



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

February 7, 2024

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** H.B. No. 2937 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING  
**Hearing Date:** Friday, February 9, 2024  
**Time:** 3:05 pm  
**Location:** Conference Room 229

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING’S POSITION: Support**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) supports S.B. No. 2937 and defers to the University of Hawai‘i.

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

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

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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

#### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
Friday, February 9, 2024 at 3:05 p.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### SB 2937 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2937. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports passage of SB 2937, which seeks to repeal the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani (also known as the College of Hawaiian Language) (CoHL) at UH Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements that were established by Act 46, SLH 2020. The intent is to ensure that the CoHL's Hawaiian-medium laboratory schools are not subject to non-applicable English-medium standards, assessments, ratings, and requirements but instead are able to use rigorous Hawaiian-medium measures and guidelines.

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

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

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

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

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

It is also worth noting that the Early Learning Board's Road Map for the implementation of Act 46, SLH 2020 (as required by SCR 217 in 2022), specifically calls for the permanent exemption of the CoHL's laboratory programs and all Hawaiian Medium learning environments from non-applicable standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements in two of its four action items, which is what SB 2937 seeks to accomplish.

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



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

### Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani  
'Aipia-Peters,  
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,  
Hope Pelekikena

Kyla Manzano  
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,  
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoe  
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Kayla Asing

'Ānela Freitas

No 'Ane'i Ko  
Kākou Ola!

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

Date of Hearing: 02-09-2024  
Time: 3:05pm  
Location: Conference Room 229

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

### SB 2937, RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

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

My name is Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, and I am the Governing Board Chair of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki, Laboratory Public Charter School. I am providing written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2937.

We, the governing board of Nāwahī, **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB 2937 that repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements.

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

The passage of SB 2937 indicates an awareness of the significance of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo as they address the needs of and ensure the forward progress of Hawaiian language medium education.

Mahalo,

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



## *Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u*

*"No 'Ane'i Ko Kākou Ola"*

9 February

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

Date of Hearing: 02-09-2024  
Time: 3:05pm  
Location: Conference Room 229

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

SB2937,  
**STRONGLY SUPPORT**

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

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

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

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

Nāwahī is proud to be at the forefront of Hawaiian language medium education. Nāwahī is the most developed and largest program taught through an Indigenous language of the United States. We are recognized by the US government and national foundations funding tribal schools as the gold

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

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

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

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

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

Me ka mahalo 'oia'i'o,



Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā  
Director, Principal



**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 10:18:34 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristy Uilani K Palis	Testifying for Ke Kula ?O Nawahiokalani?opu?u	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Mahalo.



To: Senate Committee on Education

**Re: SB 2937 – in strong support**

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 229

February 9, 2024; 3:05PM

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

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2937 relating to Access to Learning.**

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

By passing this bill, we are not only investing in the well-being of individual children, but also laying the foundation for a more equitable and thriving society in Hawai'i and beyond. This bill addresses a fundamental need by providing increased access to early learning opportunities, which will ensure that every child, regardless of socioeconomic status, has the chance to reach their full potential.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue. **Please pass SB 2937.**

Mahalo,

Chevelle Davis, MPH

Director of Early Childhood and Health Policy

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies  
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744  
(808) 247-7942

Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director  
e-mail [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

For hearing Friday, February 9, 2024

Re: SB 2937 RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING.

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

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

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

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

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

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



96 Pu'uhonu Place  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 935-4304  
(808) 969-7512  
ahapunanaleo.org

Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle Kidani  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim  
Wednesday, February 9, 2024  
TIME: 3:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

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

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo strongly supports SB2937 relating to access to learning.

**Ka Papa Alaka'i**  
**Board of Directors**

Kauanoë Kamañā  
*Pelekikena*

Larry Kimura

William H. Wilson

Ki'ope Raymond

Huilau Wilson

Keawe Lopes

**Ka Luna Ho'okele**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Ka'iulani J.K.N. Laehā

**Ka Luna Ho'okō**  
**Chief Operating Officer**

K. Sean Kekina

**Nā Papahana**  
**Pūnana Leo**  
**Pūnana Leo Programs**

**Aukukui**

**Ne'epapa**

**Kula Kamali'i**

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

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

When we began there were less than 50 children who spoke the Hawaiian language. It was through our own traditional beliefs, knowledge and practices and dedicated non-certified kupuna and kumu, UH Hilo linguist designed curriculum, federally supported assessments and linguistically aligned training designed by UH Hilo professors that the Pūnana Leo movement continues. Today we have 12 licensed child care centers, 2 licensed infant toddler programs, and a recently established Lahaina family engagement program to support our keiki that were displaced from the Pūnana Leo o Lahaina that was lost to the fire. We serve over 300 Hawaiian language speaking families each year in various communities throughout the state.

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

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u and the Hawaiian language college demonstrate a successful P-25 education system, leading the nation in the indigenous language revitalization movement. Although we have made progress towards a living Hawaiian language, SB2937 and similar legislation is needed to support the growth and expansion of the model being demonstrated.

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

SB2937 will provide an opportunity to continue to grow the body of research and development with the premiere US university program for language revitalization for an equitable Hawaiian medium early learning system. We urge you to pass this bill.

It is also worth noting that the state Early Learning Board's Report containing a Road Map for the implementation of Act 46, SLH 2020 (pursuant to SCR 217 in 2022), specifically calls for the permanent exemption of the College of Hawaiian Language's laboratory programs and all Hawaiian Medium learning environments in two of its four action items, which is in alignment with SB2937.

Mahalo nui,

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

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



**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 at 3:05pm

**SB 2937 – RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING: STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha,

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act beneficiary kūpuna farmers from Pana'ewa, Hawai'i, submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2937**.

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

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

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

**Please support and pass SB 2937.**

Mahalo,

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:04:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill that repeals the sunset date of Act 46, Section V. Please continue to support the continued growth and progress of our laboratory schools that teach through the Hawaiian focused medium.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:06:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support bill SB2937.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:11:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Kāko‘o SB2937



**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:14:36 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2937.

Mahalo.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:17:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Waia'u	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

Mahalo,

Jess Waia‘u

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:24:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill, as a parent of a child in Hawaiian-medium education. Do not conrain the growth and progress of labratory schools. The English-medium state system conrains the progress in these schools.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:34:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

# THE SENATE

KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

[COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION](#)

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Date: Friday, February 9, 2024

Time: 3:05 PM

Place: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

SB2937, RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING

**STRONGLY SUPPORT**

Aloha nui kākou e nā Po‘o Kōmike a me nā Lālā Kōmike o ka Ho‘ona‘auao a me ka ‘Enehana,

Eia wau ke kāko‘o piha nei i ka pila SB 2937 e kū nei.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:35:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in support on SB2937 since it repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements! Our keiki deserve the same resources as English Medium Schools.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:42:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

My ‘ohana and I are in full support of this bill as it helps to ensure our Hawaiian and indigenous frame of mind, history, education, culture, and language are able to be integrated and supported through the education system. It allows our children and future generations the opportunity to learn and perpetuate our native culture, history, and language. It also provides our children the ability/opportunity to succeed academically, as it has been proven that children of native/indigenous peoples learn differently than that of the English-education system that we are currently governed by.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:51:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Kako'o 'ia keia pila!



**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 1:22:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I SUPPORT the continued growth and progress of our laboratory schools so as not to be constrained by the English-medium state system!

Mahalo ke kāko‘o ‘ana mai,

Na Kaipolani Kim

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 2:45:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jesse P Neumann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 2:46:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I want my kids to have the oppurtunities to experience thier culture that I did not, and this bill is absolutely vital for that.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 1:25:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill to further increase our access and accountability for hawaiian language

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 6:01:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. My keiki attend and thrive at Ke Kula 'o Nawahiokalaniopuu. Please allow them to continue that journey in a full Hawaiian-medium environment.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 4:45:18 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: Friday, February 9, 2024

Time: 3:05pm

Location: Via Videoconference

Conference Room 229

Testimony of Kēhaulani Medeiros

SB2937, Repeals the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements.

KĀKO‘O, STRONGLY SUPPORT

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 7:07:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 7:41:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2937



**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 9:30:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chauncey St. Laurent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 9:48:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Kristen Kanoe‘okalani Pacheco, am a parent of Hawaiian immersion students and I support SB2937.

He kōkua kēia ma ke kāko‘o i ka holomua a me ka ulu hou a‘e o nā kula ho‘okolohua i ‘ole kāohi ‘ia i loko o ka ‘ōnaehana kaia‘ōlelo Pelekānia o ka moku‘āina.

This bill supports the continued growth and progress of our laboratory schools so as not to be constrained by the English-medium state system.

me ka ha'aha'a,

~Kristen K. Pacheco

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 11:15:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

We support bill 2937, which continues the growth and progress of our laboratory schools so as not to be constrained by the English-medium state system. I am a parent of a Haumana Papa Malaa'o and believe the Hawaiian language will continue to preserve our Hawaiian culture and people. I have seen tremendous growth in my keiki as she attends a school that is fully immersed in the Hawaiian language. Our family has grown in knowledge, Hawaiian language, and has made our bond stronger.

**SB-2937**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 11:19:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2024 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Kāko‘o piha!