



State of Hawaii, The Senate
Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Education

DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 2015

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

Re: HB 874 HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify *in support* of HB 874 HD1, a bill that requires the Department of Education to develop and implement for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students, annual assessments in the Hawaiian language that are not Hawaiian translations of general state assessments.

6 out of 34 (or 17%) of Hawaii's charter schools are immersion/Hawaiian medium schools. The mission to keep the Hawaiian language alive and have it flourish should be one of our state goals. Hawaiian immersion schools, whether under the Hawaii Department of Education or a public charter school, should have appropriate and fair state assessments that measure student achievement and progress. This is why HPCSN supports this measure and is thankful for the herculean effort that the Hawaiian language community and the HIDOE have made to make significant progress on this issue over the last year.

Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network (HPCSN) represents 30 of 34 public charter schools in Hawaii and is committed to quality education for all public school students through our support of, and work with, charter schools. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this very important matter to charter schools. Your support of Hawaii's public students is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Finnegan".

Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director