
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaiian language, the native language of
2 the Native Hawaiian people, was once a thriving language used by
3 Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike. However, by the late
4 twentieth century, the Hawaiian language was pushed to the brink
5 of extinction due to a number of factors, including an 1896 law
6 that banned the speaking of the Hawaiian language in Hawaii
7 schools. Fortunately, the Hawaiian language was saved by
8 several historic initiatives, including the department of
9 education's Hawaiian language immersion program, which was
10 launched in the 1980s. The Hawaiian language immersion program,
11 ka papahana kaiapuni, is offered at twenty public schools and
12 educates more than two thousand students in kindergarten through
13 the twelfth grade.

14 Federal accountability assessment requirements present a
15 challenge for ka papahana kaiapuni. Because English is not
16 formally introduced in kaiapuni classrooms until the fifth
17 grade, third and fourth grade kaiapuni students have been



1 offered assessments in the Hawaiian language in order to comply
2 with federal accountability assessment requirements. Beginning
3 in the 2005-2006 school year and through the 2010-2011 school
4 years, these students were offered the Hawaiian aligned
5 portfolio assessment, which was developed in the Hawaiian
6 language, specifically for ka papahana kaiapuni. During school
7 years 2011-2012 through 2013-2014, English-to-Hawaiian
8 translations of the Hawaii state assessment were instead offered
9 to third and fourth grade kaiapuni students. These translated
10 assessments contained numerous flaws, including inconsistent and
11 inaccurate translations, and as a result, failed to accurately
12 measure kaiapuni students' academic achievement.

13 However, according to board of education policy 2105, "the
14 program's effectiveness requires the development and proper
15 administration of appropriate formative and summative assessment
16 tools. These program evaluation tools should be in alignment
17 with the State's kaiapuni curriculum and measure student growth
18 and proficiency with the goal to prepare students for success in
19 college, career and community."

20 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
21 education to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian language



1 for language arts, mathematics, and science subjects, in
2 accordance with federal accountability assessment requirements,
3 to be administered to kaiapuni students in certain grades.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to subpart A of part II to be
6 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

7 "§302A- Hawaiian language immersion assessments. (a)

8 The department shall develop and implement annual assessments in
9 the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and
10 science for ka papahana kaiapuni students. The assessments
11 shall:

12 (1) Be aligned with the vision, mission, and programmatic
13 goals of ka papahana kaiapuni;

14 (2) Be aligned with applicable state academic content and
15 achievement standards;

16 (3) Be valid, reliable, and consistent with relevant,
17 nationally-recognized professional and technical
18 standards;

19 (4) Be compliant with applicable federal accountability
20 assessment requirements; and



1 (5) Not be Hawaiian translations of the general state
2 assessments.

3 (b) The department, with the assistance of the Hawaiian
4 language community, including the 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i,
5 members of ka papahana kaiapuni schools, the Hawaiian language
6 programs at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and University of
7 Hawaii at Manoa, office of Hawaiian affairs, and other Hawaiian
8 language community organizations, shall establish procedures for
9 the development of the assessments specified in subsection (a).

10 SECTION 3. The department of education shall prepare and
11 submit a preliminary and final report to the legislature on the
12 status of the procedures the department is establishing for the
13 development and administration of assessments in the Hawaii
14 language, pursuant to section 302A- , Hawaii Revised Statutes,
15 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
16 sessions of 2016 and 2017, respectively.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
21 2016-2017 for the development and administration of annual



1 assessments in the Hawaiian language as required by section 2 of
2 this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.



Report Title:

Ka Papahana Kaiapuni; Hawaiian Language Assessments

Description:

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. (HB874 HD1)

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