importance and legality in our state constitution and therefore, we should see more representation of Hawaiian education on the BOE with secure seats for Kaiapuni representation. This secures Hawaiian education within the BOE’s objectives and commitments.

This bill, SB2064 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), 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.

In conclusion, I strongly support SB2069, and feel the state needs to pass this to ensure constitutional requirements of the needs of the Hawaiian education community which is undeniably growing in number and support.

I strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:56:34 AM

# Testimony for Measure SB-2052

ony

Comments:

*My name is Tina Mochida and I am a Native Hawaiian that resides in Senate District 10. I recently heard of this bill and the need to fund the positions. I strongly support SB 2069.*

*Thank you.*

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:57:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kehau Llanos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o au i ka pila SB2069. E ho‘omau i ke a‘o ‘ana aku i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, ke ‘olu‘olu. Mahalo nui!

Kēhaunani Llanos

Kumu Kula Papa 5

Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Ānuenue

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:02:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kauanoë Kamana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ola ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i!!!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:06:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill SB 2069 which appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) curriculum specialist II positions and ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

The Kaiapuni schools are integral to our island future. I would like to comment that this statement in the bill ""Therefore, to provide quality educational opportunities for prospective and continuing Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students, additional positions will provide new Ka Papahana Kaiapuni program school sites and classrooms with the faculty necessary to facilitate daily student instruction, strengthening the overall educational foundation for Hawaiian language immersion education." be amended to better reflect the excellent paths in our Kaiapuni schools to say " Therefore, to "continue" to provide quality..... the way it currently reads makes it sound like those opportunities are not there now, which we know is not the case.

Again, I support this bill and believe that our \$\$\$ spent assisting our schools is \$\$ well spent.



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:11:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theresa Tehiva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Theresa K. Tehiva and I am a parent of a Kaiapuni 7th grade student who currently attends Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Kapolei.

I am testifying in a **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to 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).

Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

There has been an increase of 9 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.

In conclusion,

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:11:54 PM

# Testimony for Measure SB-2071

ony

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:** Keke Manera  
[Halau Kuhikuhi ]

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Keke Manera and I am parent to a student currently attending Ānuenue. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

I strongly support SB2069 because I feel it very important to support our teachers and schools, **ESPECIALLY** the ones that are teaching 'Ōlelo Hawai'i because after all we're in Hawai'i

- Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools
- There has been an increase of 9 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.
- There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.
- Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.

- There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

In conclusion with everything that was listed it shows that these teachers and schools do in fact need our support.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**Mahalo nui! I hope you all do the right thing. For nā keiki!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:13:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Miki Kama-Manoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Miki Kama-Manoa. I am writing this testimony in support of Kula Kaiapuni. The Hawaiian Language Immersion Program was a crucial part of my upbringing. Without Kula Kaiapuni, I would not know Hawaiian language and/or Hawaiian culture. Because I was raised in poverty with limited resources, it was only through the Kaiapuni program that I was able to get intouch with my culture and native tongue. Without Kaiapuni, I probably would not have been as successful with my academic goals and wins. As a Native Hawaiian, I can tell you, if I wasn't in Kaiapuni, I probably would know nothing about our culture, language, and traditions, and it is only through Kaiapuni that I was able to acquire this knowledge. Mahalo e ke Kula Kaiapuni no ke a'o 'ana i nā kama 'o Hawai'i nei.

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: Pōmaika'i Brandt  
Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo

RE: SB2069  
Hearing on January 31, 2031  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069

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

My name is Pōmaika'i Brandt and I am a graduate of the papahana kaiapuni, a kumu, a parent, a supporter and is a supporter of 'Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I unequivocally support SB2069, recognizing its pivotal role in allocating crucial funds to the Department of Education (DOE). This financial backing is instrumental in facilitating 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, specifically dedicated to Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

Presently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions spread across 22 schools statewide. However, the educational landscape has evolved with an increase of 8 new Kaiapuni schools in the last decade, resulting in nearly 1,000 additional students. Unfortunately, numerous families seeking enrollment in Kaiapuni schools are turned away during registration due to capacity constraints.

Furthermore, there are currently six complex areas, including one entire island, where the DOE has yet to provide access to Kaiapuni education. SB2069 addresses these challenges head-on, ensuring that the State fulfills its constitutional responsibilities outlined in Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

This legislation is vital for upholding equitable access to resources and education, specifically in the realm of Hawaiian immersion education across all islands in Hawaii's public schools. It

aligns with and reinforces the guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8, emphasizing the State's commitment to providing quality education for students enrolled in Kaiapuni schools.

Moreover, SB2069 addresses a critical gap by acknowledging that public education comprises two language pathways, English and Hawaiian. Despite this, Hawaiian education is not adequately represented within the Board of Education. This bill takes a significant step towards rectifying this disparity and ensuring that both language pathways receive fair and comprehensive representation at the highest levels of educational governance.

In summary, SB2069 is not merely a commendable initiative; it is a necessary and timely response to the evolving educational landscape in Hawaii. By strategically appropriating funds, this bill addresses staffing shortages, enrollment challenges, and systemic gaps to foster the growth and success of Kaiapuni schools, thereby contributing to the overall improvement of public education in the state.

In summary, SB2069 is a vital response to Hawaii's educational challenges, addressing staffing shortages and enrollment constraints, particularly within Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools, through essential financial support. The commitment to establishing curriculum specialist II and classroom teacher positions reflects a dedicated effort to meet the evolving needs of the educational system. In navigating a changing landscape marked by an increase in Kaiapuni schools and student populations, SB2069 actively endeavors to bridge existing gaps. Aligning with broader objectives outlined in BOE policy 105-8, the bill ensures equitable access to resources, upholds constitutional responsibilities, and commendably addresses the underrepresentation of Hawaiian education within the Board of Education. In essence, SB2069 is more than commendable; it constitutes a necessary and vital measure, laying the groundwork for the growth and success of Kaiapuni schools and significantly contributing to the overall enhancement of public education across the state through strategic fund allocation.

I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:20:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christine Danielson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

As an educator in the University of Hawai‘i system, it is of critical importance that an increasing amount of funds and positions be allocated to support ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i immersion schools and educators. Not only is our local economy dependent on a healthy and thriving Hawaiian culture, such a culture cannot continue to exist and grow without a robust educational support network. We owe it to ourselves to support and expand these programs. Expanding availability of positions and monies, to this end, will pay back in dividends!

Mahalo palena ‘ole for your time.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:23:04 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hannah Aldridge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

He mākua au i 3 keiki ma ke kaiapuni. Kāko‘o wau I kēia. Pono i nā kumu!

I am a parent of 3 keiki in the Kaiapuni pathway. I support this bill. We need Kumu!

mahalo,

Keikiokanani Aldridge



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:28:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Aloha mai kākou,**

**I am writing to strongly support SB 2069 to increase the resources allocated for teaching positions and curriculum specialists for the Department of Education Hawaiian Language Immersion Education program, Ka Papahana Kaiapuni.**

**Before becoming a parent, I remember standing alongside my friends, colleagues, and other community members while we demanded fair access to the opportunity to put our keiki into Hawaiian immersion educational programs. Now as a parent, I have seen the tremendous growth in the number of students and families who choose to engage in this educational experience while also building community and a foundation in Hawaiian ways of experiencing the world through language and immersive practices.**

**Additional resources for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni should be a no brainer for the Department of Education. You will be using our tax dollars to meet the clearly demonstrated growing demand for Hawaiian language public education throughout Hawai'i by hiring more qualified teachers and curriculum experts to fulfill the needs of the program and developing learning materials, acquiring necessary equipment and creating new programs and sites to serve the communities. In addition, there is a need for specialists to support students with disabilities including learning differences who are also enrolled in Kaiapuni. Equal access and equal resources are needed overall to effectively support and monitor the academic success of all its students.**

**Mahalo,**

**K. Newhouse**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:33:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo Chair, Senator Kidani and Vice Chair, Senator Kim for the opportunity to address this committee.

My name is Ho'oleia Ka'eo. I am a graduate of the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program and **I strongly support SB 2069**. The Kaiapuni program is a vital lifeline for the perpetuation of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian Language). The program has grown exponentially from its inception and I urge the Education Committee to support its continual growth by supporting and passing **SB 2069**.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:52:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaylene Naeole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the **SB2069 bill**.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:54:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole K Andrade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Nicole Andrade and I have been blessed to be born and raised in Waialua. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to attend Hawaiian immersion as this was not offered in my community. Now that it is, we are looking forward to sending our keiki to the new Hale'iwa Kaiapuni this upcoming school year BUT we need a kumu. Please help our community make this a reality.

Mahalo!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:07:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kele Sipman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2069, which aims to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists for Kaiapuni education. The demand for Hawaiian language public education has grown significantly, necessitating additional resources.

SB2069 provides essential support for new teacher positions, program expansion, and classroom materials. This investment is vital for preserving Hawaiian culture and preparing students for a diverse world. The bill also addresses the need for Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, and teacher support.

I urge you to support SB2069 to ensure a high-quality education and attract qualified educators for Kaiapuni programs.

**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:** Leimomi Ka‘aihili Leong, DOE SPED/Kaiapuni Teacher, Maunaloa resident, Parent of 2 keiki kaiapuni, member of HSTA Hawaiian Education Special Committee, member of ‘Aha Kauleo, DOE advisory committee

**RE:** **SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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 SB 2069 - Relating to Education.**

The Department of Education has **two educational pathways**, English medium and Hawaiian medium. Kaiapuni (Hawaiian immersion) is not a program outside of the department's educational responsibilities. This bill will be a start to **equitable access to resources and education** for the Hawaiian medium educational pathway on all islands and to **uphold Board of Education policy 105-8.**

By supporting this bill you will ensure that the **State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**

The department has not done its due diligence in equitable access by **funding** 35 positions across the state for 22 schools which **has not changed in over 10 years.** It is clear that the community demand for kaiapuni education is increasing. Student enrollment has increased by almost 1,000 students in the past 10 years but there has not been an increase in resources. This is not for Hawaiian keiki only, students enrolled are of all ethnicities. There is actually a greater demand than 1,000 students because many families are denied access to Hawaiian medium education.

Although 8 new schools have opened in the past 10 years, more communities are trying to open in their community and have licensed teachers (Such as Keonepoko Elementary) but the DOE has not responded to the educational rights of the community. The DOE also does not provide access to kaiapuni on the entire island of Kaua‘i along with 6 other complex areas across the state.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to please **PASS SB 2069** 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**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:17:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hali Kanoelani Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Hali Kanoelani Pacheco

Kaiapuni Graduate

Former Kaiapuni Teacher

Current Kaiapuni Teacher Advocate, UH Maui College

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Support of S.B. No. 2069, Relating to the Department of Education

Aloha nui e nā lālā o ka ‘aha ‘ōlelo (legislators). My name is Hali Kanoelani Pacheco and I am a Papahana Kaiapuni graduate (2015), teacher (2019-2021), and now teacher advocate. My work now at the University of Hawai‘i Maui College includes a teacher pathway program for those who are interested in becoming licensed teachers. I am writing in support of senate bill 2069 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.

It has been amazing to see how much this program has flourished since I was a student. In the past decade Kaiapuni student enrollment has increased from 1,448 to 2,374. With the growth of students should come the growth of schools and teachers but this has barely been the case. Many



of us graduates from the program return to the Kaiapuni schools to become teachers. These teachers should be focused on planning lessons, and their students' growth and learning experiences, but in many cases they are struggling due to high class volume, classroom shortage, and little to no educational/teacher assistant support.

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

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

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

Again, I am writing in support of senate bill 2069 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.

Mahalo for your time,

Hali Kanoelani Pacheco

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:28:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Larissa Cordeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

He mākuā au i 2 keiki i ke Kaiapuni. Pono i nā kumu! I am a parent of 2 keiki in the Kaiapuni pathway. We need Kumu! I am in support of funding we need for Kumu to take care of our keiki as they perpetuate the language of Hawai'i. It is important as a Native Hawaiian, born and raised in Hawai'i, to raise my children in their native language, culture and home. Please support this bill in favor of fund we need to kokua the kumu who will have a major role and responsibility in keeping our language alive!

Mahalo Nui Loa for your favorable support,

Larissa Cordeira

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:45:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ileana Haunani Ruelas	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: Ileana Haunani Ruelas

RE: SB2069

Hearing on January 31, 2031

IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069

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

My name is Ileana Haunani Ruelas and I am a former Hawaiian Language educator, and aunty to many Kaiapuni students.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.

- Hawaiian Language is essential to - elevate native perspectives and methodologies for learning, cultivate community well being, apply indigenous forms of stewardship to address climate change, and maintain cycles of reciprocity & resiliency within Hawaii.
- Hawaiian language medium education is not equitable offered to our communities and 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).
- It will also ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8

I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:52:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'ulakauikeaokea Krug	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**My name is Ka'ulakauikeaokea Krug, and I am a teacher and a graduate of the Kaiapuni (immersion) program. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education. There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last ten years. There has also been an increase in students in the past ten years by almost 1,000 students. 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, to claim Hawai'i to be a state with two official languages, I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

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

**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:** Ku‘uipo Hayes  
Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

Aloha e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,  
I, Ku‘uipo Hayes, a former student of the Papahana Kaiapuni, a parent to a kindergartener at Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo, and a supporter of Papahana Kaiapuni and ‘Aha Kauleo, am writing to express my **strong endorsement for SB2069** - Relating to Education, scheduled for a hearing on January 31, 2031.

SB2069 holds significant importance in addressing the critical needs of the Department of Education (DOE), particularly in its allocation of crucial funds. I firmly support this bill, recognizing its pivotal role in creating three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) curriculum specialist II positions and ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) classroom teacher positions dedicated to Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

The current educational landscape, marked by the growth of eight new Kaiapuni schools and nearly 1,000 additional students in the last decade, has posed challenges in meeting the demand for Hawaiian immersion education. SB2069 takes a proactive approach by addressing these challenges head-on, ensuring that the State fulfills its constitutional responsibilities outlined in Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

Presently, the DOE funds only 35 teacher positions across 22 schools statewide, leading to capacity constraints and turning away families seeking enrollment in Kaiapuni schools. Furthermore, there are six complex areas, including an entire island, where Kaiapuni education remains inaccessible. SB2069 aims to rectify these issues and uphold equitable access to resources and education across all islands in Hawaii's public schools.

Additionally, the bill recognizes the critical gap in representation for Hawaiian education within the Board of Education. By acknowledging the importance of both language pathways,

English and Hawaiian, SB2069 takes a significant step towards ensuring fair and comprehensive representation at the highest levels of educational governance.

In essence, SB2069 is not just commendable; it is a necessary and timely response to the evolving educational landscape in Hawaii. By strategically appropriating funds, this bill addresses staffing shortages, enrollment challenges, and systemic gaps, fostering the growth and success of Kaiapuni schools and contributing to the overall improvement of public education in the state.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'!!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:58:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ISAAC NAHUEWAI	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: ISAAC "‘ika‘aka" NAHUEWAI**

**HALE KUAMOO, KA HAKA ULA O KEELIKOLANI, IKA AKAMAI**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is ISAAC "‘ika‘aka" NAHUEWAI and I am a Bachelor's and Master's graduate of the immersion school system under Ka Haka Ula o Keelikolani College of Hawaiian Language and current PhD student at UH Mānoa.**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

Being an active member of this community for 10 strong years, I have seen the growth of this language revitalization movement as a teacher, educator, and curriculum developer. The impact on retention rate of these students and the identity cultivated continuously shows a tremendous impact on the vitality of Hawaiian language and culture as a whole.



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

- **There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.**
- **There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.**
- **Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.**
- **There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.**
  
- **This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**
- **Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- **Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.**
- **DOE strategic plan states...**

**I/we urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:11:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaiakahinalii Kaopua-Canonigo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Monday, January 29, 2024

**Support of S.B. No. 2069**, Relating to the Department of Education

Aloha nui e Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee of Education,

My name is Kaiakahinali'i Ka'opua-Canonigo I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2069 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.

As a product of a Kaiāpuni and Hawaiian-Focus Charter School education, I can vouch for the extremely critical role that these teachers play in helping students to be successful, and feel supported in their academic journey and beyond. At the same time, I can also testify to the lack of support these teachers receive from the State, as well as the amount of extra effort, time, resources, and aloha that they contribute out of pocket.

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

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

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

Again, I am writing in support of senate bill 2069 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.

Mahalo for your time,

Kaiakahinali'i Ka'ōpua-Canonigo

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:17:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kealani Cook	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: Kealani Cook**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is Kealani Cook and I am a parent of two current Kaiapuni students at Waiiau Elementary and Kapolei Middle School.**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

**I am writing because of the support needed for the growing number of families looking for immersion education. Both of my children have benefited from the immersion education they have received at Waiiau Elementary and I am deeply grateful to the faculty, staff, and administration of Waiiau Elementary for the experiences they have received there, as well as to the DOE and the legislature for their support of this program. While I understand that funding is particularly tight this year, I am writing in support of this bill in the hopes that more families will have the opportunities that my children have had. My oldest child is also part of a seventh-grade pilot program at Kapolei Middle in connection with**

**Ānueue to bring more immersion opportunities to the Ewa and Waianae districts of the island. In order for them to continue in immersion within a reasonable commute, my child and her cohort require a second position at the school for there to be an eighth grade class available next year. Success of this cohort will encourage other Ewa and Waianae parents that a quality immersion pathway through 8th grade is possible within our district.**

**In conclusion I appreciate all that the legislature has done to encourage the Kaiapuni program over the years and hope that in passing this bill we can secure the needed staffing needed to keep up with the ever growing demand.**

**I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:46:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Natasha Kapali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a parent of a high school senior and a sophomore who both attended kula kaiapuni for K-6th. The immersion education they both had was invaluable to our 'ohana, AND both of my children are thriving academically - my senior will be graduating with above a 4.0GPA. The academics I share with you just to highlight that the kaiapuni experience in no way hinders the child's ability to achieve academic excellence for the sake of cultural enrichment. It is my belief that the kaiapuni experience helped both of my children with critical thinking and making valuable connections.

Grounding as many families as possible to Hawaii through it's language is so very important. It's wholistic teaching, not just a language difference. It shapes the keiki to understand their place in their family and in their community, to work with intention. The commonality of a culture bonds the students, teachers, 'ohana, and place - such a rarity.

Mahalo to everyone who has and continues this work to perpetuating something so worthwhile. We look forward to one day hearing 'olelo Hawaii being spoken as commonly as English, or even Tagalog in Hawai'i.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:55:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aubrey Matsuura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Aubrey Matsuura and I am writing in support of SB2069 which is asking to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the beautiful growth of our Kaiapuni education. I am an educator and a mother of 2 babies who will one day be part of Kaiapuni. It is absolutely clear that our community is in need of increased resources as our schools have grown. We must meet that demand for access to Hawaiian language public education. Our schools need new sites, teacher positions, materials, and equipment. Our teachers need support and opportunities to grow and be inspired in their teaching. Please consider supporting this bill as it will support not only our Kaipuni schools and teachers but also the many children who benefit from an education in their mother tongue with a Hawaiian worldview and perspective at the foundation. What better way to support our keiki in our place than through their education in their language? Mahalo nui! E ola ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i iā kākou a pau!!!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:21:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hinaikawaihi?ilei Keala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kaiapuni Sample Testimony (DELETE OR EDIT RED)

Deadline TUES 1/30 3:00PM

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: Hinaikawaihi‘ilei Nanikaala Keala

RE: SB2069

Hearing on January 31, 2031

IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069

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

My name is Hinaikawaihi‘ilei Keala and I am an ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i speaking citizen of Hawai‘i. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.

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

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

There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.

Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.

There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.

This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8

Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

DOE strategic plan states...



In conclusion, we need this bill passed to serve the future of Hawai'i and the Mother Tongue of this land.

I/we urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:25:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Todd Yamashita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair, Senate Committee on Education, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Education, and Senate Committee on Education Members. As the fifth generation of our family here on Molokai, my two boys Kauluwai and Keolinohokai will be the first of their family to graduate elementary school immersed in their own language.

As a father who attended the very same school before its conversion, I can tell you the difference our Hawaiian Immersion Charter has made is transformational for our kids and community. For families like ours, it is the only choice we have for our kids to live their culture both in and out of the classroom.

To diminish and not ho'oulu this amazing journey would be an injustice for generations ahead and to those who have worked their entire lives for Hawaii to get to this point. Thus, it is with the utmost humility that I plead with you to support SB2069.

Pease consider the immense pride I have as a father that his Hawaiian children are speaking and living their culture everyday. Do not diminish the bright and beautiful light that has been brought into their world. We have a responsibility not just to them, but to set the bar in supporting indigenous educations systems here in Hawaii and elsewhere. It is a beautiful and hard-fought legacy indeed.

Mahalo, sincerely,

Todd Yamashita

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:49:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Madison Furlong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support increasing kaiapuni programs, and funding for teachers and staff. E ola ka olelo Hawai'i

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:18:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angelina Kua'ana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a mā mā of ‘elua keiki in the kaiapuni pathway. We are in dire need of kumu to continue the education of our keiki in the kaiapuni program. A keiki should never be turned away from the opportunity to be educated in their own language on their native land. The most integral part in avoiding this reality is more kumu. Without more kumu, this will unfortunately continue to be the reality of many keiki. I urge you to support bill SB2069. Mahalo nui for listening and for your support in helping the next generation of native hawaiian speakers.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:29:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
'Alihilani Katoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is 'Alihilani and I am a constituent from 96816. I am writing testimony in support of SB2069 because Kula Kaiapuni NEED funding for Kumu and Haumāna. I am currently sending my keiki to Kula Kaiapuni, here's why:

- Cultural Preservation and Traditional Knowledge
  - Hawaiian Immersion and Hawaiian Focused Public Charter Schools differ from your average Public School because they aim to educate kānaka keiki about their culture, traditions, place based knowledge, practices of our kūpuna, as well as 'Ōlelo Hawai'i our mother tongue. They also integrate subjects that are present in public schools such as math, science, language arts, physical education, etc.
- E ola mau ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i: Language Revitalization
  - There is life in our language. For almost 100 years the practice of 'ōlelo Hawai'i was banned in schools. My grandparents have gotten beaten for speaking our mother tongue in schools, as well as many other Native Hawaiian kūpuna, and still they resisted. Thanks to our ancestors' organized resistance, 'ōlelo Hawai'i was brought back to schools across the pae 'āina in 1986. His ancestors laid the tracks for him to reap the benefits of learning and speaking 'ōlelo Hawai'i.
- Cultural and Self Identity
  - By Koapaka attending a Hawaiian Immersion School he will have a deeper respect for his environment, the elements, our history, and of his self identity. He will be given the tools of knowledge to understand how his ancestors coexisted with the elements, the environment, and with each other. This will propel him forward to having a better understanding of what inherent talents and abilities he has to offer to his environment, himself, and his community. Immersion schools
- Family Engagement
  - Immersion schools offer lots of opportunities for family engagement. Makua are often asked to help fundraise for certain school events, they are often asked to help out with school programs, performances, huaka'i or field trips, taking care of the lo'i, etc. This way keiki can see that only by the effort of the entire family, kuleana and hard work can be completed, laulima.
- Community and Teamwork
  - He will learn to work together with other Native Hawaiian keiki at school and learn Hawaiian ways of thinking, to stray away from an individualist mindset and

lean more towards asking others for help, working through problems together, as well as engaging in physical activities together. The Immersion school community is very close knit between students and parents alike.

- Academic Advancement and Familiarity
  - Being bilingual can have many cognitive benefits such as increased problem solving skills, enhanced creativity, and a greater ability to understand and appreciate different perspectives. Proficiency in Hawaiian Language can open up many different career paths.

I urge you to pass SB2069 because my child's life and wellbeing depends on it.

Mahalo,

‘Alihilani

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:54:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zan Timtim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Zan Timtim and I am parent of a former kaiapuni haumana. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education for the following reasons:

- Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools
- There has been an increase of 9 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 one (1) island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

In conclusion [closing statement or re-state your position].

I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069 for the security and future of our kaiapuni schools and haumana.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

Zan Tintim



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:30:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joy Schoenecker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill !

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:34:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Bayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Stephanie Bayne. I am writing in support of senate bill SB2069 to appropriate funds to the department of education for the establishment of 3 full time equivalent curriculum specialist II positions and 10 full time classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools. I am a parent of a student at Kula Kaiapuni in Paia. Mahalo, Stephanie

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:54:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn Grandinetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As an education specialist who is kama‘āina to O‘ahu, I see the dire need that our education system has to relearn and reinstill ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, Hawaiian values, and Hawaiian knowledge in schools to foster a new generation of students who live of and for Hawai‘i. So many students and fellow peers of mine have consistently romanticized the mainland US as the real place to get a college education and be successful, and do not have deep roots in their island home. This mindset, coupled with other issues of expensive cost of living and housing, is what has caused the consistent "brain drain" here in Hawai‘i and the increase of Hawaiian diaspora on the US mainland. I see this mindset coming from a greater intergenerational disconnect from the ‘āina, culture, and values that are unique to Hawai‘i, and this is in large part due to an education system that stems from generalized American lesson plans rather than ones steeped in the specificity of this place and culture. I myself wish that I had learned more about Hawai‘i when I was younger, but I now must make up for lost time as an adult to learn as much as I can. So for the sake of our future generations, I implore you to pass this bill that will act as a stepping stone to more educated, culturally-informed future stewards of Hawai‘i who are rooted in this place, language, and culture.

Mahalo,

Jocelyn

**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:** Nadezna Ortega

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Nadezna Ortega and I am a parent of a keiki attending Kula Kaiapuni 'o Anuenue. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

I strongly support SB2069 because there has been an increase in kaiapuni schools and an increase in students at kaiapuni schools in the past 10 years. However, there has been a lack of funding and support given to Hawaiian immersion education since 2008. Please ensure equitable access to resources and education for kaiapuni schools on all islands in accordance with Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution and the guidelines set forth in BOE Policy 105-8.

In conclusion I strongly support SB2069.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:04:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Kawehilani Kalaau Apo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kawehi Kala`au Apo and I am a grandparent of a 3 year old who attends Hawaiian Immersion School. **I strongly support Senate Bill 2069** 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 and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8.

When I was a child, this opportunity was not available to me so I fully support families who want their children to learn via Hawaiian language. My father, who is 85 and 100% pure Native Hawaiian, only spoke Hawaiian as a child. When he left for boarding at Kamehameha Schools in the 50's, he was punished for speaking his first language. We now have the chance to make sure that his legacy, through his great-grandson, survives.

Public education has two pathways - both Hawaiian and English. However, Hawaiian is not securely represented in the Board of Education. They are both important so I am advocating that you give the bill the support it needs.

**On behalf of myself and my entire `ohana, we urge the committee to pass SB 2069.** Mahalo for your time, consideration and the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:08:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kahiau Snyder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kahiau Palaualelo Drayer Snyder, and I am student at Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.

Mahalo.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:26:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hideki Kimukai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Hideki Kimukai and I am an educator for Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.

Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools  
There has been an increase of 9 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.  
There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.

This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

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

Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

In conclusion, I strongly support SB2069 to perpetuate and revitalize the connection between our future and the Hawaiian culture.

I/we urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

Mahalo nui,

Hideki Kimukai

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:53:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynette Cruz	Testifying for Malama Makua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Malama Makua totally supports the sentiments and provisions of this bill, SB2069. We ask that you do likewise.



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:49:43 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emalani Kekaouha-Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge our legislators to support this bill, as it benefits the growth and strengthening of our Hawaiian language-speaking community. As the first kaiapuni graduate of a family who has been a part of our kaiapuni ‘ohana for over 15 years, I’ve seen the program grow exponentially as more people in our community see the value of learning the language that makes Hawai‘i special. However as the papahana increases, the demand for teaching positions, curriculum specialists, classroom materials/resources, and learning spaces also increases. This bill paves the way for our Hawaiian language community to continue to provide a fruitful education to the children of Hawai‘i. In Ka Pu‘uhonua o nā Hawai‘i, one of our old Hawaiian newspapers, our kupuna wrote, “I ‘ike ‘ia nō ke kanaka no kekahi lāhui ma kāna ‘ōlelo.” Meaning that one’s nationality is known through their language. ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is foundational to the identity of the people of Hawai‘i. Through my native language, I see the world through the perspective, values, stories, songs, and aloha of my kūpuna. It is my hope that generations after me may experience the same and even more, and the support through this bill is essential to do so.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:32:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kara Kelai	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: Kara Kelai

RE: SB2069

Hearing on January 31, 2031

IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069

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

My name is Kara Kelai and my eldest mo‘opuna is currently enrolled in Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Ānuenuē.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.

I am truly grateful that my eldest mo‘opuna has the opportunity to learn the language of our ancestors at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Ānuenuē. He is in Papa Mālaa‘o (kindergarten), is the first in our Ohana to enroll in a Kula Kaiapuni, and our Ohana is excited to learn and grow together.

The reason I am testifying today is that I fear that there won't be enough resources in the future for my younger mo‘opuna, and generations to come, to be able to attend a Kula Kaiapuni when they are old enough. There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students, and currently, the DOE funds only 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools.

That is just not enough support as many families are already being turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.

Support of 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), and 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, your support for this bill, and bills like it, will ensure that my Ohana, and the many growing Ohana's like us, will continue to have the opportunity to re-connect with our language that was wrongfully taken from us. I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069.

I truly mahalo you all for your time, your consideration, and for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:34:47 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leilani Sills	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Leilani Sills

Resident of Manana Oahu

8083915041

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Support of S.B. No. 2069, Relating to the Department of Education

Aloha nui e nā lala o ka 'aha 'olelo (legislators). My name is Leilani Sills and I am a proud mākua (parent) of 2 keiki kaiapuni and 3 more who we plan to send to Kaiapuni.

I am writing in support of senate bill 2069 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.

As a current mākuā at a Kula Kaiapuni, I can see where support lacks in the kula. The Kumu work hard to support our keiki but they can only do so much. With more support they will be able to provide more resources to keiki and ‘ohana. Learning to speak ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is just part of going to Kaiapuni. Embracing the culture, learning as our ancestors did can also coexist with DOE standards.

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

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

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

Again, I am writing in support of senate bill 2069 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.

Mahalo for your time

Leilani Sills

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:42:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
emiko joy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2069, which aims to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists for Kaiapuni education. The demand for Hawaiian language public education has grown significantly, necessitating additional resources.

SB2069 provides essential support for new teacher positions, program expansion, and classroom materials. This investment is vital for preserving Hawaiian culture and preparing students for a diverse world. The bill also addresses the need for Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, and teacher support.

I urge you to support SB2069 to ensure a high-quality education and attract qualified educators for Kaiapuni programs.

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

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Brandi Cutler and I am Vice President of Hui Makua O Pū'ōhala (HMOP).

I am testifying on behalf of HMOP in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala (KKOP), established over 30 years ago, is a growing kaiapuni in Kāne'ōhe. KKOP consistently has to deal with lack of staff and curriculum. Our class sizes are too large, with far too few kumu for the number of students. KKOP is part of the growing Hawaiian immersion program throughout Hawai'i: there has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools and there has been an increase in students by almost 1,000 in the past 10 years. And yet the DOE only funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools. The students, kumu, and community of Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala deserve the support from the Department of Education for equitable education.

SB2069 ensures that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). It also ensures equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education in Hawai'i's public schools.

In conclusion Hui Makua O Pū'ōhala urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2069.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Brandi Cutler, Vice President  
Hui Makua O Pū'ōhala

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** Brandi Cutler, mother to students in Kaiapuni

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Brandi Cutler and I am a mother to two students at Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala (KKOP).

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

My two children are thriving because of Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala. Their kula kaiapuni, established over 30 years ago, is growing and yet is constantly challenged by lack of staffing. The class sizes are always far too big; their kumu are stretched far too thin. KKOP is part of the growing Hawaiian immersion program throughout Hawai'i: there has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools and there has been an increase in students by almost 1,000 in the past 10 years. The students, kumu, and community of Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala deserve the support from the Department of Education for equitable education.

SB2069 ensures that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). It also ensures equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education in Hawai'i's public schools.

In conclusion I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Brandi Cutler, Kāne'ōhe

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:28:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Kele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Programs like the ones organized by Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools are vital and integral to our native Hawaiian community. They are key to allowing our native children to receive a quality education and maintain the important element of self identity and cultural development. The resources they require to continue providing education to our keiki is extremely important and this bill should definitely be passed to allow them to receive the funding they need. It is our duty as citizens of this community to ensure the proper education of our young ones so that they may have the knowledge and wisdom needed to become industrious members of our community.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:28:18 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia K Kanakaole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Kidani and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing to offer my full support of SB 2069 a bill to increase the number of teaching and curriculum specialist positions for Kula Kaiapuni Hawai'i schools. Each year demand for Hawaiian Medium and Immersion increases by nearly 100 new students. However, we must frequently seek the aid of the administration and or legislature to secure enough positions to meet the need. More must be done in order for the Department of Education to make this a priority just as it does for English Medium schools. Mahalo for your consideration of this important bill.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,

Na P. Kanoe Nacua Kanaka'ole

Community Member from Hilo, Hawai'i

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:38:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Hedani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

S. Helelani Hedani

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Support of S.B. No. 2069, Relating to the Department of Education

Aloha nui e nā lālā o ka ‘aha ‘ōlelo (legislators). I am writing in support of senate bill 2069 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.

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

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

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

Again, I am writing in support of senate bill 2069 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.

Mahalo for your time,

S. Helelani Hedani

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:42:07 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharde Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:57:47 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marvin Kaleo Manuel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support SB2069 that adds additional positions to the papahana of Kula Kaiapuni. As one of two official State languages, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i needs to be supported with resources. This bill is a great first step in that effort.

Mahalo.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:59:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Abcde Rosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2069, which aims to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists for Kaiapuni education. The demand for Hawaiian language public education has grown significantly, necessitating additional resources.

SB2069 provides essential support for new teacher positions, program expansion, and classroom materials. This investment is vital for preserving Hawaiian culture and preparing students for a diverse world. The bill also addresses the need for Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, and teacher support.

I urge you to support SB2069 to ensure a high-quality education and attract qualified educators for Kaiapuni programs.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:19:57 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Larry Kimura	Testifying for ?Aha Punana Leo Board Member	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2069 for additional Kula Kaiapuni Hawai'i Schools.

Mahalo.



**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:** Kalāmanamana Harman  
Kaiapuni graduate, Dartmouth College graduate

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

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

My name is Kalāmanamana Harman, and I am a 2019 graduate of Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u, a Hawaiian medium school in Kea‘au. My family has been long-time supporters of the Hawaiian language revitalization movement. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2069 - *Relating to Education*.

I strongly support this bill because it will significantly enhance kaiapuni education in several ways. Firstly, public education offers two language pathways - English and Hawaiian. Unfortunately, the Hawaiian language education pathway is not adequately represented in the Board of Education and throughout the state. Secondly, there has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years, and there is a pressing need for more teachers to support the growing student capacity. The kaiapuni school system continues to expand, as evidenced by my personal experience at Nāwahī, where I graduated with 10 classmates, and now my younger sister’s graduating class of 2024 has 40+ students who will graduate in May. Lastly, having more teachers within the kaiapuni school system will promote equitable access to resources and education, specifically for Hawaiian immersion education in all islands of Hawai‘i’s public schools, aligning with the guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8.

In conclusion, I endorse the passage of SB2069 for its pivotal role in rectifying the underrepresentation of Hawaiian education, addressing the pressing need for additional teachers in the growing kaiapuni school system, and ensuring equitable access to resources in alignment with BOE policy 105-8. Your support for this bill is crucial in fortifying kaiapuni education and advancing the broader cause of Hawaiian language revitalization. Mahalo for your consideration and commitment to the future of Hawaiian education. I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069.

Me ka mahalo nui,  
Kalāmanamana Harman

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:18:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Konaneakamahina de la Nux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of bill SB2069. I am a kaiapuni parent and I know first hand how deserving our kumu kaiapuni are of more support all around.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:24:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Corie Poliahu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Corie Poliahu, and I am a relative of a student attending a public Hawaiian language immersion school, writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2069.

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

Meeting the growing demand for Hawaiian language immersion programs is fair and good for Hawaii's future. Please **PASS SB2069**.

Mahalo nui. Corie Poliahu (Kaneohe)

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

Kaliko Kaauamo  
808-269-5646

Pō'akolu, 31, Ianuali 2024

Support of S.B. No. 2069, Relating to the Department of Education

Aloha nui mai e nā lālā o ka 'aha 'ōlelo. 'O au o Kaliko Kaauamo, a parent of keiki in the kaiapuni program, professional educator within our Maui community, and advocate of public education for our students in the native language of this land, ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i. I am writing in support of senate bill 2069 to appropriate funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) curriculum specialist II positions and the ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

As the papahana kaiapuni, Hawaiian immersion student population has steadily increased in the last few years, the demand for relevant and appropriate curricula is necessary. Three full time curriculum specialist positions allow for this necessary expansion to happen and only strengthen this beautiful learning model offered to our students. The addition of 10 full time classroom teacher positions ensure that the student to teacher ratio is sufficient for ample learning and growth and additionally protects the rights of families to choose the Hawaiian language as the primary medium of education for their keiki in Hawai'i.

Sb2069 asks the legislature to increase the amount of teaching positions and specialists to support:

- Increased demand for access to Hawaiian language public education
- New programs/sites
- FTEs for new teacher positions
- Classroom materials and equipment

Provide expertise to promote: Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, support teacher growth, and increase the qualified teacher candidates in these programs.

Kāko'o piha au, I am in full support, of senate bill 2069 to appropriate funds to the Department of Education for the 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.

Mahalo for your time,  
Kaliko Kaauamo

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:38:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nahokuheleiakeahu'olu Keala	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: Nahokuheleiakeahuolu Keala

RE: SB2069

Hearing on January 31, 2031

IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069

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

My name is Nāhōkūheleiākeahuolu Keala and I am former student of Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kualapu'u, a family member of current students at Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Ānuenue, and at one time a substitute teacher at this same school.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.

I am a product of Kaiapuni school. I am who I am and the success of where I am can be attributed to the kumu at my Kula and the values that built the foundation of who I am today. There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years and an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. This is an amazing thing to see. We are witnessing the revival that our kūpuna who could not speak Hawaiian in school could only dream of. But we need the help and need the support to continue this revitalization of our language and our people. I strongly support this bill. 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 will also Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8

In conclusion I am in strong support of this bill

I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:02:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Iolani Brosio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an educator, a former Kaiapuni student, and a makua, I strongly kāko‘o the proposed increase amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to promote the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education. Kanaka Maoli deserve equitable access to education in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in our own homeland.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:22:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dena Akiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Committee Members Hashimoto, Richards, and Fevella,

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT** of **SB 2069 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**.

This bill will provide funding to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the growth of Kaiapuni education. There has been an increase in the number of students and the number of Kaiapuni schools over the last ten years. Our keiki deserve quality education with the resources needed to perpetuate the Hawaiian language and knowledge.

Please support this measure.

Mahalo,

Dena Akiu

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:37:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 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: **SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2024**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

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 SB2069 - Relating to Education**. In the last 10 years, there has been an increase of eight kaiapuni schools and 1,000 kaiapuni students. There is a severe need for additional funding to support the growth of Ka Papahana Kaiapuni.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo nui loa!



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:32:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sierra Hau'oli Subiono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a young native hawaiian girl I was always so proud to be hawaiian, and when I travel I represent the kingdom of Hawai'i everywhere I go. People would often asks me can I speak my language? And the pain the heartache of generational trauma would hit that no I don't. We weren't allowed to speak our tongue and it killed our culture and stripped us of our blood born rights as the protectors, providers of this land. So when my son was born in 2018 I decided I was going to make the choice to embrace accept and be kanaka! And our entire family 4 generations later are so proud so happy that my son is taking back our culture and breathing life back into our language and people. He will chance olelo hawaii with everyone and the ones that can respond back do so with tears to see a 5yr old boy speaking olelo hawaii. That is why this is so important. So much has been taken from this land and people that giving us a bigger broader chance to keep what we have left of our culture only seems like that right step to take. As a makuahine of a immersion haumana I ask that you support this bill and the future keiki of hawaii. Mahalo

**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:** Wendy S. K. "Kalaekea" Akioka  
Kumu Kaiapuni, Kailua High School  
HSTA Hawaiian Education Special Committee Chair

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

Mai ka lā hiki mai a ke komohana, mai ka moa‘e ahehe a nā kona, aloha e nā hoa o nā kūkulu ‘ehā o ke ao! My name is Wendy Akioka, also known as Kumu Kalae in my community. My son graduated from a kaiapuni school, my daughter attends my school, Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua, and my husband teaches at a kaiapuni school, Pū‘ōhala. I am also an active member of the ‘Aha Kauleo and the chair of the Hawaiian Education Committee for the HSTA. Needless to say, kaiapuni is a part of our ‘ohana and lifestyle.

I can provide a unique perspective, because I have worked in many capacities of the education system, from high school Hawaiian language teacher, to elementary kaiapuni teacher, to OHE resource teacher, to Early College Coordinator for kaiapuni under a grant at Windward Community College, back to high school kaiapuni teacher. I understand this system from various, unique perspectives.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

This is because there is a desperate need for these positions. SB2069 asks for three curriculum specialists. When I worked at the HDOE's Office of Hawaiian Education (OHE), where these positions would be housed, the task of creating curricula for the entire kaiapuni program seemed insurmountable. I worked on it myself, but one person is not enough. Two people are not enough. In fact, I might argue that three people are not enough. If you take any classroom textbook and look at the credits, there are 10-15 people working for years to produce that one textbook. Now, imagine needing to create comprehensive, rigorous, and appropriate curricula for all subject areas for K-12 grade levels. People often ask why kaiapuni has been around for nearly 30 years, yet no curricula has been created and I often respond, when has there been a team 10-15 people employed for just that - to create curricula? NEVER! All the resources we have are from full-time teachers creating curriculum on their own time, or from 25 year old grant-work, mostly translations. Some of us still use that, because it is what we have! However, our students should have equitable access to cutting edge technology and modern curricula, just as their counterparts do in the English language pathways.

Regarding the ten teaching positions, I admit that this affects me directly. Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua began nearly three years ago out of thin air. My former principal, Stacey Oshio, agreed to make it happen when asked by Phyllis Unebasami, then I came in and voila! We had a program. The importance of a program like mine to its community is to provide a Hawaiian language pathway for the second largest Native Hawaiian population on O'ahu, that is for the Ko'olau Poko area. It was only made possible because of the existing teacher positions from OHE, because when a new program starts up, there are rarely enough student numbers to support a teaching position under weighted student formula (WSF), especially at the high school level. In late 1990s to early 2000s, the HODOE was given a set number of positions directly from the legislature because they recognized the burden the smaller numbers were placing on the programs and schools. However, since that time, the number of kaiapuni schools and programs have nearly doubled, yet OHE has not received any increase in positions to offset the growth. What happens now is that larger kaiapuni schools give up their positions in order to make room for programs like mine. The increase in 10 positions would ensure that I do not have to take from someone else to exist.

In conclusion, I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

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

**RE:** **SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

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 HDOE to establish Kapolei in order 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 an 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 SB2069 - *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.
- **Address 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, a significant number of 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 available as well as 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 Mākua o Kapolei urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!**

## Petition of Support for [SB2069](#)

### 32nd Legislative Session of the State of Hawaii, 2024

[SB2069](#) asks the legislature to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education. These resources are needed to:

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

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

We, the undersigned support [SB2069](#) which seeks to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education,

	Inoa Name	Helu Wahi Address
1	Kahaunani Glover	87-118 Heleluu St Apt 203
2	Aalii Glover	87-118 Heleluu St Apt 1300m Waimānoa HI 96792
3	Kristassia Glover	Same as above
4	Theresa K. Tehiva	919 A Fourth St. Pearl City, HI 96782
5	Matamanui Tehiva	919 A Fourth St. Pearl City, HI 96782
6	Hakakeirangi Tehiva	919 A Fourth St. Pearl City, HI 96782
7	Andrea Dias-Machado	98-1381 # G Hinu Pl.
8	Jaron Dias-Machado	"
9	Kahulian Machado	"
10	Kealani Cook	95-225 Hauke Place
11	Robyn Tawaka	"
12	Keala Tawaka-Cook	"
13	Hōpili Tawaka-Cook	"
14	Anapuhi Robinson	94-230 Mahaloa Ct. Unit
15	Jamie Robinson	9 Mililani, HI 96789
16	Kaleah Robinson	"
17	Fyrak Steibel	"
18	Kuha'o Robinson	"

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:13:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kiana ornellas	Testifying for Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

‘O wau nō ‘o Kiana Ornellas, ke keiki a Allen lāua ‘o Darlynda. As a kaiapuni graduate, parent, and teacher, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2069, which aims to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists for Kaiapuni education. The demand for Hawaiian language public education has grown significantly, necessitating additional resources.

SB2069 provides essential support for new teacher positions, program expansion, and classroom materials. This investment is vital for preserving Hawaiian culture and preparing students for a diverse world and also addresses the need for Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, and teacher support. This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution (1978) and 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.

I urge you to support SB2069 to ensure a high-quality education and attract qualified educators for Kaiapuni programs.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:21:30 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholas Harders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support SB2069 and hope you will too. E Ola Ka 'Ōlelo Hawaii!  
Mahalo

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:23:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Haliaka Bird	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a graduate and as a staff member working in the office at a Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School I can see first hand how the lack of teachers affects the educational outcome of our students, so I strongly support this bill!!





**SENATE BILL 2069**  
RELATING TO KAIAPUNI PROGRAMS  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

January 31, 2024

3:00 pm

Room 229

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees (BOT) **SUPPORTS** this Senate Bill 2069, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) curriculum specialist II positions and ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

For Hawaiians, the life of our language, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, is tied to the health and well-being of our people and culture. I ka ‘ōlelo no ke ola, i ka ‘ōlelo no ka make is a revered ‘Ōlelo No‘eau or proverb that translates to “life is in speech/language; death is in speech/language.” Ka Papahana Kaiapuni is an important program that both advances the revitalization of our language and educates the next generation of students. Its success supports the health and well-being of Hawaiians, our language and our culture.

Ka Papahana Kaiapuni programming has also been and continues to be integral to the State fulfilling its constitutional obligations. Article X §4 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution gives the State the duty to “promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language.” Further, the Constitution states that the “State shall provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture and history in the public schools. The use of community expertise shall be encouraged as a suitable and essential means in furtherance of the Hawaiian education program.”

As this bill notes, demand for Hawaiian language immersion education has grown over the past decade despite resources declining. Kaiapuni programming requires professionals who have expertise in multiple disciplines including Hawaiian language and their curriculum area or grade level. OHA supports this bill’s appropriations and establishment of a total of 13 positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni programming. It is an important step to provide Kaiapuni programs the specialized staffing it needs for its expansion and sustainability.

Accordingly, OHA urges this Committee to **SUPPORT** Ka Papahana Kaiapuni by advancing SB2069. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:33:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suzan Danforth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of proving funding to have more kaiapuni positions. It is foundational to the culteral health of the Hawaiian community.



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

**Date:** 01/31/2024

**Time:** 03:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2069 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) curriculum specialist II positions and ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

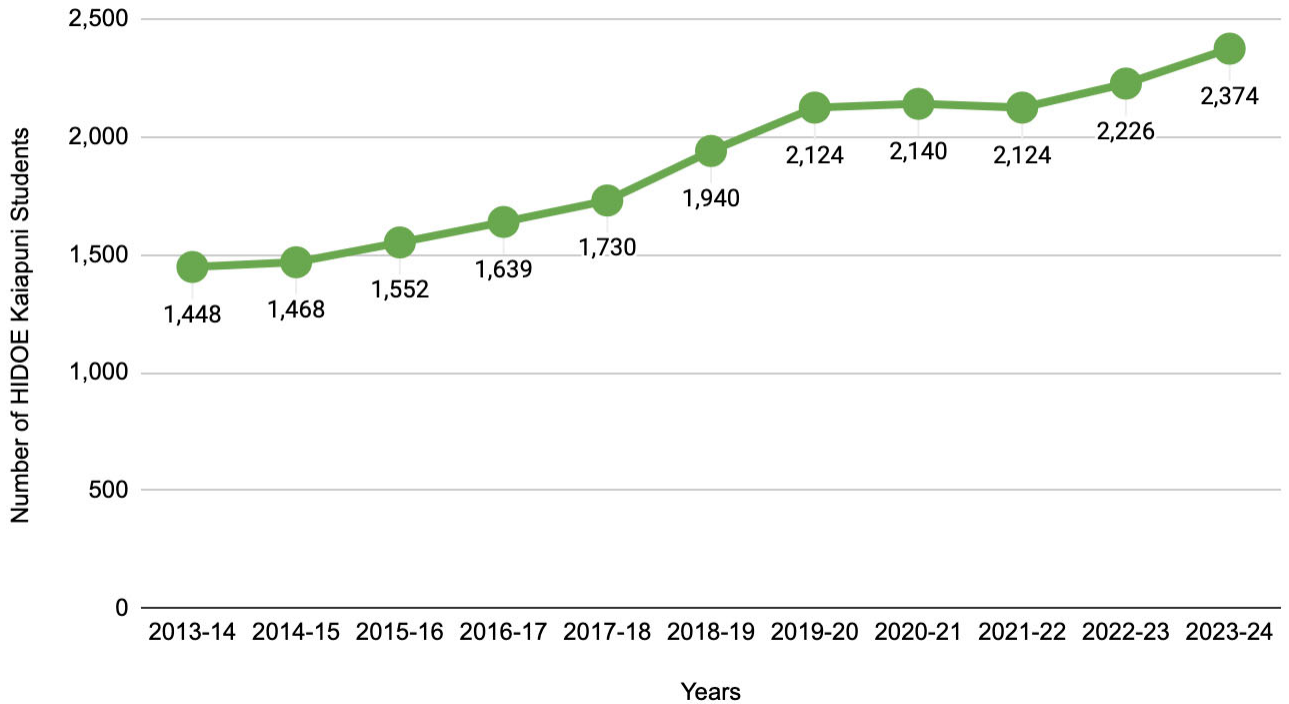
**Department's Position:**

Welina me ke aloha e nā lālā o ka 'Aha 'Ōlelo:

Kāko'o piha ka 'Oihana Ho'ona'auao o ke Aupuni Hawai'i ('Oihana) i ka pila SB 2069. He noi kēia no 10 kūlana kumu Kaiapuni hou a me 3 kūlana laekahi ho'ona'auao Kaiapuni. Ma nā makahiki he 'umi i hala iho nei, ua ulu nō ka papahana Kaiapuni ma ka 'Oihana, he 'ane'ane 1,000 hou a'e a i 2,374 haumāna e kula 'ia ana ma ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i a ua hemo 8 kula Kaiapuni a i 22 kula Kaiapuni DOE ma kekahi mau kaiāulu hou a'e.

*The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) fully supports SB 2069. We are requesting 10 additional Kaiapuni teacher positions and 3 Kaiapuni Educational Specialist positions. In the past decade, the Department's Kaiapuni program enrollment has grown by almost 1,000 students to 2,374 students that are being educated in the medium of the Hawaiian language and 8 new schools in the Department to 22 schools in additional communities.*

## Growth of HIDOE Kaiapuni Enrollment in the Past Decade



Ua ulu a'e ka papahana Kaiapuni i nā makahiki he 'umi i hala iho nei: 'ane'ane 60% i ulu ai ka heluna kula Kaiapuni a me ka heluna haumāna. E ulu ana ka papahana i ka mālama 'ana i ko nā haumāna a me nā 'ohana 'imi ikaika 'ana i ka hiki ke kula 'ia ma ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i ma kekahi kula kokoke a i 'ole i loko o ko lākou kaiaulu, ka mea i koi 'ia e ka hihia Clarabal i ka 'Aha Ho'okolokolo Ki'eki'e Loa i ka makahiki 2019.

*The Kaiapuni program has expanded significantly over the last decade: nearly 60% increase in both the number of Kaiapuni programs and student enrollment. The Kaiapuni program has been expanding in response to student and family demand as well as to provide "reasonable access to a Hawaiian immersion program" as required by the Clarabel case in the State Supreme Court in 2019 .*

He kōkua nui ka pu'u kālā pekelala a me ka pu'u kālā a ke Kia'āina e kāko'o ai i nā papahana ko'iko'i no ka papahana Kaiapuni i kēia mau makahiki i hala akula. E pau ana kēia mau waihona kālā ma ka hopena o kēia lune i ka wā e pau ai ka makahiki ho'olilo kālā a ka 'Oihana. Ko'iko'i kēia noi kālā 'Aha 'Ōlelo e ho'omau ai i nā papahana e kū nei a me ka ho'oulu 'ana i nā papahana no kēia makahiki kula a'e a ma 'ō aku.

*Federal pandemic education funding and the Governor's discretionary funds provided critical support for Kaiapuni program development over the last few years. These funds conclude at*

*the end of this fiscal year. Legislative funding is necessary to sustain existing programs and to expand growing programs for next year and beyond.*

Mahalo nui 'ia ka 'ae 'ana mai i kā mākou hō'ike 'ana i kēia mau mana'o.

*We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.*

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:54:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lelaine Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying IN STRONG SUPPORT of this bill.

This is Hawai'i. The culture and language and people should be respected and nurtured here. Olelo is one of the two official state languages - I urge you to put some real meaning behind that, and to nurture the development of more kaiapuni educators with greater funding, so that every ohana who wants to send their keiki to immersion schools can have that opportunity.

It is the least the state can do for the Kanaka Oiwi, whose land this still is.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:16:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angela Correa-Pei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I write in support of this bill as learning and speaking our 'olelo Hawai'i is essential to maintaining and strengthening our Hawaiian identify. My children attened Puana Leo o Kawaiha'o and Kula Kaiapuni o Anuenue. There they learned much more than I ever did as an elementary or high school student about our history, values, ways of knowing, and became speakers of our beautiful language. They both attended 'Iolani High School and both are now attending UH Manoa. Their foundation in 'olelo and 'ike Hawaii has grounded them and has enabled them to continue learning with a focus on contributing to betterment of our po'e, our 'aina, our kai and wai, our kaiaula, and our lahui. To keep Hawaii the special and important place that it is, we must continue to preserve and uplift our 'ike and 'olelo Hawaii. Please provide additional resources for Kaiapuni schools.

Mahalo nui

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:54:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimana Brummel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**My name is Kaimana Brummel, a graduate of Hawaiian immersion schools and a current parent of a student at Kula Kaiapuni o Maui.**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

**As one of the first kaiapuni students in Hawai‘i back in the 1980s, I have seen the program's growth from the sheer number of students and the quality of education, teachers, and administration. There is a well-worn path of kaiapuni graduates who have led the pae ‘āina and the world as scholars, scientists, doctors, lawyers, teachers, civil servants, and community leaders. Certainly, kaiapuni education, through the students it educates, is contributing positively to all of Hawai‘i and most importantly to the lāhui.**

**Despite all this success, the DOE has fallen short of meeting the demand for kaiapuni education. Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools and an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.**

**The obstacles to a kaiapuni education persist annually, with DOE schools turning away many families at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them. Further, there are still 6 complex areas, including one entire island where 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). It will ensure Hawai'i public education continues to provide two language pathways, English and Hawaiian, to all interested students. It will continue the positive momentum and growth of kaiapuni that we've seen over the past 35 years.**

**In conclusion this committee can take an important step in supporting Hawaiian language education. I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:20:43 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jasmyn kaiwi	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: Jasmyn Ke‘ala Kaiwi**

**Former graduate, Makua & Kumu of Kula Kaiapuni o Maui**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is Ke‘ala Kaiwi and I am a former graduate, makua & kumu of Kula Kaiapuni o Maui**

**and ‘Aha Kauleo kumu Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā‘ia proxy. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

**Here are my reasons why I strongly support SB2069. Kaiapuni continues to grow, however, Kaiapuni continuously does not get the appropriate funding it needs to educate our young Kaiapuni learners. There has been an increase of 8 Kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years, with an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. It is alarming and heartbreaking hearing of how 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) while 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**

**In conclusion, Hawai'i has 2 language pathways, English and Hawai'i. Give our keiki the chance to choose their path by supporting and passing the Senate Bill, SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:21:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ian Bishop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support bill SB2069. We have Four keiki in the kaiapuni program at Puohala an 8th, 6th, 5th and kindergarten. Mahalo for your support

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:32:53 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

**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:** I. Kealohapau'ole Ahuna  
Community member

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is I. Kealohapau'ole Ahuna. I am a generational descendant of the 'āina ho'opulapula of Keaukaha and I am the father of three haumāna kaiapuni at Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo. Today, I proudly submit this letter testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - *Relating to Education***.

There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years, with an increase of over 1000 students in the same time frame, however, there are not enough kumu to meet the needs of the families seeking to enroll their children in kaiapuni education programs. In fact, many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them and 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 Hawai'i State Constitution (1978) and 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, the Hawaiian language was established and remains an official language of the State. What is the purpose of this if we do not treat the language in such a manner? SB2069 will pave a path and open avenues for families to access Hawaiian language immersion education and reaffirm the States support of Hawaiian immersion education, as the State has a responsibility to do so.

I/we urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:40:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Meagan-Joi Kimsel	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: Loke Kimsel

Parent of Kula Kaiapuni

RE:SB2069

Hearing on January 31, 2031

IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069

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

My name is Loke Kimsel and I am a parent of keiki in a Kaiapuni school.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education for the following reasons;

- Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools
- There has been an increase of 9 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.
- There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.

- Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.
- There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

In conclusion, I am hoping that you will continue to open up more access for our children to thrive learning in their native tongue

I/we urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:43:56 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shelly Tokunaga May	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou

My name is Hāmaukū and I am in the 3rd grade. I support SB2069 because it is good and we need more resources and teachers at our kaiapuni school, Pū‘ōhala.

I am Hāmaukū’s mother and I have seen the hard work of the teachers to provide as best as they can to the students. They need the basics like more teachers in the classroom and curriculum support to provide the best education for our students. They are all students of the DOE and should not get less than because they are in kaiapuni. Hawai‘i is the only place in the world where ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i is being taught in the schools, and it should be celebrated and supported.

Please vote yes so kaiapuni can have more equitable resources to continue teaching and support families option to put our keiki in kaiapuni.

Mahalo for your time,

Shelly Tokunaga-May, EdD, LSW

Monday, January 29, 2024

Support of S.B. No. 2069, Relating to the Department of Education

Aloha mai e Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of Committee of Education,

My name is Lucy Lee, and I am **writing in support of Senate Bill 2069** which would 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 FTE) classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

While I myself am not a student or graduate of a kula kaiapuni, as a Native Hawaiian and community member, I have witnessed and been a community participant in much of the important, meaningful work that continues to be done by these schools. Kula kaiapuni represent the sort of education that should be available not only to students of Native Hawaiian ancestry, but to all the keiki of Hawai'i. I truly believe an integral factor of the success of these types of schools is the unrelenting dedication, effort, and aloha demonstrated by teachers. These teachers often go above their own means and allotted funding in order to give their students the best support and education possible. I believe it is the responsibility of the state, specifically, the Department of Education, to provide adequate funding and resources so that these teachers are able to do what they love and feel supported in doing so.

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

- Meet increased demands for access to Hawaiian language public education programming.
- Build and create new programs/ sites.
- Supply FTEs for new teacher positions.
- Purchase classroom materials and equipment
- Provide expertise to promote: Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, support for teachers/ staff/ families, and an increase in qualified teacher candidates.

Again, I am **writing in support of Senate Bill 2069** 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 FTE) classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

Mahalo,  
Lucy Lee

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:44:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Atay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My name is Maile Atay and I am a parent of children that spent their elementary years at Kula Kaiapuni O Pā'ia. I am also a school counselor of 25+ years. In the past 10-plus years the demand for more Kaiapuni positions has doubled due to the huge increase of 'ohana enrolling their children in this fine program.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2069 - Relating to Education

According to our Constitution, Hawai'i has two languages and thus public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education. It seems every few years we need to testify the importance of Hawaiian education, specifically Kula Kaiapuni.

At times it feels like the children of Hawai'i (primarily Hawaiian children) are being slighted because 'ohana have chosen to educate their children in the 'olelo, culture and values of the Hawaiian culture. Yes, it is against the norm to not be taught in English in the United States, but it should not be the exception to the norm in Hawai'i. This deserves to be righted.

In conclusion, please consider supporting this bill so that keiki and 'ohana of Hawai'i nei have access to a program of their choice.

**I strongly urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:06:38 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT ALL ACTIONS TO PROVIDE RESOURCES AND FUNDING FOR  
KAIAPUNI PROGRAMS

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:09:02 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaori-Lei Hanohano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2069, which aims to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists for Kaiapuni education. The demand for Hawaiian language public education has grown significantly, necessitating additional resources. SB2069 provides essential support for new teacher positions, program expansion, and classroom materials. This investment is vital for preserving Hawaiian culture and preparing students for a diverse world. The bill also addresses the need for Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, and teacher support. I urge you to support SB2069 to ensure a high-quality education and attract qualified educators for Kaiapuni programs.

Let us create the next generation of visionaries by being reflections of our ancestors, they were land base and ocean base thinkers through our language and cultural teachings.

na‘u no,

Kaori-Lei Ka‘imipono Hanohano

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:20:40 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaua Kama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kaulilinoe Kama from Makawao, Maui. I am a former student of the Kula Kaiapuni Hawaiian Immersion program. I am who I today partly thanks to the core Hawaiian values I have learned through Kaiapuni.

Since my time in Kaiapuni, I have seen it grow significantly through the years, and that give my heart absolute joy to see Hawaiian Language thrive.

I have friends and 'ohana who are teachers, principals, and teachers aids of Hawaiian Immersion. Year after year I hear of the sacrifices these Kumu need to make for their students. I hear about the classes of 40 children to one Kumu. How is this resonable? How can one Kumu effectively teach all 40 keiki in one day and do it over again?! They cant! They need assistance, they need smaller class sizes and more Kumu to effectly teach our coming generations. SB2069 would mean all this could be accomplished and more. That is why I plead that SB2069 to be passed.

Mahalo,

Kaulilinoe Kama

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:22:24 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalavi Blanchard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2069, which aims to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists for Kaiapuni education. The demand for Hawaiian language public education has grown significantly, necessitating additional resources. SB2069 provides essential support for new teacher positions, program expansion, and classroom materials. This investment is vital for preserving Hawaiian culture and preparing students for a diverse world. The bill also addresses the need for Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, and teacher support. I urge you to support SB2069 to ensure a high-quality education and attract qualified educators for Kaiapuni programs.

I'm a Tongan father who is married to a Hawaiian women. Our children are in Kaiapuni because we live in the ancestral lands of my wife. Years ago my wife and I decided to have our children learn the language and culture of Hawai'i so they could know where they come from and who they are which would help them pave there future. If we lived in Tonga my children would learn my native language. We have 8 children our oldest son graduated from the Kaiapuni program last year and I'm grateful for a program that is culturally centered, family base and creates reflections of his ancestors.

Malo,

Kalavi Leland Blanchard



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

SUBJECT: **SB2069**  
HEARING Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 3:00 PM

### **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Thank you for scheduling this measure, SB2069 to be heard. Nā Leo Kākoʻo o Oʻahu, the family organization that exists to promote the educational activities of Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenuē, is in **strong support**.

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 mākua (parents) engaged the community and the DOE to establish Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kapolei, a satellite site of Ānuenuē based at Kapolei Middle School. Kapolei enrolled its first 7th-grade class of 7 students this school year. As an established K-12 kula kaiapuni, Ānuenuē is providing critical programmatic and administrative support to Kapolei to build its capacity to transition into its own school. Thus, our kula acknowledges that the educational needs and goals of our haumāna (students) and ʻohana (family) are best served within the communities they come from.

Presently, we still feel the urgent need for more regional kula kaiapuni options. Even with Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kapolei, ʻohana from across Oʻahu send their keiki on buses for hours every day to attend school at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenuē. While we remain grateful for the community that our kula kaiapuni provides, and the access to high quality education that the Kumu at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenuē deliver; we see that the demand for kula kaiapuni education is overflowing.

In recognition, this bill comes at the perfect time. Expanding educational resources for Kaiapuni programs, including new programs/site, new FTEs for teacher positions, and classroom materials and equipment are desperately needed. In addition, the curriculum specialists will promote the Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, support teacher professional growth, and result in an increase in qualifications of teacher candidates.

NA LEO KAKOʻO O OAHU, INC.  
C/O ANUENUE SCHOOL  
2528 10TH AVE  
HONOLULU HI 96816  
nlkanuenue@gmail.com





Please pass this measure for SB2069 forward 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 State Senate Representatives Kidani, Chang, Fevella, Hashimoto, Kanuha, Keohokalole, Moriwaki, and Wakai for introducing this bill that 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 and has done it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Logan Johnsen-Halas  
Pelekikena 2023-2024  
Nā Leo Kākoʻo o Oʻahu

NA LEO KAKO`O O OAHU, INC.  
C/O ANUENUE SCHOOL  
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**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:28:56 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalavi Hanohano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2069, which aims to increase teaching positions and curriculum specialists for Kaiapuni education. The demand for Hawaiian language public education has grown significantly, necessitating additional resources. SB2069 provides essential support for new teacher positions, program expansion, and classroom materials. This investment is vital for preserving Hawaiian culture and preparing students for a diverse world. The bill also addresses the need for Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, and teacher support. I urge you to support SB2069 to ensure a high-quality education and attract qualified educators for Kaiapuni programs. As a graduate of the Kaiapuni program this form of education has helped me learn about the land and history that I live in. How my ancestors were hard workers and 'eleu people that would do anything to continue their 'ike, knowledge. This experiences has opened my eyes to continue these teachings.

na'u no,

Kalavi Leland Kuponon Hanohano

**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:** Māpuana Wong  
Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Māpuana Wong and I am a student at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u and I am a sophomore.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I believe that SB2069 will be very beneficial to both students and the lāhui. Hawaiian is an official language of our islands and it needs much more representation. While there are some kaiapuni schools across the state, teachers and schools need much more funding to fully support students in reviving our beloved culture and language. There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years and this bill will help support the growth of these schools and communities. The amount of students attending these schools has increased by nearly 1,000 students in the past 10 years and if the legislature passes this bill those students will be supported, and they will grow. This will ensure access to education and resources for specifically Hawaiian immersion students and schools in Hawai‘i’s public kaiapuni schools. Learning while surrounded and supported by our culture and speaking our language will keep everything our ancestors did going and will help Native Hawaiian students feel connected to our homeland and proud of who we are. In conclusion, I strongly support SB2069 and encourage the bill to be passed to better our kaiapuni schooling systems,

We urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**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:** Carly Kawai‘ōlena Cabanilla-Branlund  
Ke Kula o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Carly Kawai‘ōlena Cabanilla-Branlund and I am a sophomore student at Ke Kula o Nāwahīokalanai‘ōpu‘u.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I think the ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo should give Kula Kaiapuni school’s more money because we are taught completely taught in the native language and the native ways, we benefit being a Hilo High student and a Nāwahī student because at Nāwahī we learn how to farm, how to navigate, physical exercise, and we take college classes only being sophomore. We benefit by being Hilo High students as well because we get to participate in sports and activities you would normally have at a highschool.

In conclusion I think we should have more teachers at Kaiapuni schools because the Hawaiian Language is one of the official languages of the state and the student base of kids going to Kaiapuni schools is growing so we need eligible teachers and when our elders were in school and wanted to speak Hawaiian they were punished and frowned upon. Hawaiian should be a language that is taught at every school in Hawai‘i. The kids should know where they come from at least be able to understand a little bit of their native language.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:40:40 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Tong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Ryan Tong, and I am a teacher at Waianae High School. I have many colleagues who send their children to Kaiapuni schools. As an educator for 11 years and an active community member, I have seen how effective place-based learning and cultural programming built into k-12 education can really ground students in who they are and their identity. This secure basis helps them develop into healthy individuals who know who they are and what they want to do to help Hawaii. Working on the West side, I can say how much damage that loss of identity can affect an individual's drive and motives. I believe a student-centered education starts with building a strong identity from youth and that resilience can last a lifetime. Therefore I strongly support the expansion of funding for Kaiapuni schools to increase their staff and their impact upon our communities.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:54:22 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Tam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Mary Kellett Kaleikaumana Tam and I am a community member in stong support of SB2069. Reasons include but are not limited to:

- We live in Hawai'i and have a responsibility to ensure our unique history and practices are not lost. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is a key element of preserving and lifting up Hawaiian culture.
- The current capacity/supply is not meeting growing demands for kaiapuni education.
- It is important to provide equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools.

I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to have a voice.

Mahalo,  
Mary Tam

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:59:33 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Beth Chun Comstock, and I am a parent of a student attending a public Hawaiian language immersion school, writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**.

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

Meeting the growing demand for Hawaiian language immersion programs is fair and good for Hawaii's future. Please **PASS SB2069**.

Mahalo nui.

Beth Chun Comstock  
(Kaneohe)

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:02:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anina Carmack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Anina Carmack and I am a parent of Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Anuenue and Punana Leo o Manoa. I am testifying in strong support of SB2069-relating to education. I urge the committee to please pass SB2069. E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:05:58 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to submit public testimony in support of SB2069. The Hawaiian language and culture must be perpetuated. This bill will continue to fund needed positions at HODOE that support the continuation of Hawaiian language and culture. Not supporting this bill will continue the devastation caused by colonization of the Hawaiian kingdom. Hawaiian language needs to be fully restored in the 'āina to allow all native Hawaiian children to learn their mother tongue.

**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:** Kalola Kamahalohanuilai  
Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kalola Kamahalohanuilai and I am a sophomore student at Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. More students want to learn how to speak their mother language from the island that they are born in. If Hawaiian is an official language in Hawaii then why is it that the Kaiapuni school doesn't get enough money to pay the teacher to teach all the kids for them to learn. There has been an increase of 8 Kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. There are still few people that dont know and it is hard to even see people that speak Hawaiian in many places. And when the school is increasing and students are there we need more teacher to bring in more students to learn Hawaiian language. The benefit from speaking is to know the language and be able to communicate with the kupuna and learn our history.

In conclusion we need the support of the DOE to help get more teachers to teach the language. I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**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:** Nainoa Poni K Ruano-Parada-Kaawaloa  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Nainoa Poni Ku'ualohapau'oleikēkailanikuaka'a Ruano-Parada-Kaawaloa and I am a sophomore in Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

I strongly support this SB2069 for the particular reason that without teachers education would not be possible. The appropriation of funds will increase teaching quality and with the improvement of teaching quality comes the improvement of student quality. As the Hawaiian language is an official language in Hawai'i, students should be educated in the language of our ancestors. Students who learn in this particular environment have a better education and quicker response to most things for the reason that we are always switching languages throughout the school day which makes us think twice as hard.

In conclusion, I strongly support SB2069.

We urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** Pōmaika'i Awai  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Pōmaika'i Awai and I am a student at Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and I am a sophomore. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education**. I strongly support SB2069 for that it will help benefit the teachers and students of Hawai'i and the Hawaiian language will grow as well as the education coming along with it. I strongly support SB2069 because in the past 10 years; the increase of students is almost 1,000 and kaiapuni schools have increased by 8. Hawaiian has barely any recognition even though it is the native language of Hawai'i and not many are motivated to learn Hawaiian, it has barely any representation in the Board of Education, and with the increase of teachers in kaiapuni schools; the Hawaiian language will grow.

In conclusion, I am a strong supporter of SB2069 and hope the Hawaiian language continues to grow and more people are aware of our native 'ōlelo.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** Alika Naki  
Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,  
My name is Alika Naki and I am a student of Ke Kula o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u and I am a sophomore  
I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** because in the past 10 years there has been an  
increase of students joining kaiapuni schools. These teachers work hard to keep these schools  
functioning. With more students comes more responsibility and harder work. There are many families  
that would love to learn the language and pass it on but it is hard due to being turned away by the  
schools. I have benefited from my school because I am able to learn it and speak with my family and  
friends.

In conclusion I hope you read this and are able to help our teachers.  
We urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

Kaiapuni Sample Testimony (DELETE OR EDIT RED)

Deadline TUES 1/30 3:00PM

**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:** Esther-Grace Kaleihailialoha Kim  
Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Esther-Grace Kaleihailialoha Kim and I am student of Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u and I am a sophomore.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I support SB2069 because public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education. It also ensures 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 am a strong supporter of SB2069.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**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:** Logan-Lee Kaweloleialoha Kamakea Toshiko Hayashida  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Logan-Lee Kaweloleialoha Kamakea Toshiko Hayashida and I am a student of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and I am a sophomore.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I strongly support SB2069 because I believe it'll benefit teachers and students of kaiapuni schools and help raise awareness to our native language, 'ōlelo Hawai'i. I've had many benefits from going to a kaiapuni school, such as learning fluent native Hawaiian and learning many interesting and fun traditions. It has also helped my family get to know and learn our culture. Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them. It will also ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8.

In conclusion, I believe this bill will help grow native traditions and the language.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** Kea Iaea  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kea Iaea and I am student of Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education**. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education. There has also been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. With an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. The Hawaiian language is a staple to Hawaiians and our culture, its important to live in the language to have a better understanding of who we are as people. In conclusion, without the language there would be no people. I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**



**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:** Keahi'ena'enaokīlauea Wengler  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Keahi'ena'enaokīlauea Wengler and I am student of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u And I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education. There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years and an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. The Hawaiian language has evolved and the states official language is Hawaiian and English. More students are getting more interested and more serious with the culture and the language. Without the Hawaiian language we aren't who we are today as Hawaiians. In conclusion without the language there would be no people.I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the oppportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** Kamuela Nakamoto  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kamuela Nakamoto and I am a student at Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and I am a sophomore and I have benefited from learning the 'ōlelo because I can speak our language to other people that's not from here and they can hear how our ancestors have spoke years ago beautifully. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education**. Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools. There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. So we need to support our teachers so they can continue to teach us our beloved language.

In conclusion we urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069 so we can learn more about our history and language . Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** Maluhia Andrade  
Ke Kula O Nāwahiokalaniopu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Maluhia Andrade and I am a student of Ke Kula O Nāwahiokalaniopu‘u  
And I am a sophomore. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

I strongly support SB2069, currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools and I think they should fund more teachers, especially from Nāwahi. I think that if they increase the pay more teachers would want to join in teaching these kinds of schools because they can help the culture while getting paid well. There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years, and while this is an amazing achievement, we should have more schools that are able to teach one of the most important parts of the culture, the language. I have benefited from being able to speak Hawaiian because I feel more indulged in the culture and feel more connected to our lands. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education even though it should be strongly represented on the board of education.

In conclusion I strongly support SB2069, and I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**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:** ‘Uao Young  
Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is ‘Uao Young and I am a haumana o Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u and i am in the 10th grade.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I strongly support SB2069 because in the past few years the school keeps growing and there are minimum teachers to teach these new students. There are also families turned away because there is no room for their child to join this amazing Hawaiian charter school.

In conclusion if you do not pass the SB2069 bill it would mean that the families can not bring their son/daughter to this school, this could cause our language to slowly die like how it once did in 1869. I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

Kaiapuni Sample Testimony  
Deadline TUES 1/30 3:00PM

**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:** Kalani Oshiro  
Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalaniopu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is [Kalani Oshiro] and I am a student and I am a sophomore at Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalaniopu‘u.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 because with this support, there are benefits that would help the school, and the language. The school could use money for more supplies for the school. The teachers can get paid more because they don't have a high salary. Without teachers for this school, the language can die. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education. There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.

In conclusion I strongly support of SB2069 for the benefits it gives  
I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

Kaiapuni Sample Testimony (DELETE OR EDIT RED)

Deadline TUES 1/30 3:00PM

**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:** Kingston David Frazier  
Ke Kula O Nāwahī‘okalani‘ōpu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kngston Frazier and I am a student and I am a 10th gradeI and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

I strongly support this because over the last 10 years there has been an increase in students buying almost 1,000 and more to come which would increase the Hawaiian language. Another thing is that it would help give the teachers more money so they can increase the things they do at the school. In conclusion this is my recommendation.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

Kaiapuni Sample Testimony (DELETE OR EDIT RED)

Deadline TUES 1/30 3:00PM

**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:** Kamalei Kauwe  
Ke Kula O Nāwahī'okalani'ōpu'u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kamalei Kauwe and I am a student and i am a sophomore,  
I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I strongly support this because there has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. For some people this could be a problem due to the lack of teachers in some schools, and for some school teachers are not able to speak nor teach the hawaiian language. And currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools.

In conclusion this is my opinion on the matter.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:12:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anolani Santos	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: 'Anolani Santos**

**Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is 'Anolani Santos and I am a student at Ke Kula O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and I am a sophomore.**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 because in the past years our papahana and our 'ōlelo is growing and more families are interested in putting their children in 'ōlelo Hawai'i speaking schools. The more our school grows the less teachers are provided the right amount of support to help teach our school which can cause downfall in our program. There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education. I have benefited from this program and school because I have learned**



**more than any other student outside of the papahana kaiapuni about my culture. I hope for more teachers to teach kaiapuni schools so that our program can continue to grow and that more families look forward to having their children learn in schools supporting the ‘ōlelo and Hawaiian culture. In conclusion 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 SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**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:** Kalauohi Aiona  
Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kalauohi Aiona and I am Sophomore Student at Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - *Relating to Education***. I strongly support this bill because it funds our teachers at Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u for being able to teach us our native language in our own school. There are many benefits at Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u for parents and students, Students can graduate with college credits that help them finish college quiker.

In conclusion i strogly support SB2069  
urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** [Kalei Ramos]  
[Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u]

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kalei Ramos and I am a student at Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and i am a sophomore.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** because without schools like this our native language will die. So I am going to support this program because of what it has done to me not only as a student but as a person as well. It can also benefit our next of kin because it can show them regular manners such as language, respect etc. and also learn another language. I hope you read this and think about it, thank you for allowing me to testify.

In conclusion I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** Keali'i Woolley  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Keali'i Woolley and I am a sophomore student at Ke Kula 'O Nāwahī'okalaniopu'u I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - *Relating to Education***. Because there has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. Kaiapuni schools need extra support and accessibility to more resources. And we haven't been getting the attention that are schools deserve. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

In conclusion I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** Kāwika Young  
Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kāwika Young and I am Student and Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education**. I strongly support this bill because it funds our teachers over at Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u for being able to teach us our Hawaiian language in our school. I think this is a good thing because our teachers are doing their best to teach us the Hawaiian language. I think more native Hawaiians need to learn their own native language because the Hawaiian language was banned back then so it's a good thing that we're trying to get our language back up.

In conclusion I strongly support it.

**I/we** urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**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:** Ka‘uhane Kammerer  
Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Ka‘uhane Kammerer and I am a sophomore at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - *Relating to Education.***

I am a strong supporter of SB2069 because in Hawaii there are two official languages which are English and Hawaiian. Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education. I think we should encourage parents and adults for Hawaiian education to increase more students to learn their native tongue.

In conclusion, we can educate many children and adults about Hawaiian languages to help grow our society and schools for the people of Hawai‘i.

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

## Kaiapuni Testimony

**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:** Teva Medeiros  
Community Member/ Kumu Kaiapuni

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

‘Ano‘ai me ke aloha mai ka ‘āina paia‘ala i ka hala a i ke one nene‘e o Ni‘ihau, mai ka ihu a ka lā ma ka ‘āina o ka Noenoe uakea a i ka ihu o ka moku ma ka ‘āina o ka ua Nahua, waianuhea kākou. ‘O au kēia ‘o **Teva Medeiros**, he kama no ka ‘āina laha i ka honua ‘o **Lahaina** ho‘i. ‘O ka ma‘amau, he kumu au no ke **Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Lahianaluna**. Eia nō na‘e, ua ne‘e kūmanawa au i ke **Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Maui ma Pā‘ia** i ke kūpliki‘i o ia wā ma hope o ka pauahi o ku‘u kaiaulu. He ‘ekolu a‘u keiki a aia ‘elua o lākou ma ka papahana kaiapuni e ho‘ōla nei i ka ‘ōlelo o nēia ‘āina i ia manawa ‘ānō. A aia ana nō ka muli ma ka papahana ke ulu a‘e ‘o ia. No lākou nō me nā hanauna a pau o ia ‘āina aloha au e hāpai ai i ka mana‘o nei.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

First I would like to bring forth an ‘ōlelo no‘eau that I feel represents the essentiality of this bill.

**“Hāhai nō ka ua i ka ululā‘au.”**

*Rains always follow the forest* - (Pukui & Varez, 1983; p.50, 405)

This ‘ōlelo no‘eau speaks of the attraction of rain to a forest, implying that the greater the forest, the greater the rain. Currently the “forest” or the kaiapuni/kaia‘ōlelo programs are experiencing a shortage in “trees” or kumu that can properly mālama the rain/students, consequently leading to students falling through the cracks as these following points will explain.

Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools which may seem sufficient. However 15 (give or take) of those kaiapuni/kaia‘ōlelo programs are secondary level schools, many of whom are operating under the guidance of 1-3 kumu teaching a variety of subjects just to retain their students in the Hawaiian immersion classes and afford said students a Hawaiian education which is their constitutional right as stated in Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). Whereas the English side has one teacher for every subject. Most secondary teachers on the Hawaiian immersion side are forced to wheel classes, teach subjects to all 3-4 grade levels at one time, and create curriculum in an

English centric/Hawaiian negligent DOE. Furthermore, if you were to assess all 15 secondary schools and allocate positions for the 4 core subjects (math, science, history, and language arts) not accounting for electives (which are also essential to a proper education.) the DOE would actually need to provide 60 positions to the secondary schools alone. As we take a look at the elementary schools, many of our Hawaiian immersion elementary schools operate with kumu teaching multiple grade levels throughout the school year, whereas their English teaching co-workers only have to worry about 1 grade level no matter what their student count is.

There has been an increase of students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students. It is obvious that our Hawaiian immersion schools are bursting at the seams as more and more parents see the benefits of their child learning in a second language. However with the influx of students and the lack of positions and kumu, many students are not able to fully immerse themselves in the program as the ratio of student(s) to teacher(s) saturates the language comprehension and more so articulation. Many families opt to leave Hawaiian Immersion as their students' Hawaiian education wasn't as advantageous as they expected due to the student to teacher ratio and the negligence of the DOE to acknowledge that said ratio is different for these second language learners.

Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them. As the student counts increase schools and teachers are left with no choice but to turn families away. Which again to no fault on the part of the school and/or teachers is a direct violation of Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). If every student is afforded a Hawaiian education, why is the DOE/BOE not providing the means for schools and staff to provide such education? You might say that we could just raise the cap for student to teacher ratios. However, if it is ineffective education for English educators, it will surely be ineffective education for students learning a second language.

In conclusion, with the influx of student enrollment and the lack of teaching positions, the committee should recognize 10 positions; however helpful will only be a step towards bridging the enormous gap in the pursuit of providing a **proper** Hawaiian education for the children of our public school system and to ensure that no student yearning to learn the language and knowledge of this land and/or their ancestors is ever turned away.

I implore the Committee to **PASS** SB2069 as the first step to rectifying the gross negligence that the Hawai'i DOE/BOE has been committing for decades. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:28:59 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholas Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of expanding services for Hawaiian language in the DOE. We have been working for a long time to expand the use of Hawaiian language in every area possible. This year we even got Hawaiian language Fire Fighter Safety Guides sent to 3000 students across the state. Help support our native language.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:30:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiann Kelai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Tiann Kelai and I am a parent of a student who attends Kula Kaiapuni o Anuenue.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.

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

Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

In conclusion, I fully support SB2069 in regards to education.

I/we urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:33:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn P. Silva	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:** Glenn P. Silva, Ph.D.

Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

E ko ka 'Aha'ōlelo o ka Moku'āina 'o Hawai'i nei, aloha 'oukou:

My name is Glenn P. "Kalena" Silva, and I am a Professor of Hawaiian Studies in Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 – Relating to Education** for the following reasons:

- 1.) Although Hawai'i's public education has two language pathways—English and Hawaiian—the Hawaiian pathway is severely underrepresented in the Board of Education.
- 2.) This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution (1978).

3.) Equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education should be ensured on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and the guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8

should be upheld.

I urge the Committee to **PASS SB2069**. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!**

Alohe e na Kenekoa,

‘O au o Kumu Mahina Hou Ross. He mana‘o ka‘u e kako‘o i SB 2069 no nā kūlana kumu kaiapuni hou aku. Nele nā kula kaiapuni i nā kulana kumu i kēia mau lā. Ke nui a‘e nei nā kula kaiapuni, ‘a‘ole na‘e e ulu nei nā kulana kumu no laila pono e huki nā kumu maiā nā kula e kū nei. Nele mākou ma Molokai i nā kumu. Ma ke kula a‘u e a‘o nei, ‘o ia ho‘i o O Hina I Ka Malama he 2 māua nā kumu no nā papa a pau no nā haumāna papa 9-12, a he kuleana nui kēia a‘u e ‘auamo nei. E hō‘una pū ana au i nā leka kako‘o a ka‘u mau haumāna i kākau ai. Aia nā leka a ka‘u mau haumāna i kakau ai ma lalo iho nei.

na‘u nō me ka ‘oia‘i‘o

na Kumu Mahina Hou

Leka 1

Masina Borden-phillips 1/29/24

Welina mai me ke aloha e Senator Lynn DeCoite laua ‘o Senator Michelle N. Kidani ‘o wau o Masina Borden-phillips kāko‘o wau kēia no ka mea aia au ma ka papa 11 ‘o O Hina I Ka Malama a pono kākou na kumu no ka mea he 2 kumu wale no a a‘o lākou ia mākou na mea a pau. Pono mākou ke kōkua ke hoa‘o nui nei na kumu e a‘o na mea like‘ole aka inā loa‘a he mau kumu a‘ole pono e hopohopo. Mahalo nui loa no kou manawa e heluhelu ka‘u pepa.

Leka 2

‘Aloha mai kākou, ‘o wau o Kekoa Colon ‘Aia wau ma ka Papa ‘umikumakahi papa ‘ohinaikamalama and i write this letter to 2069 ana i support the program because i want more people to come out cause it just makes it better for the young kids and the language and for the culture. I support more teachers

trying out for the position because it's hard to have 2 teachers trying to teach one class and I feel if more people come out it would be easier and more simple. You could have one science teacher, English, or gym.

Leka 3

Aloha e Senator Michelle N. Kidani a me Senator Lynn Decoite, 'O Ciera-Lee Ka'apuwaihiwalani Davis ko'u inoa. Noho au ma Hoo'olehua, Moloka'i.

Ua koho 'ia no ka Senate Bill 2069, no ka mea hele kula au ma O Hina I ka malama o Molokai High School, he kula kaiapuni keia a kekahi mana'o, pono kakou i na kumu, no ka mea loa'a kakou i 'elua kumu a ke a'o nei i ho'okahi kumu i 'elua papa, a ke kumu ea'e ke a'o nei i 'ekolu papa.

'O ia ke kumu a'u e palapala aku nei ia 'oe, ke mana'o nei au he pono i ka mākou Papahana Kaiapuni Hawai'i i nā kumu hou a'e.

Mahalo!

Leka 4

Na'alohe E 01.29.2024

Aloha e nā Kenekoa,

'O wau o Na'alohe Estrada aia au ma ka papa 'Umikumalua ma ke Kula Molokai

High School no O Hina I Ka Malama, ke kakau nei au i keia pepa i ko'u mana'o no ka Senate Bill 2069.

No ko'u mana'o no ka senate bill 2069 he maika'i i ka ho'ike ana i ka pahana no ka 'olelo hawaii e ho'ulu i na po'e no ka lohe 'ana i ka 'olelo hawaii. No na kumu 'elua e loa'a ma ka papa hiki ia lakou e a'o i na keiki i ka 'olelo hawaii a hiki i na keiki e a'o me na ohana kela e na kupuna hau'oli lakou i na hiki i na ohana ke 'olelo. Ka mea maika'i i na loa'a i na kumu ea'e e a'o i na keiki i ke kaiulu i ka 'olelo hawaii.

Kekahi ninau loa'a wau, He aha hou e ho'ike i keia pahana a he aha na mea 'ano nui? Mahalo i ka nana'ana i ka'u leka mai no ke Kenekoa.

Leka 5

30 January, 2024

Aloha e na Kenekoa,  
'o wau no 'o Kahakuhaakoi Hamakua-Laemoa, ma ka papa 11 'o ke kula Moloka'i High

School: O Hina I Ka Malama. 'O keia leka no ka ninau aku ana ina hiki ke ho'omo'o me SB 2069 no na kumu kaiapuni hou.

I ko'u mana'o, ina ua holo mua me keia papahana, e 'ulu hou ana ka 'olelo Hawaii. 'A'ole i loa'a makou ka nui 'o na kumu me ka 'ike Hawaii a ina loa'a ke kumu kaiapuni hou aku hiki ke a'o aku i ka 'ike hou ia na keiki i 'ulu a'e. Ina a'ole i loa'a na kumu kaiapuni, mana'o ia, e make ka 'ike Hawaii a'e loa'a ka 'ike ho'opunipuni ina e loa'a ka kumu kaiapuni 'ole ia nei.

Ina e holo mua ana me ka SB 2069 e 'ulu ana ka 'ike Hawaii no ka maupopo ana lakou ka 'olelo a na hana like 'ole iloko ke kula kaiapuni. I ko'u mana'o pu

nahele, he mea maika'i no ka mea, inā a'ole i loa'a nā kumu kaiapuni, 'o wai e a'o ka hana Hawaii?

Ke 'olu'olu e no'ono'o pono no ka holo mua ana i ka SB 2069, Mahalo nui!

Leka 6

Aloha e nā Kenekoa, 'O Kana ko'u inoa. Aia wau ma ka papa 'umi kūmālua o 'O Hina I Ka Malama, Moloka'i nui a hina. I write this letter in order to support Senate Bill 2069. I support this bill because I am a kaiapuni student and I support the bill. We are in need of more Kaiapuni kumu a me Specialist positions.

Thank you for taking the time to view my letter.

Leka 7

Aloha e nā kenekoa,

Makemake au e kākau pili ana i ke kāko'o ana i ka SB 2069. Ma ka papa o O Hina I Ka Malama, loa'a kākou he 'elua mau kumu e a'o ia mākou a pau. A ma ke kula ki'eki'e, a he li'ili'i mau papa 'ōlelo Hawai'i. I ko'u mana'o pono na kula a pau ma hawai'i e loa'a i nā papa 'ōlelo Hawai'i. Ke holomua nei nā lā, ke piholo nei i ko mākou lāhui a ke na'i nei nā po'e haole ia mākou. I ko'u mana'o, ma nā kula like 'ole ma ka pai 'āina 'o Hawai'i nei, pono kākou a e paipai i nā hanauna ke hiki mai nei, e holomua i ko mākou lāhui. Pono kākou i nā kumu e paipai i ke kula 'ōlelo hawai'i e a'o i nā keiki e hiki mai nei. Pono ko mākou kaia'ulu kaiapuni e ulu.

Leka 8

Aloha e nā kenekoa, 'O Te Waitemata ko'u inoa aia au ma ka papa 11 o O hina i ka malama. Noho au ma Moloka'i. E kāko'o au i senate bill 2069 no ka mea pono mākou ma Moloka'i i kekahi mau Kumu kaiapuni ē a'e. Ma kēia kula o O hina i ka malama loa'a i 'eula mau Kumu wale no. No laila e pono makou i kekahi mau Kumu. Mahalo no ka nānā 'ana i ko'u leka e pili 'ana i ka senate bill 2069

Leka 9

Mai ka pi'ina a ka lā i Ha'eha'e a ka welona a ka lā i Lehua welina mai me ke aloha e Senator Michelle N. Kidani me Senator Lynn Decoite,



‘O Ho‘onu‘u Gutierres ko‘u inoa aia au ma ka papa ‘umikūmākahi ‘o O Hina I Ka Malama, ‘o ia ho‘i kekahi kula ‘ōlelo hawai‘i ma ka mokupuni ‘o Moloka‘i. Kāko‘o au i ka Senate Bill 2069 no ka mea he haumana au ma ka papa ‘ōlelo hawai‘i. ‘O ka‘u mana‘o, pono mākou i nā kumu no ke kula ki‘eki‘e me ke kula waena. No ke kula ki‘eki‘e loa‘a kākou i ‘elua Kumu. A‘o nā Kumu ‘elua i ‘eono papa mai ka papa ‘eiwa a hiki i ka papa alaka‘i. A no ke kula waena loa‘a lākou i ke kumu pani hakahaka a ma ka‘u mana‘o a‘ole mākaukau lākou i ke a‘o ‘ana aku.

Mahalo, Ho‘onu‘u Gutierres

Greetings, to Senator Michelle N. Kidani and Senator Lynn Decoite,

My name is Ho‘onu‘u Gutierres I am in the 11th grade of O Hina I Ka Malama which is a Hawaiian Language and is currently on the island of Moloka‘i. I support the Senate Bill 2069 because I am a Hawaiian Immersion student myself and I strongly feel that we need more Hawaiian Immersion teachers especially for the high school and middle school HLIP, because for the high school we only have 2 teachers. Both teachers that we have teach 6 subjects each from the 9th to 12th grade. For the middle school HLIP they currently have a substitute teacher and in my opinion I feel that the students there don't have a lot of education for them.

Sincerely,

Ho‘onu‘u Gutierres

**Testimony for Continued Funding For Kula Kaiapuni Positions**

Deadline: TUES 1/30 3:00PM

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: Nanette LN Grambusch and 'ohana

RE: SB2069  
Hearing on January 31, 2031  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069

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

I am Nanette Leihua Napoleon Grambusch. I was born on O'ahu, and raised on Moloka'i. The late Sherman UM Napoleon Sr. and Judith K Flores Napoleon are my parents. I married the late William H Grambusch. The late Wilma L Kamakana Grambusch and Jack L Grambusch Sr are his parents. We are natives of the land of Moloka'i and Hawaii. I am a grandparent, parent, teacher, student and woman who supports the Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kualapu'u and every single Hawaiian Language Program here and afar. Today, I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.

First and foremost, I support this because today, I represent every single one of my kupuna and makua that came before me that were native speakers. They were told that they no longer can speak their native tongue. They can no longer conduct business, church, community events - yes, LIVE ma ka 'Olelo Hawaii. In a conversation that I had with my granddaughter, when she realized that 'Olelo Hawaii was OUTLAWED, looked at me in disbelief, and said "How dare they do that to my kupuna! Grandma, why would they do that? Were they crazy?" I said, "No, just greedy - wanting power and control of these islands."

Second, I represent myself. I grew up in a home where the language was spoken ONLY amongst the 'ohana. My parents spoke to me in English, and yes, pidgin. My grandparents spoke to me in English. I was privileged to experience - hear, see and feel my kupuna and makua speak 'Olelo Hawaii to each other, but not to me. They did not talk to me in Hawaiian, except to call me by my Hawaiian name, Leihua. This is one of the greatest gifts that I have from my makua and kupuna. It has been the foundation in my life. The double-edged sword. The blade of pili grass in life.

Finally, for the future generations of Kanaka Maoli, 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. Families are turned away by DOE Kaiapuni school that are closest to them because of limited funding. 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), 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. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.

I urge each and everyone of you to stand by the constitution, because it simply is the right thing to do. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2069. I am going to share a conversation that I had with the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye when I was 19 years old. I was a student of 'Olelo Hawaii and I was at a La Kukahekahe event held at Kapiolani Community College. He came up to me, and he realized who I was because our family were Protect Kahoolawe 'Ohana members. He asked me this, "Why would you want to speak Hawaiian?" I looked at him, and I said, "Well, first, I am Hawaiian. And second, this is Hawaii."

Na Ke Akua e ho'opomaika'i ia makou pakahi a pau. Mahalo nui loa for your time.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:57:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaipolani Kim	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: D. Kaipolani Kim**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is D. Kaipolani Kim and I am parent and faculty member at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u, a public laboratory school on Hawai‘i island.**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education for these reasons:.**

- Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.**
- With the increase of Kula Kaiapuni (8 kula) and students desiring Hawaiian-medium education (1000+ in the last 10 years), the DOE has an obligation to fund positions so demand can be met.**
- 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**

**In conclusion, I strongly support the creation of full-time teacher positions at Kula Kaiapuni through the DOE.**

**I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:33:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mona Kea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the Kaiapuni schools staff expansion.

We need more teachers who can support the existing staff to help grow this program th as t it vital to the well-being of these keiki

**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:** KADE HEMAKANAKAUANOE‘OKO‘OLAULANI YAM-LUM  
KE KULA KAIAPUNI ‘O KAPOLEI

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

I am Kade H. Yam-Lum

My name is KADE HEMAKANAKAUANOE‘OKO‘OLAULANI YAM-LUM and I am graduate and teacher of immersion school and I am currently a Kaiapuni teacher and support fully ‘Aha Kauleo on their stance in support of SB2069.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2069, which aims to ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education in all public schools in Hawai‘i. There are several key reasons that I believe this bill is necessary and will have a positive impact on our education system.

Firstly, the current funding for teacher positions in kaiapuni schools is simply not enough. With 22 schools across the state, only 35 teacher positions are funded by the Department of Education (DOE). This means that many schools are understaffed and unable to provide the necessary support and quality education that our children deserve. SB2069 will address this issue by allocating more resources and funding to allow for additional teacher positions in kaiapuni schools.

Secondly, there has been a significant increase in the number of kaiapuni schools and students over the past decade. With an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools and nearly 1,000 additional students, it is clear that there is a growing demand for Hawaiian immersion education. However, many families are being turned away by DOE schools at registration because of limited availability. SB2069 will help address this issue by ensuring that families have access to the kaiapuni school that is closest to them, allowing more students to benefit from this valuable educational opportunity.

Lastly, it is crucial that the State uphold its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution. These sections recognize the importance of Hawaiian language and culture, and it is our duty to ensure that Hawaiian immersion education is accessible to all students across the state. SB2069 will help uphold these constitutional principles and ensure that our public education system provides equitable opportunities for all students.

In conclusion, SB2069 is a necessary and important step towards ensuring equitable access to Hawaiian immersion education in Hawai'i's public schools. By increasing funding for teacher positions, addressing the growing demand for kaiapuni schools, and upholding our constitutional responsibilities, this bill will have a positive impact on our education system. I urge you to support and prioritize the passage of SB2069.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kade Hemakanakauano'e'oko'olaulani Yam-Lum

I/we urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:46:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Davielynn Briones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

He mākuā au i 2 keiki i ke Kaiapuni. Pono i nā kumu! I am a parent of 2 keiki in the Kaiapuni pathway. We need Kumu!

We also need access for our keiki that doesn't require them to travel outside of their community just to find a kula that will allow them to learn and grow in their native language.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:53:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hiilei Vuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Kakoo nui wau i keia pila. Ua hele kula wau i ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waiiau, ke Kula Kaiapuni o Keaukaha a puka mai ke Kula o Nawahiokalaniopuu. He mau keiki kau ma ke Kula o Nawahiokalaniopuu i keia manawa. Ike lea wau i ka nele ma na kula a me ke koikoi o ka hoolako ana i na kula me na ano kumuwaiwai like ole. He mea nui ka lawa kupono o na kumu ma ke kula i hiki ke kakoo a holomua maikai na keiki. E oluolu, e kakoo mai ia makou.

**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:** Kaehukaihaamainae Keala

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kaehukaihaamainae Keala and I am a supporter. My nieces, who are both fluent in Hawaiian and English, go to Kaiapuni and Anuenue.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** due to the current 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools as my sister and brother in-law previously taught at Anuenue. It is evident of the lack of staffing and positions open in the DOE. This should be fixed and held accountable when considering this bill. Due to the fact that public education has two language pathways- English and Hawaiian, Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education and should be as it is our way of life as Hawaiians. Without the perpetuation of Hawaiian Culture, there will be no Hawaii.

In conclusion, I strongly support this bill as it is a step in direction for Hawaiians and the generations to come.

I/we urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:08:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kyla Manzano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

Considering that our kula kaiapiuni community is growing considerably, it is only common sense that it would need even more support, even more resources, and even more obviously, it will need more kumu (teachers). I am in full support of SB 2069.

Mahalo nui,

Kyla Manzano

Kumu Papa Mālaa‘o kaia‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, & makua o Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u

(Hawaiian Medium kindergarten teacher & Ke Kula ‘O Nawahīokalani‘ōpu‘u parent.)

**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: Kealani Makaiwi**  
91-1023 Kama‘aha Ave #803 Kapolei, HI 96707

Current kumu at Keiki o Ka ‘Āina Family Learning Centers

With keiki currently attending:

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waiau

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Ānuenue

Previously attended:

Punana Leo o Ko‘olau Poko (formerly Kamakau)

Punana Leo o Honolulu

Current member of Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club

Current Board President at Kealakai HOA in Kapolei

Alumni of Polynesian Cultural Center

Alumni of Brigham Young University-Hawaii

Alumni of Kahuku High and Intermediate

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kealani Makaiwi. I want to speak on behalf of all the entities I represent if it is possible. I am currently serving as a native hawaiian parent participation preschool kumu at Keiki o Ka ‘Āina Family Learning Centers at the Kapolei Heritage Center and Nānākuli Elementary School for hawaiian homestead ‘ohana with keiki ages 0-5. My own keiki currently attends Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waiau & Ānuenue, but previously attended Punana Leo o Ko‘olau Poko (formerly Kamakau), & Punana Leo o Honolulu. I am an active member of the Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club. I currently serve as Board President at Kealakai HOA in Kapolei. I am an alumni of the Polynesian Cultural Center, Brigham Young University-Hawaii and Kahuku High and Intermediate.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education. For 12 years, I have made a daily commute so that my young keiki can attend kula ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. My commute consisted of traveling from Pearl City to Kāne‘ohe (Punana Leo, 3 yrs), then from Pearl City to Kalihi (Punana Leo, 2 yrs). Then from Kapolei to Pearl City to Kalihi (Waiau & Punana Leo, 1 yr) and now I travel from Kapolei to Pearl City (Waiau, 6 years). I silently cry to

myself at the end of each school year patting myself on the back that I did it! I did it for my keiki, for my lāhui, my community, for our future!

There are hardly any programs available for keiki in the Honouliuli area and we are in high demand for more of our Hawaiian ‘ohana to reconnect with the language of our kupuna. As a native Hawaiian kumu I work hard to share the Hawaiian language and culture in my own classroom, connecting them with ‘āina, their heritage, and help many Hawaiian families to prepare their keiki to attend kula Hawai‘i. As a kumu I often think to myself that I would holomua to fill the needs in my community.

We need more programming, we need more kumu. There is not enough educational programs available for the keiki of Honouliuli under the age of 5 to be in. Last I heard from the consortium, there were 10,000+ Honouliuli keiki under the age of 5 who are at home and in no programs. We are in short supply of staff, and I am also willing to mentor mākua/parents who are willing to step up and fill the need. Please support more programming and workforce development so that our Hawaiian communities can thrive.

This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

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

In conclusion we urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:22:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nicole Smith	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:** Nicole Nanea Smith (Makua na keiki Kiapuni o Paia)

**RE:** SB2069

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Nicole Nanea Smith and I am Parent of two and soon hopefully 3 students of the Kiapuni program at Paia School and plan to continue on through their education journey in this program.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

There are so many reasons to support this bill. A couple important facts are that currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools. There has been a continual increase in Kaiapuni school enrolment over the past 10 years which has led to an increased amount of Kaiapuni schools. The teachers are always stretched with large class sizes, not enough substitute teachers. Meanwhile more people than ever are graduating with Hawaiian Language/studies majors. The DOE is not holding up it obligation to provide equal access to

education in Hawaiian Language. Hiring more teachers and having better pay are the answers to securing our keiki's future here in Hawaii and perpetuating the Hawaiian Language, people, culture

I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:35:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tami Haili	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2069, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) curriculum specialist II positions and ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools. I commend your efforts to enhance the educational opportunities for our students in the Hawaiian Immersion Program.**

**As the current principal of Samuel Enoka Kalama Intermediate School (Ke Kula Waena ‘o Kalama) on the island of Maui, I appreciate the initiative to allocate resources for the expansion of our Ka Papahana Kaiapuni. However, I would like to raise a concern regarding the allocation plan for these positions and their potential impact on existing schools like ours.**

**It is crucial to ensure that the allocation of teachers is not only based on the establishment of new schools but also takes into account the growing needs of existing schools like ours. With nearly 140 Kaiapuni students in grades 6-8 and a growing yearly Kaiapuni enrollment, our school is currently provided only two teachers by the Office of Hawaiian Education. The remaining 6 teachers are funded using our overall Weighted Student Formula from our school enrollment of almost 940 students. As the Kaiapuni program grows, we will not be able to sustain the small school structure of a separate Kaiapuni program, eventually the Hawaiian Immersion students will need to filter into English speaking classes. This is not the intent of the Hawaiian Immersion Program.**

**I strongly urge you to consider incorporating a more comprehensive and equitable allocation plan into Senate Bill 2069. This will ensure that the additional resources provided benefit not only newly opening schools but also existing schools that are experiencing growth and increased demand for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni education.**

**Thank you for your attention to this matter and your dedication to improving education in Hawaii. I am hopeful that with your support, Senate Bill 2069 can be strengthened to better serve the needs of all Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:40:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Exodus Francisco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**My name is Exodus Francisco and I am an 11th grade student at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u, and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069.**

**We should increase our support for funding and hiring additional teachers for our Hawaiian Language Immersions Schools. This will enable us to enhance the quality of instruction and enhance the education of students, resulting in a greater number of Hawaiian language speakers. The expansion of the Hawaiian language has the potential to enhance the educational opportunities for the next generation, resulting in a higher percentage of us kids to be Hawaiian language speakers. The increase in the number of teachers at the Hawaiian Language Immersion School can assist our lāhui to acquire a deeper understanding of our lāhui's dialect.**

**In conclusion, I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:40:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Branden Hanalei Kaʻuhiwai Peʻa-Ferrari	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: Branden Peʻa-Ferrari**

**Ke Kula ʻO Nāwahīokalaniʻōpuʻu**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

**Aloha mai e nā poʻo a me nā lālā o ka ʻAhaʻōlelo,**

**My name is Branden Peʻa-Ferrari and I am an 11th grade student at Ke Kula ʻO Nāwahīokalaniʻōpuʻu, and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

**I support SB2069 because many families have been turned away from being a part of Hawaiian immersion schools and are not able to be taught the Hawaiian language like they**

**want to. I also believe that the legislature should increase funds for teachers in Hawaiian language immersion schools because there needs to be more teachers to teach about the Hawaiian language and keep the Hawaiian way strong. Lately, there has been an increase of immersion schools of 8 in the past 10 years and an increase of almost 1,000 students in the past 10 years. I also support the bill because it upholds the constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of Hawaii State Constitution. If we are not able to uphold these constitutional responsibilities, then I believe that the Hawaiian language will not grow any further.**

**In conclusion I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:40:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Solomon Makana Keliikuli	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: Solomon Makana Keliikuli**

**Ke kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is Solomon Makana Keliikuli and I am a 11th grade student at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069.**

**If within the last 10 years, the number of students increased by 1,000 and the number of schools also increased by 8, then the number of teacher positions should as well. The Hawaiian language is one of the official languages of the state of Hawai‘i, and I feel that a**

**“State” language should be known by most in the state. For most of the state to know the Hawaiian language, we need to increase the amount of teachers. Being in the Hawaiian immersion program my entire life, I feel that the teachers I've had have made a big impact on me as an individual, and I want others to have a similar experience.**

**In conclusion I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:41:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hi'ilei Iliwa'alani	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: Hi'ilei Iliwa'alani**

**Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

**Aloha mai e nā poo a me nā lālā o ka 'Aha'ōlelo,**

**My name is Hi'ilei Iliwa'alani and I am an 11th grade student at Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - I support the Immersion teachers expanding their paychecks. The amount of teachers at Immersion Schools has increased but their payments decreased. We need to build more schools because with their payment**



**nowadays there is going to be a shortage of teachers. It could be a problem because less teachers means fewer things the students can learn.**

**In conclusion, I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:41:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kini wilson	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: Kini Wilson**

**Ke kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is Kini Wilson and I am an 11th grade student at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - I support paying Hawaiian or immersion school teachers because not only is it a full time job. Its giving the next generation, the kids that will be here in the future and take over an education and a learning experience. The problem is more students join immersion schools and less teachers work because of the pay. It is very important to encourage people to become teachers and that wont happen if the pay stays the same. Many people would think**

**that teacher jobs don't matter. They are the most important job leading to a different future.**

**In conclusion, I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:42:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

**My name is Hulali Torres and I am an 11th grade students at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u, and**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 -**

**I'm in favor of providing funds for teacher positions in Hawaiian-speaking immersion schools, as students can learn more about the world and gain more knowledge and experience in the students' future. There are more students enrolling in Hawaiian-speaking immersion schools than teachers enrolled in the schools every year. The teacher would get paid more money and have fun to teach the kids with more knowledge. It would be helpful for the parents because the students would have more teachers to teach them.**

**I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:42:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zaydeelyn Amar	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: Zaydeelyn Amar**

**Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is Zaydeelyn Amar and I am an 11th grade student at Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u and**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

**The Legislature should increase funds for teachers positions in Hawaiian language immersion schools because we need more teachers to teach Hawaiian language. Although we do have teachers such as the current DOE funds for 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools, it's not enough education to strive for the best there can be, because I know we can do more. The years of a child are running out one day a child can be one and as soon as you close your eyes for a second they turn eighteen, education is not a joke. This issue of increasing student in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 student and the many families that has been turned away by the DOE schools registration for the kaiapuni school that is the closest to them we need more teachers without teachers how can the next generation be smarter than we are we need the next generation to strive and be better. We can't let our mother tongue die just by problems that can be prevented or fixest.**

**In conclusion I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:44:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hinano Kaawaloa	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: Hinano Kaawaloa**

**Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalano'ōpu'u**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is Hinano Kaawaloa and I am an 11 grade student at Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

**I strongly support this because I feel that for all of the teachers' hard work they should all be compensated as such, and with the growth of many of these schools comes with having to hire more teachers. Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools, and there should be more, why stop? This could affect the schools in a positive way**

**because there would be more teachers to educate the growing numbers of students in schools. If there are more teachers then more kids and families won't be turned down by Immersion schools because there is any room for them. In my years of going to school you can never get enough teachers, and it would help to improve the academic field of learning. 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). With the more teachers there are more for students to learn about their History and Language that was lost many years ago yet is thriving. I feel as a student this could have an amazing impact in my schools and could do a lot.**

**In conclusion I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:44:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mikiala Akau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e na po'e a pau.....

I am writing in support of SB2069. It is crucial to support our educational institutions with the support that's needed to educate our children. More importantly, our kula kaiapuni across the pae 'aina. Being able to educate more children in the history and culture of Hawai'i is our, the people and leadership of this state's kuleana. Mahalo.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:46:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia Mio 'Ilikea Kam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Alicia 'Ilikea Kam and I am a Native Hawaiian that resides in your home town and district in Kona, Hawai'i. I recently heard about Senate Bill 2069 and the need to fund the much needed positions the DOE are requesting.

As a Native Hawaiian who has dedicated her life to kaiapuni education, I strongly support SB 2069. I was fortunate enough to learn the Hawaiian language and culture by means of varying educational opportunities in high school and at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, however, we must continue to grow Ka Papahana Kaiapuni allowing all students the opportunity to be educated in the mother tongue of the islands. With the language and culture being suppressed for nearly a century, its ramifications have had radical negative effects on the Native Hawaiian communities throughout the pae'āina; whereas supporting the expansion of the program will have overall positive effects amongst communities. While learning the Hawaiian language, I made a conscientious decision that my children would learn the Hawaiian language. I followed through by speaking to them in Hawaiian and having them educated in the Hawaiian language through Pūnana Leo and Ke Kula 'o 'Ehunuikaimalino in Kona. Doing so helped them know the language and culture and grounded them in their identity, something many individuals struggle with today. Ka Papahana Kaiapuni perpetuates and maintains invaluable lessons for our youth, our 'ohana, and communities, as they learn to be conscientious stewards of Hawai'i.

I appreciate your help and understanding, and ask that you take some time to please send me a response letting me know if you are able to support Senate Bill 2069.

na'u nō me ka ha'aha'a,

Alicia M. 'Ilikea Kam

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:47:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Tanigawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dr. Dana Tanigawa and I am in support of SB 2069, to address the increase in demand and growth in kaiapuni education by funding 10 teacher positions as well as funding 3 full-time kaiapuni educational specialist positions.

The demand for Hawaiian language immersion has increased. There are over 2,300 students in our program, which has seen an increase in almost 1,000 students over the past decade. There has been an increase in about 10 kaiapuni schools over the last decade and we will have 23 starting next school year. In order to meet this need, we need more classroom teacher positions. Schools continue to open every year and funding needs to increase to meet this growth.

Kaiapuni education is unique in that we cannot just go to a company and purchase curriculum or assessment materials. These need to be developed and vetted to meet kaiapuni learning standards. While the HODOE system is making strides, it continues to work towards making space and providing equity to kaiapuni education. The educational specialist positions will help provide administrative support for the 23 schools in the areas like working with individuals/companies to build curriculum and assessments, developing classess and ACCNs, advocating for buiding a process for highly-qualified teachers, creating community/organization connections to bridge K-12 and college/career pathways, increasing engagement and work development opportunities, and supporting teachers with instruction and supporting principals in their work.

He o ia mau nō ka pono o ka lāhui kanaka i ka na‘auao Hawai‘i. It will take all of Hawai‘i to support and care for kaiapuni education. An area we can start with now is to support SB2069 to suppoprt the papahana.

Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

Dr. Dana Tanigawa

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:47:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sakari Frazier	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: Sakari Frazier**

**Ke Kula 'O Nāwahī'okalani'ōpu'u**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is Sakari Frazier and I am an 11th grade student at Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u, and**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 -**

**I strongly support this because I think there should be more teacher positions. Because there aren't enough teachers to teach more classes. The reason is because there are more**

**students joining Hawaiian immersion schools than teachers themselves every year and because of this problem it is causing Hawaiian immersion schools to have less teachers. It could be a problem because less teachers means fewer things the students can learn. And by funding more teachers they can teach more students to where they can have more experience and knowledge as they grow older.**

**In conclusion I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**



## Native Hawaiian Education Council

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30 IANUALI 2024

**TO:** Senate Education Committee Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado, and the Senate Committee on Education members

**FROM:** Elena Farden, Executive Director – Native Hawaiian Education Council

**SUBJECT:** **Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2069**

Aloha mai e Lunaho'omalu Kidani a me ka Hope Lunaho'omalu Mercado:

I am writing on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC) to express our **strong support for the passage of Senate Bill 2069 (SB 2069)**, which seeks to allocate general funds for the establishment of three FTE Kaiapuni curriculum specialist II positions and 10 FTE Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions. Our endorsement is grounded in the extensive research and annual community consultation findings conducted by NHEC from 2020 through 2023.

The findings from our research and community consultations across the pae'āina have highlighted two crucial points that underscore the necessity of funding priorities for teachers and curriculum support for Hawaiian language-medium instruction learning. Firstly, we have identified that such funding priorities are critical in addressing equity, resiliency, and social-emotional well-being for increased Native Hawaiian learner outcomes. The allocation of funds for teacher positions plays a pivotal role in closing achievement gaps, ensuring educational equity, and fostering the overall well-being of Native Hawaiian learners.

Secondly, our research emphasizes the significance of the expansion and support of 'āina-based learning in Hawaiian language-medium schools and Hawaiian focused charter schools. This approach not only reinforces the value of traditional wisdom and language but also serves as an effective educational strategy for cultivating critical skills among learners. Additionally, it provides an inclusive recovery approach for communities emerging from the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other devastating events, such as the Maui fires.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing educational disparities, and the devastating events like the Maui fires have added to the challenges faced by our communities. In this context, funding for Kaiapuni curriculum specialists and kumu will build upon and expand Hawaiian language-medium instruction and 'āina-based learning opportunities for learners. This becomes imperative for building resilience, promoting cultural identity, and fostering community recovery.

Senate Bill 2069 aligns with the NHEC's mission to advocate for the educational well-being of Native Hawaiian learners. NHEC was established in 1994 under the Native Hawaiian Education Act, the statutory responsibilities of NHEC are to coordinate, assess, and report & make recommendations on the effectiveness of existing education programs for Native Hawaiians, the state of present Native Hawaiian efforts, and improvements that may be made to existing programs, policies and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians.



Mahalo nui loa for considering our testimony in support of Senate Bill 2069. We urge you to prioritize the passage of this bill for the betterment of Native Hawaiian learners, their communities, and the broader educational landscape.

Me ka mahalo ha'aha'a,



Elena Farden  
Executive Director, Native Hawaiian Education Council

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:57:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suzie Leong	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: Suzie Leong

RE: SB2069

Hearing on January 31, 2031

IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069

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

My name is Suzie Leong and I am a parent of a graduate of Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waiau.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.

The reason I strongly support SB2069 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). There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education. Families are being waitlisted or turned away by DOE Schools at registration for the school that is closest to them. Many keiki kaiapuni end their hawaiian education after 6th grade due to the limited access of an intermediate or highschool in their community. We need more classroom materials, programs and experienced teachers.

I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

**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:** Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, Inc.

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Sesame Shim and I am the president of Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, Inc., a non-profit parent support group of Nā Kula Kaiapuni o Maui at Pā‘ia Elementary, Kalama Intermediate, and Kekaulike High School. I am also a parent of 2 children in Kaiapuni schools at Pā‘ia Elementary and Kalama intermediate. I am also a Kaiapuni teacher at Kekaulike High School. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

In the past 9 years that my oldest son has been in Kaiapuni at Pā‘ia and now Kalama, I have seen our Kaiapuni schools in particular grow exponentially. My son entered into a class of 60 students, being one of the largest of that time. Now, 60 students has become the standard. At Kekaulike, we have gone from graduating 5-12 students on average, to now 20 students becoming the standard. And in the next two years, we will have a graduating class of about 39 students.

While we applaud this growth of our Kaiapuni schools it has taken a toll on our teachers and resources that they have been able to provide. We need more teacher positions for the number of students, however we also need more off-ratio positions to accommodate for all of the various subjects at the secondary level. We also need specific support such as Kaiapuni SPED teachers who can support our students with special needs within the Kaiapuni classrooms. And, it is these needs that will be supported by the approval of SB2069.

The State has a responsibility to uphold the Hawai‘i State Constitution’s(1978) Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section C. This bill will help to ensure that these responsibilities are met.

In conclusion, I strongly support the growth of Kaiapuni teaching positions and resources, and we urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

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

**RE:** **SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

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

The ‘Aha Kauleo is in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** to appropriate funds to the Department of Education for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) curriculum specialist II positions and ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) classroom teacher positions for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools.

First and foremost, this bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, “The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language,” Article XV, Section 4, “English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawaii” (Hawaii State Constitution, 1978). Furthermore, the State of Hawaii has two language medium pathways, English and Hawaiian. Whereas the English medium pathway can and has recruited teachers from out of state to fill teaching positions, the Hawaiian medium pathway needs to grow its own, which further highlights the profound need for Kaiapuni teachers who have the linguistic and cultural competencies to teach the 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 nearly 1,000 students. Yet, the allocated teaching positions have remained the same. 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 SB2069** 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!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:18:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leisy Wyman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair, Senate Committee on Education, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Education, and Senate Committee on Education Members,

My name is Leisy Wyman, and I am a Professor of Indigenous Education and Second Language Acquisition and Teaching at the University of Arizona. My scholarship focuses on Indigenous youth language learning in the Yup'ik region of Alaska, and I have worked with others since 1992 on issues of Indigenous youth language development, education, and school language policy.

As an individual with decades of professional research experience in Indigenous language education, I support SB 2069, which will provide necessary resources to grow the capacity of Hawaiian language medium schools to meet the growing demand for Indigenous language medium education in Hawai'i.

A tremendous number of educational leaders and scholars around the country look to the Hawaiian medium schools as an shining example of how to support the well being of Indigenous youth and families, and maintain unique, valuable Indigenous languages and related forms of knowledge through schooling.

Hawaiian medium schools in Hawai'i are also internationally renowned for their successful and inspirational work creating Hawaiian medium pathways for youth development from early education through higher education, and their forward thinking and leadership in the area of developing innovative learning opportunities for young people across the content areas, and in multilingual education.

Given the tremendous increase of students and families seeking Hawaiian medium schools in recent years, the schools need support to grow capacity and add additional teachers. Youth and parents who are seeking Hawaiian medium education across the islands of Hawai'i will benefit tremendously from the passage of this bill. Your support will also enable deeply dedicated leaders and educators in Hawaiian medium schools to sustain their important momentum in Hawaiian language revitalization for future generations. The many others who are looking to Hawaiian medium schools for insight, inspiration, and leadership will benefit from this bill, as well.

Many stand to benefit from the passage of this bill, and I urge the committee to pass SB 2069 to move the important work in Hawaiian medium language schools forward. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration, and the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:29:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kahele Cruz	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: Kahele Cruz

[Group or organization you represent]

RE: SB2069

Hearing on January 31, 2031

IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069

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

My name is Kahele Cruz and I am parent of a kaiapuni student. I am also an instructor at Kapiolani Community College in Hawaiian Studies; where many of my students express sadness because there is not enough support for olelo Hawaii schools and education. Many of them regret not having the opportunity.

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to 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). While 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.

The program has been growing due to community support. The State needs to fully invest in the Hawaiian language so there is enough resource to meet community demand. Hawaii is not Hawaii without our language, people, and the culture. An investment in Hawaiian is an investment in Hawaii.

I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

Mahalo,

Kahele Cruz, Associate Professor of Hawaiian Studies

**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:** Hina Kneubuhl, co-owner of Kealopiko, Translator with Awaiaulu

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Hina Kneubuhl and I am one of the owners of Kealopiko, a Hawaiian clothing brand that actively promotes ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and provides [free language resources](#) as part of the give back to our community. I am also a translator with Awaiaulu, training under Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier and Kau‘i Sai-Dudoit. I hold both an undergraduate and a master's degree in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. I have been studying, promoting, creating, and disseminating for over 20 years and will continue to do so until my last breath.

I am a parent of a child who attends Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Pā‘ia, and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - *Relating to Education*. 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 because of a lack funding for Hawaiian language educators. There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island for which the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education. Such lack of access goes against the state’s constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

In a time when there are more challenges than ever to the survival of ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, ensuring there are enough funded positions for teachers is critical to keeping the revitalization movement progressing. ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is one of two official languages of the state, so passing SB2069 will ensure the government is moving toward upholding its kuleana. E ola mau ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Na‘u me ka mahalo,  
Na Hina Kneubuhl



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:38:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erika Espaniola	Testifying for Aha Kauleo and Hui Makua o ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kualapuu	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: Erika Espaniola**

**‘Aha Kauleo and**

**Hui Makua o Kula Kaiapuni o Kualapu‘u**

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is Erika Espaniola, I am a parent representative on ‘Aha Kauleo and the Board President of Hui Makua o ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kualapu‘u. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education. I originally got involved with these two organizations to be more involved in the educational systems in which my children are a**

**part of. In my time on these two boards, I have found that Kula Kaiapuni not only educates our children in Hawaiian Language and culture, but as an outcome, brings a stronger sense of community, ‘ohana and values to our island. In my perspective, Kaiapuni schools, through the children, teachers, staff and graduates within them; and through the programs visible to the whole island, Kaiapuni has a further reach than their direct student body. I have come to see Kaiapuni as a mechanism towards healthy communities.**

**I have also learned that civic engagement and the growth of Hawaiian Language education are inextricably linked. If it were not for parents advocating for Hawaiian Language education in the public school system, we may not have the Kaiapuni we have today. With this, I would like to point out that currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools and that there has been an increase of 8 Kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. The growth of Kaiapuni is a beautiful thing to see, and with that growth, funding towards more positions will help bring Kaiapuni resources not only to the schools that desperately need them, but will also have a “trickle effect” down to the wider communities, and likely, help to be more “even” with the English side, in terms of resources.**

**In conclusion, the growth of Kaiapuni requires more resources for those schools, but because Kaiapuni is so imbued with cultural values and community, this action may further promote healthier communities in our islands. I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:44:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pililuaiekeakaiohilo Keala	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. Pililuaiekeakaiohilo Keala**

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

**RE: SB2069**

**Hearing on January 31, 2031**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

**My name is Pililuaiekeakaiohilo Keala and I am a former Kaiapuni student, a former Kaiapuni teacher, and current parent of 2 keiki in the Kaiapuni program. I am also a member of the 'Aha Kauleo and serve on the 'Aha Ho'okō board as the secretary.**

**I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.**

**I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2069 due to the following reasons:**

- **Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools**
- **There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years.**
- **There has been an increase in students in the past 10 years by almost 1,000 students.**
- **Many families are turned away by DOE schools at registration for the kaiapuni school that is closest to them.**
- **There are still 6 complex areas including 1 island that the DOE is not providing access to kaiapuni education.**
  
- **This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**
- **Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- **Public education has 2 language pathways- English and Hawaiian. Hawaiian education is not securely represented in the Board of Education.**

**In conclusion, I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2069. I urge the Committee to PASS SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**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:** Kaluhikāuahemakanamaikalani (Kaluhi) Ka‘apana-Wengler  
Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Waiiau

**RE: SB2069**  
**Hearing on January 31, 2031**  
**IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069**

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

My name is Kaluhi Ka‘apana-Wengler and I am teacher for kula kaiapuni ‘o Waiiau and the ‘elele kumu (teacher representative) of my school for ‘Aha Kauleo.

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069** - *Relating to Education*.

I support SB2069 because our papahana kaiapuni is growing and the demand for teacher positions, resources, facilities, etc for our program is growing. There has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools just in the last 10 years and we have more enrollment of keiki coming in with every school year, with not enough teacher positions and support for those keiki who are entitled to a Hawaiian immersion education. Currently, the DOE only funds 35 positions across the state for 22 schools, that is not enough positions for the amount of keiki enrolling in these programs/schools.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to **PASS** SB2069. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

Petition of Support for SB2069

32nd Legislative Session of the State of Hawaii, 2024

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

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

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

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

	Inoa Name	Helu Wahi Address
1	KALAWAIA NUNIES	1001 PIKEA ST HONOLULU HI
2	Brandi Nalani Balutski	2408 Makaanani Dr. Hon HI 96817
3	Allyson Nuesca Franco	1117 Koolu Drive Kailua, HI 96734
4	Kahilo K Heller	3736 Keenan St Honolulu, HI 96816
5	Claudio Nishimura	600 RIVERST #110, HMTLU, HI 96813
6	Naniya Ropharel	2423 KULIMOM RD., HONOLULU, HI 96821
7	Anela Ann	1049 HORNEN ST, HONOLULU, HI 96819
8	Ethan Kakaikaula Fisher	1903 Koae Pl. Waiuku, HI 96793
9	Kaweli Lucas	PO BOX 80 KAAWA 96730
10	Lisa L Chang	165 Kahi St. HON HI 96821
11	Hezekiah Kapuāhala	85 East Makahakaha Ln, Waiuku, HI 96793
12	Rena Yamazaki	99-183 Chekani Loop, Aiea, HI 96701
13	Maximus Paschoal	792 Kupulau dr, Kihei, HI 96753
14	HOAKALI WATANABE	41-723 KAMANAOIO PLACE, WAIMANAO HI <sup>16795</sup>
15	Suzie Leong	98407 HOOKAHIKI ST '59 96782
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## Petition of Support for [SB2069](#)

### 32nd Legislative Session of the State of Hawaii, 2024

[SB2069](#) asks the legislature to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education. These resources are needed to:

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

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

We, the undersigned support [SB2069](#) which seeks to increase the amount of teaching positions and curriculum specialists to address the experienced growth of Kaiapuni education,

	<b>Inoa Name</b>	<b>Helu Wahi Address</b>
1	Kaluhikāuahemakanamaikalani Ka'apana-Wengler	2920 Ala Ilima St, Apt 1705, Honolulu, HI 96818
2	Amber Rosenberg	92-1242 Palahia st, #T101, Kapolei, HI 96707
3	Leah Enos	46-145 Humu St, Kāne'ohe, HI 96744
4	Leigh Barbieto	1250 Kupau St, Kailua, HI 96734
5	Mikaella Gowan	91-210 Waikoloa PI, Kapolei, HI 96707
6	Kānehoalani Kalua	91-1001 Keaunui Dr, Ewa Beach, HI 96706
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**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:46:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KaheaFaria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support of SB2069



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

SUBJECT: **SB2069**  
HEARING Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 3:00 PM

### **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Thank you for scheduling this measure, SB2069 to be heard. Nā Leo Kākoʻo o Oʻahu, the family organization that exists to promote the educational activities of Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenue, is in **strong support**.

Our keiki attend Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Ānuenue, 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 mākua (parents) engaged the community and the DOE to establish Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kapolei, a satellite site of Ānuenue 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, Ānuenue 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 Ānuenue. 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 Ānuenue deliver; we see that the demand for kula kaiapuni education is overflowing.

In recognition, this bill comes at the perfect time. Expanding educational resources for Kaiapuni programs, including new programs/site, new FTEs for teacher positions, and classroom materials and equipment are desperately needed. In addition, the curriculum specialists will promote the Kaiapuni pedagogy training, curriculum development, support teacher professional growth, and result in an increase in qualifications of teacher candidates.

NA LEO KAKOʻO O OAHU, INC.  
C/O ANUENUE SCHOOL  
2528 10TH AVE  
HONOLULU HI 96816  
nlkanuenue@gmail.com



Please pass this measure for SB2069 forward 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 State Senate Representatives Kidani, Chang, Fevella, Hashimoto, Kanuha, Keohokalole, Moriwaki, and Wakai for introducing this bill that 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 below in the last 12hours.

Me Ke Aloha,  
Logan Johnsen-Halas  
*Pelekikena 2023-2024*  
*Nā Leo Kākoʻo o Oʻahu*

**Hui Mākua Petition in Support of SB2069**

(75) 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 Ulma, Lissette Yamase, Pua Pinto, Kualī Mersberg, Nalani Balutski, Cheyenne Kalama, LiulāMersberg, 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 Muamo'o, Nadine Ortega, Iokepa Bagood, 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

**Hui Mākua Palapala Noi in Support of SB2069**

(32) Recent supporters of <https://chnng.it/RQhxjDycGP>

Kealani Makaiwi, Morgan Plunkett, Darin Lucey, Mackenzie Plunkett, Keku Tauala 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

NA LEO KAKO`O O OAHU, INC.  
C/O ANUENUE SCHOOL  
2528 10TH AVE  
HONOLULU HI 96816  
[nlkanuenue@gmail.com](mailto:nlkanuenue@gmail.com)

**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:55:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalei Kalehuawehe	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: Kamaleiku‘uipookalani Kalehuawehe

RE: SB2069

Hearing on January 31, 2031

IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069

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

My name is Kamaleiku‘uipookalani Kalehuawehe and I am teacher at Ke Kula ‘O Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2069 - Relating to Education.

Currently, the DOE funds 35 teacher positions across the state for 22 schools. Furthermore there has been an increase of 8 kaiapuni schools in the last 10 years. With the increase of kaiapuni schools comes an increase in the demand for teachers. It is important for the state of Hawai‘i to support the expansion and the needs of kaiapuni schools as the interest of the Hawai‘i populace in Hawaiian education has grown substantially in the past years. It is the duty of the state to provide equitable access to resources and education, which in this case specifically for Hawaiian immersion education by funding teacher positions to provide proper quality 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).

In conclusion I strongly urge the committee to pass SB2069. Please support our growth for the benefit of Hawai‘i and the upcoming generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**



**SB-2069**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:59:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/31/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lisa lehuanani Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I've taught on both sides - DOE English side and DOE Hawaiian Immersion. They are not supported equally. Hawaiian Immersion Teachers work hard and need support with Curriculum Specialist positions and more teaching positions.

Our brightest students at our DOE Hawaiian Immersion school (that includes an English side too) are from Hawaiian Immersion. The students work hard and their parents work hard to support their learning. Our government needs to support the mission of a State sponsored Hawaiian Immersion Program as well, with funding for much needed positions. Would love to see funding for an HLL position as well - similar to an ELL teacher on the English side.

mahalo for your time,

Lisa Lehuanani Chang