
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that kupuna in the
2 Nānākuli Ahupua‘a have been making efforts to re-establish their
3 children and grandchildren's cultural identity through the
4 Hawaiian language since the 1960s. However, despite the growth
5 of Hawaiian language immersion schools in other areas of the
6 State, the creation of a Hawaiian studies curriculum within the
7 department of education, and the establishment of a Hawaiian
8 studies program at the University of Hawaii, the Nānākuli
9 community continues to lack a Hawaiian language immersion school
10 from kindergarten to grade twelve.

11 The legislature further finds that the Nānākuli Ahupua‘a has
12 been home to the highest concentration of native Hawaiians in
13 the world for over fifty years. Furthermore, children from the
14 Wai‘anae coast constitute a significant portion of the student
15 population at Hawaiian language immersion schools in other areas
16 of the State. Pūnana Leo O Wai‘anae serves students in pre-
17 kindergarten and kindergarten, while Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Nanakuli



1 serves students from kindergarten through grade six. However,
2 Kula Kaiapuni 'o Nānākuli has experienced a decline in
3 enrollment, because parents are seeking for their children the
4 continuity of an immersion school that serves students from
5 kindergarten through grade twelve. As a result, a large number
6 of students have transferred to Hawaiian language immersion
7 schools in other school districts, including Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O
8 Ānuenuē in the Honolulu district. A high percentage of students
9 who reside in the leeward school district are being transported
10 via school bus to schools in other areas, which raises costs for
11 both their parents and the department of education.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
13 department of education to establish a task force to locate
14 potential, viable properties along the Wai'anae coast, with a
15 preference for a location in Nānākuli, on which to establish a
16 Hawaiian language immersion school to educate students from
17 kindergarten through grade twelve.

18 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
19 of education a task force to locate potential, viable properties
20 along the Wai'anae coast, with a preference for a location in
21 Nānākuli, on which to establish a Hawaiian language immersion



1 school to educate students from kindergarten through grade
2 twelve.

3 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

4 (1) The superintendent of education, or the
5 superintendent's designee;

6 (2) The executive director of the state public charter
7 school commission, or the executive director's
8 designee;

9 (3) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission, or
10 the chairperson's designee;

11 (4) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
12 resources, or the chairperson's designee;

13 (5) The chairperson of the board of trustees of the Office
14 of Hawaiian Affairs, or the chairperson's designee;

15 (6) The mayor of the city and county of Honolulu, or the
16 mayor's designee; and

17 (7) Members representing the community and stakeholders.

18 (c) The superintendent, or the superintendent's designee,
19 shall serve as the chairperson of the task force. The task
20 force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2016.

21 (d) The members of the task force shall serve without
22 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including



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1 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.
 2 No member shall be made subject to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised
 3 Statutes, solely because of that member's participation as a
 4 member of that task force.

5 (e) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
 6 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 7 legislature at least thirty days prior to the convening of the
 8 regular session of 2016.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Karen Autina
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JAN 23 2014



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Report Title:

Hawaiian Language Immersion School; Task Force

Description:

Establishes a task force within the Department of Education to locate potential, viable properties along the Waianae coast, with a preference for a location in Nanakuli, on which to establish a Hawaiian language immersion school to educate students from kindergarten through grade twelve.

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