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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**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 functioned to ban the speaking of the Hawaiian language in  
7 Hawaii 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 during the 1980s. The Hawaiian language immersion  
11 program, ka papahana kaiapuni, is offered at twenty public  
12 schools and educates more than two thousand students in  
13 kindergarten through 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 Act 134, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, appropriated  
21 \$1,000,000 to the department of education for the development of



1 "a common core state standards assessment in the Hawaiian  
2 language." In 2014, the department of education entered into a  
3 three-year memorandum of agreement with the University of Hawaii  
4 to develop non-translated Hawaiian language assessments for  
5 kaiapuni students in grades three and four.

6 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
7 education to develop annual non-translated assessments in the  
8 Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science  
9 subjects, in accordance with federal accountability assessment  
10 requirements, to be administered to kaiapuni students in certain  
11 grades.

12 SECTION 2. No later than twenty days prior to the  
13 convening of the regular sessions of 2016 and 2017, the  
14 department of education shall prepare and submit a preliminary  
15 and a final report, respectively, to the legislature on:

- 16 (1) The status of the development and administration of  
17 the non-translated Hawaiian language assessments  
18 pursuant to this Act;
- 19 (2) The status of federal compliance issues relating to  
20 the non-translated Hawaiian language assessments,



1 including the status of any waivers sought from the  
2 United States Department of Education; and  
3 (3) Any other actions taken to comply with this Act;  
4 provided that the final report shall include the department's  
5 long-term plan to develop and administer non-translated Hawaiian  
6 language assessments for each of the grade levels required for  
7 federal accountability purposes, including funding projections  
8 and any federal compliance issues.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
13 2016-2017 for the continued development and administration of  
14 annual non-translated assessments in the Hawaiian language as  
15 required by section 2 of this Act.

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

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



**Report Title:**

Hawaiian Language Immersion; Student Assessments; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires, and appropriates funds for, the Department of Education to continue developing and administering annual non-translated assessments in the Hawaiian language of established statewide performance standards for students in the Hawaiian language immersion program. Requires a preliminary and final report to the Legislature. (SB778 HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

