
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 the kaiapuni educational program, 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 the kaiapuni educational program. Because English
16 is not formally introduced in kaiapuni educational program
17 classrooms until the fifth grade, third and fourth grade



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

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



1 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
2 education to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian language
3 for language arts, mathematics, and science subjects, in
4 accordance with federal accountability assessment requirements,
5 to be administered to students in certain grades of the kaiapuni
6 program.

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

10 "§302A- Hawaiian language immersion assessments. (a)

11 The department shall develop and implement annual assessments in
12 the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and
13 science for ka papahana kaiapuni students. The assessments
14 shall be:

- 15 (1) Aligned with the vision, mission, and programmatic
16 goals of ka papahana kaiapuni;
- 17 (2) Aligned with applicable state academic content and
18 achievement standards;
- 19 (3) Valid, reliable, and consistent with relevant,
20 nationally-recognized professional and technical
21 standards;



1 (4) Compliant with applicable federal accountability
2 assessment requirements; and

3 (5) Not Hawaiian translations of the general state
4 assessments.

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

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

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



1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
2 2016-2017 for the development and administration of annual
3 assessments in the Hawaiian language as required by section 2 of
4 this Act.

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

7 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

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

9

INTRODUCED BY: *[Signature]*

JAN 26 2015



H.B. NO. 874

Report Title:

Ka Papahana Kaiapuni; Hawaiian Language Assessments

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to develop and implement annual assessments in the Hawaiian language that are not translations for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students.

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