



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

LATE

Date: 01/31/2018

Time: 02:05 PM

Location: 309

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2685 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for the Office of Hawaiian Education of the Department of Education to continue the Hawaiian Studies Program at the three elementary schools with the largest population of native Hawaiians.

Department's Position:

The Department supports HB 2685, with comments.

The Hawaii State Board of Education Policy 105-7 provides that, "Hawaiian language, culture, and history should be an integral part of Hawaii's education standards for all students in grades K-12." As such, the Department encourages the committee to consider expanding the use of appropriated public funds for Hawaiian education towards the benefit of all students and staff.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

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Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
For hearing Wednesday, January 31, 2018

Re: HB 2685

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN EDUCATION.

Appropriates funds for the Office of Hawaiian Education of the Department of Education to continue the Hawaiian Studies Program at the three elementary schools with the largest population of native Hawaiians.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

It is shocking to see a bill actually introduced in the legislature that is so blatantly racist and unconstitutional. The sponsors and introducers of the bill deserve special opprobrium, along with any committee chair who exercises a chair's discretion to hold a hearing on it rather than simply trashing it as happens with other absurd or immoral bills (or even with reasonable bills that a chair is personally opposed to). I note that the bill is NOT introduced "by request" of some misguided constituent, but appears to actually express the views of those who have signed it. Shame!

Why am I so aggressively adamant in condemning this bill?

It requires taxpayer dollars to be spent on curriculum for a few favored schools but not for other schools, based solely on the racial composition of the students enrolled in the schools!

What? Really? Let's see what the most important sentence of this very short bill says.

"There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the continued funding of the Hawaiian studies program at the three elementary schools with the largest population of native Hawaiian students."

Section 1 of the bill would put the legislature on record as affirming how important this program is -- not only for ethnic Hawaiian students but for ALL the children of Hawaii. "The legislature further finds that all K-12 public education students should develop, maintain, and grow in an understanding and appreciation of Hawaiian culture, language, values, practices, and concepts consistent with the State's recognition of the current and historical context of these islands."

It is clearcut racial discrimination to provide valuable curriculum to students of a favored racial group while denying it to all others whose race the legislature deems less favorable or less worthy. How many decades have passed since Mississippi had fancy drinking fountains under signs that said "Whites" and shabby fountains under signs that said "Coloreds"?

If there are budget cutbacks restricting the funding for such programs, then you must find a race-neutral criterion for allocating the money. Examples: the three elementary schools with the largest student enrollment [because you will reach more students at lower per-pupil overhead cost]; the three elementary schools with the highest percentage of children signed up for free lunch [because you regard

the curriculum as some sort of welfare program]; the three elementary schools with the highest median scores on the 5th grade standardized test of student achievement [because those kids will derive the greatest academic/intellectual benefit and are more likely to become our future leaders].

The bill directs money to the Office of Hawaiian Education. That gives me a good reason to point out to the legislature that this particular Office is guilty of perpetuating a racially inflammatory falsehood in the curriculum it teaches, as shown on its official webpage. The falsehood is repeated three times in a short webpage on the history of Hawaiian education, credited to the Director Dawn Kau'ilani Sang. I contacted Director Sang in early 2016, persisted in working my way through the bureaucracy in the face of unresponsive stonewalling, until finally Superintendent Matayoshi replied that no correction would be made, but without providing any evidence to contradict the detailed and extensive proof of falsehood I had sent. To this day the offending webpage remains unchanged.

The offending Office of Hawaiian Education webpage on the history of Hawaiian education is at
<https://tinyurl.com/y8cb323g>

My complaint describing what falsehood is asserted three times, my proof that it is false, and a chronology of the steps I took to get it corrected (including emails I sent), are on a detailed webpage at
<http://tinyurl.com/z77ogbq>

The Office of Hawaiian Education is being used for political purposes, and the Hawaiian Studies curriculum is being used to spew racially divisive propaganda to children too young to realize what is happening to them. Please do not enable that Office any further, and consider redirecting its budget to more constructive purposes that will help unite us instead of dividing us. I refer you to my book "Hawaiian Apartheid: Racial Separatism and Ethnic Nationalism in the Aloha State"
<http://tinyurl.com/2a9fqa>



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Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair, and Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice-Chair

HB 2685 RELATING TO HAWAIIAN EDUCATION

IN SUPPORT

Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 2:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Sheri-Ann Daniels, Executive Director

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Board of Health, is in support of funding to the office of Hawaiian education of the Department of Education to continue to implement robust Hawaiian studies programs throughout Hawaiian serving elementary schools.

Recommendations from the 1985 *E Ola Mau Native Hawaiian Health Needs Assessment*, which has guided the work of Papa Ola Lōkahi and the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems since 1988, emphasized culture as critical to Hawaiian well-being, ola. The research tells us that the promotion and integration of Hawaiian studies, language, culture, values and practices within educational programming will lead to whole and healthy citizens.

Health and education are partners in the mission to build a healthy society. It is Papa Ola Lōkahi's privilege to be able to support HB 2685.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony. E ola mau.

HB-2685

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 2:15:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Education

Time: 2:05 p.m.

Date: January 31, 2018

Where: Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

RE: **HB 2685, RELATING TO HAWAIIAN EDUCATION.**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kong, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

HB 2685, relating to Hawaiian education, appropriates funds for the Office of Hawaiian Education of the Department of Education to continue the Hawaiian Studies Program at the three elementary schools with the largest population of native Hawaiians. We are writing in **support** of this measure.

Kamehameha Schools advocates for and supports the achievement of Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian public school students. As such, we have been a collaborator with Hawai'i public schools and hope to significantly impact more children and their families through education. We believe that this bill is an important step toward ensuring adequate funding for the Office of Hawaiian Education.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. **Please advance this measure.**

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

HB-2685

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:59:37 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2685

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:25:03 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai		Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I FULLY SUPPORT HB2685 - RELATING TO HAWAIIAN EDUCATION. Appropriates funds for the Office of Hawaiian Education of the Department of Education to continue the Hawaiian Studies Program at the three elementary schools with the largest population of native Hawaiians.

Hopefully, this program will be implemented at all elementary schools in the near future. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. Agian, I fully support HB2685 and request you PASS it out of your committee. Mahalo.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

To Representative Justin H. Woodson of the House Committee on Education

Re: Bill HB2685



Hearing January 31, 2018, at 2:05 pm in room 309

My name is Alexa St. Martin, and I am a current graduate student at The University of Hawaii at Manoa in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work.

I am submitting this testimony to state my support of Bill HB2685 Relating to Hawaiian Education.

I believe that Native Hawaiian students have a right to receive education regarding their culture and history in a public institution. In a state where the impacts of colonization are still present and experienced daily by the Native Hawaiian population, including Native Hawaiian history and culture into students' daily schooling is a necessary step in preserving Hawaiian culture. Although I am not Hawaiian, I have worked with many Hawaiian children and seen the energy and joy their Hawaiian learning classes bring into their lives. I believe the children have a right to that knowledge.

Mahalo for reading this testimony. In closing, I clearly state my support of HB2685 Relating to Hawaiian Education.

Alexa St. Martin
alexastm@hawaii.edu