

ACT 254

H.B. NO. 4063

A Bill for an Act Relating to Higher Education.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that 1996 has been declared the “Year of the Hawaiian Language” by the State of Hawaii, in an effort to draw attention to revitalize the Hawaiian language, in the public and private lives in our State.

The legislature notes that the Hawaiian language is one of the constitutionally recognized official languages of this State.

The legislature further finds that there is a need to establish a center for excellence at the University of Hawaii at Hilo campus that will conduct all its business in the Hawaiian language, and that will serve as a focal point for the State’s efforts to revitalize the Hawaiian language through teacher training, graduate study of Hawaiian, community outreach, and planning for general education in Hawaiian for future generations of Hawaiian speakers.

The legislature further finds that in these times of financial difficulty there is a need for partnership between the office of Hawaiian affairs and the University of Hawaii system, if state and Hawaiian community goals relative to Hawaiian language education are to be achieved.

SECTION 2. There is established a Hawaiian language task force, to be placed within the University of Hawaii for administrative purposes only. The task force shall consist of, but is not limited to, representatives from the following:

- (1) University of Hawaii at Hilo;
- (2) Office of Hawaiian affairs;
- (3) Department of education;
- (4) Hawaiian community; and
- (5) General public.

Nominations shall be submitted by the chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo to the University of Hawaii president within thirty days following the effective date of this Act. The president of the University of Hawaii shall appoint the members of the task force within forty-five days following the effective date of this Act. The members shall select a chairperson. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

The goal of the task force is to make recommendations on how to incorporate the following into the center of excellence:

- (1) The establishment of a Hawaiian language college, or other appropriate entity, similar to the tribal colleges of Native Americans, which would make the Hawaiian language college eligible for federal funding under the Native American Language Act of 1990;
- (2) A Hawaiian studies department for a graduate program in Hawaiian language and literature;
- (3) A Hawaiian studies department for a separate Kaiapuni Hawaii teacher training program;
- (4) A Hale Kuamoo Hawaiian language center for curriculum development; and
- (5) Sources of funding for Hawaiian language college and Hale Kuamoo Hawaiian language center for curriculum development.

SECTION 3. The Hawaiian language task force shall report its findings and recommendations including an action plan for the creation of a Hawaiian language

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college or other appropriate entity that can be submitted to the University of Hawaii board of regents and the office of Hawaiian affair's board of trustees for approval, and to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the beginning of the 1997 regular session, and shall cease to exist on June 30, 1997.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 18, 1996.)