
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaiian is an
2 official language of the State, and the legislature has a unique
3 responsibility to assure that opportunities are available to use
4 and study the Hawaiian language. Over the past three decades,
5 the legislature has carried out this responsibility by forming
6 the basis of the State's Hawaiian language medium pathway
7 parallel to the long standing English medium pathway of
8 preschool through doctoral level education.

9 These legislative efforts began in 1986 with removal of a
10 barrier to use Hawaiian as the medium of education. Shortly
11 thereafter in 1989, the legislature mandated the creation of a
12 Hawaiian language center at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, in
13 association with its existing Hawaiian language medium
14 bachelor's degree, to produce Hawaiian language medium
15 educational materials and teacher support. In 1997, the
16 legislature required that a Hawaiian language college be
17 established at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, building on the
18 existing degree and Hawaiian language center, to expand the



1 University of Hawaii at Hilo's Hawaiian language medium
2 programming, including teacher education, preschool through
3 twelfth grade laboratory school programming, graduate education,
4 and indigenous language outreach. Before the legislature took
5 action, less than fifty children in the State were proficient in
6 Hawaiian. Today, U.S. Census data indicates Hawaiian is the
7 largest non-English language spoken in Hawaii among children
8 ages five to seventeen. Many of these children are part of the
9 preschool through twelfth grade Hawaiian medium programs
10 currently educating over three thousand students annually.

11 The legislature finds that in response to S.R. No. 97,
12 S.D. 1, regular session 2015, the Office of the President of the
13 Hawaiian language college, and a working group contributed to a
14 report that considered the restructuring of the Hawaiian
15 language college and examined the expansion of Hawaiian language
16 instruction throughout the University of Hawaii system. One of
17 the issues presented to the working group was that the existing
18 structure of the University of Hawaii system is not optimal for
19 a state whose official languages are English and Hawaiian. The
20 report provided to the legislature, and made available to the
21 public, delves into the data and trends in the teaching of the



1 Hawaiian language and through the offering and use of Hawaiian
2 language in the University of Hawaii system and beyond. The
3 report also references some of the challenges and barriers to
4 expanding these efforts as well as potential solutions to these
5 challenges. A noteworthy reference in the report is the
6 barriers the Hawaiian language college has encountered in
7 instituting general education courses through the medium of
8 Hawaiian. The report also highlights the underlying
9 contradictions throughout the University of Hawaii system in
10 relation to advancing strategic directions toward a Hawaiian
11 language planning vision. Relative to these barriers, the
12 report also acknowledges international tertiary education models
13 that have successfully overcome similar challenges.

14 The legislature recognizes that 2017 represents the
15 twentieth anniversary of its passage of legislation establishing
16 the Hawaiian language college. Since its inception, the
17 Hawaiian language college has not only provided key support for
18 Hawaiian language medium education throughout the State but has
19 also become a national resource for Native American language
20 revitalization and has initiated international collaborations in
21 pursuit of global indigenous language excellence. The continued



1 need for, and interest in, the programs and support provided by
2 the Hawaiian language college is evidenced in part by the
3 continued growth in Hawaiian language course enrollment at the
4 college, despite decreasing overall enrollment numbers for the
5 University of Hawaii system. The driving focus fueling the
6 Hawaiian language college's commitment to provide these much-
7 needed programs that are impacting indigenous language
8 initiatives here and abroad is the desire to establish a high-
9 functioning Hawaiian medium pathway of education alongside the
10 State's current, dominant, English medium pathway. In
11 recognition of thirty years of legislative policy supporting the
12 revitalization of Hawaiian language as well as the Hawaiian
13 language college's noted progress in creating new and
14 strengthened pathways to further the normalization of this
15 official language of the State, the legislature seeks to support
16 expanded innovative approaches to the development of a highly-
17 functioning Hawaiian medium pathway of education.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

19 (1) Expand the Hawaiian language college's functions;



- 1 (2) Establish a five-year pilot project in pursuit of
2 innovative strategies and approaches for the
3 development of a Hawaiian medium pathway; and
- 4 (3) Provide for an implementation plan to expand Hawaiian
5 language instruction throughout the University of
6 Hawaii system as recommended by the working group
7 created by S.R. No. 97, S.D. 1, regular session 2015.

8 SECTION 2. Section 304A-1301, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 " ~~[+]§304A-1301[+]~~ **Hawaiian language college;**
11 **establishment.** (a) There shall be a Hawaiian language college
12 at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. The college shall provide
13 a Hawaiian liberal education program providing education
14 primarily through the Hawaiian language.

15 (b) The Hawaiian language college shall be internally
16 administered primarily through the Hawaiian language, operate
17 year round, and offer and administer a variety of programs and
18 qualifications. The programs of the college shall be offered
19 primarily through the Hawaiian language and may be offered
20 worldwide and through electronic means."



1 SECTION 3. Section 304A-1302, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "[+]§304A-1302[+] **Functions.** In addition to providing a
4 quality education primarily through the medium of the Hawaiian
5 language, the Hawaiian language college shall:

- 6 (1) Provide an indigenous and minority language outreach
7 program to involve indigenous and minority language
8 scholars and to maintain and develop the program's
9 Polynesian language database;
- 10 (2) Provide a Hawaiian medium teacher training program
11 incorporating Nawahiokalani'opu'u school and other
12 schools, as appropriate, as laboratory schools; [and]
- 13 (3) Maintain a Hawaiian language support center with
14 educational specialists in the areas of research,
15 curriculum development, assessment development,
16 reference materials development including
17 dictionaries, language development, archival work, and
18 educational technology[-];
- 19 (4) Provide a specially facilitated general education,
20 dual enrollment, liberal studies, and shared courses
21 and programs pathways through the medium of Hawaiian



1 language to serve students, using technology as
2 appropriate;

3 (5) Develop, pilot, and disseminate other distinctive
4 pathways, procedures, and rules that provide for the
5 support and use of the Hawaiian language and other
6 endangered languages, including use of such language
7 in government functions;

8 (6) Provide for national Native American language medium
9 education research and support in partnership with the
10 national coalition of Native American language schools
11 and programs, and other entities as appropriate; and

12 (7) Enter into agreements of cooperation and reciprocity
13 with other entities to meet the requirements of this
14 section and section 304A-1301."

15 SECTION 4. The Hawaiian language college at the University
16 of Hawaii at Hilo shall serve as an educational incubator for
17 the development of new ideas, practices, and processes relative
18 to Hawaiian language medium education and other indigenous and
19 minority languages by engaging in a five-year pilot project.
20 This pilot project shall implement innovative strategies and
21 approaches for the development and approval of Hawaiian language



1 medium general education programs and coursework, building on
2 international models that address indigenous and minority
3 official languages as the operational medium of education. The
4 pilot project shall serve as a possible model for replication
5 for other purposes in Hawaii. The pilot project shall operate
6 under the jurisdiction of the president of the University of
7 Hawaii, assisted by the chancellor of the University of Hawaii
8 at Hilo, while using shared resources and features of the
9 University of Hawaii at Hilo as the President deems appropriate.

10 SECTION 5. The director of the Hawaiian language college
11 at the University of Hawaii at Hilo shall join with the
12 president of the University of Hawaii and the working group
13 created by S.R. No. 97, S.D. 1, regular session 2015, with
14 additional members as deemed appropriate by the president of the
15 University of Hawaii, to develop an implementation plan to
16 address the system wide Hawaiian language goals indicated in the
17 report generated by the working group created by S.R. No. 97,
18 S.D. 1, regular session 2015. Once completed, the
19 implementation plan shall be submitted to the legislature.

20 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
3 2018-2019 for the current operations of the Hawaiian language
4 college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

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

7 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
11 2018-2019 for the Hawaiian language medium general education
12 coursework pilot project established pursuant to section 4 of
13 this Act.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
15 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
20 2018-2019 for development of an implementation plan for Hawaiian



1 language instruction throughout the University of Hawaii system
2 pursuant to section 5 of this Act.

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

5 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

8



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language College; University of Hawaii at Hilo;
Hawaiian Language Medium General Education Coursework Pilot
Project; Hawaiian Language Instruction Implementation Plan;
Appropriation

Description:

Expands the Hawaiian language college's functions. Establishes
a five year Hawaiian language medium general education
coursework pilot project. Supports the development of an
implementation plan for Hawaiian language instruction throughout
the University of Hawaii system. Makes appropriations.
(Proposed SD1)

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