

ACT 126

H.B. NO. 2074

A Bill for an Act Relating to Kaiapuni Education.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of education has experienced significant growth in the demand for Hawaiian language immersion education to be provided in Hawaii's Kaiapuni schools. Over the past decade, enrollment has grown by approximately one thousand four hundred students, yet resources dedicated to supporting Kaiapuni education programming have consistently declined since 2008. In response, the department of education, as outlined in its 2023-2029 strategic implementation plan, is taking proactive measures to address this increased demand. The objective is to ensure that the department of education can effectively monitor the academic success of all its students, including those enrolled in any of its twenty-two Kaiapuni program schools.

As part of Desired Outcome 1.1.4, action step 2 of the department of education's Strategic Plan Phase II Implementation Plan, the department is mandated to develop a strategic plan for Kaiapuni education during the 2023-2024 school year. Essential resources are required, specifically individuals having the expertise in delivering classroom-level instruction to Kaiapuni program students, as well as expertise in Kaiapuni pedagogy and curriculum development. This expertise is crucial to continue expanding and strengthening the educational foundation of learning that leads to successful cultural, linguistic, and academic achievement for Kaiapuni students.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to address the immediate and long-term requirements in response to the growing demand for Kaiapuni education access by appropriating funds to establish multiple full-time equivalent Kaiapuni staff positions. The funding will support positions distributed at the state level, reinforcing educational support to ensure the successful cultural, linguistic, and academic achievement of Kaiapuni students. Additionally, at the school level, these positions will be designated to provide new Kaiapuni program school sites and classrooms with the faculty necessary to facilitate daily student instruction, thereby strengthening the overall educational foundation.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,544,683 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for Kaiapuni programs and the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) Kaiapuni education curriculum specialist II positions and ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) Kaiapuni classroom teacher positions.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of education for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

(Approved June 28, 2024.)