

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that article X, section
2 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution requires both English and
3 Hawaiian language paths within public schools. The department
4 of education's Hawaiian language medium education program, Ka
5 Papa Kaiapuni, offers students an education in the medium of the
6 Hawaiian language. The comprehensive program combines Hawaiian
7 language, history, culture, values, and teaching methodologies
8 to prepare students for college, professional life, and
9 community engagement within a multicultural society.

10 Act 210, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, requires the
11 department of education to implement a statewide kindergarten
12 entry assessment evaluating five domains of early childhood
13 education: language and literacy development, cognition and
14 general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical well-being
15 and motor development, and social and emotional development.
16 Act 210 also requires that the department of education conduct
17 the assessment in English or 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.



1 The legislature further finds that while the department of
2 education procured for the statewide kindergarten entry
3 assessment a quality research-based framework developed by Johns
4 Hopkins University, the framework's ability to appropriately
5 evaluate Ka Papa Kaiapuni students is limited and a comparable
6 tool in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i does not exist. Due to a lack of
7 educational resources in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, the development of a
8 linguistically and culturally appropriate kindergarten entry
9 assessment for Ka Papa Kaiapuni students is necessary. The
10 legislature further finds that the department of education and
11 the University of Hawaii have previously partnered to develop,
12 pilot test, validate, and implement other education assessments.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
14 board of education, in collaboration with the University of
15 Hawaii, to develop a kindergarten entry assessment in 'Ōlelo
16 Hawai'i for Ka Papa Kaiapuni that aligns with the English
17 language kindergarten entry assessment and reflects Hawaiian
18 language, culture, and community, to be administered by the
19 department of education.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part IV, subpart C, to be
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- Standardized assessment for students entering
5 kindergarten; Hawaiian language medium education program. (a)

6 The board of education, in collaboration with the University of
7 Hawaii, shall adopt a Hawaiian language medium education
8 kindergarten entry assessment, and the department of education
9 shall administer the assessment beginning with the 2026-2027
10 school year.

11 (b) The Hawaiian language medium education kindergarten
12 entry assessment shall:

13 (1) Be administered within the first thirty days of each
14 child's admission into kindergarten with the Hawaiian
15 language medium education program;

16 (2) Be conducted in Hawaiian;

17 (3) Cover all essential domains of school readiness as
18 appropriate for Hawaiian language medium education,
19 including:

20 (A) Language and literacy development;

21 (B) Cognition and general knowledge;



- 1 (C) Approaches to learning;
- 2 (D) Physical well-being and motor development;
- 3 (E) Social and emotional development; and
- 4 (F) Hawaiian culture and community;
- 5 (4) Be used in conformance with the recommendations of the
- 6 National Research Council reports on early childhood;
- 7 and
- 8 (5) Be valid and reliable for its intended purpose.
- 9 (c) Information obtained from the Hawaiian language medium
- 10 education kindergarten entry assessments shall be used to:
- 11 (1) Close the school readiness gap at kindergarten entry;
- 12 (2) Inform instruction in the early elementary school
- 13 grades; and
- 14 (3) Inform parents of their children's status and to
- 15 involve parents in decisions regarding their
- 16 children's education.
- 17 (d) The department shall share the information gathered
- 18 pursuant to this section with the department of human services,
- 19 executive office on early learning, and state public charter
- 20 school commission to the extent not otherwise prohibited by
- 21 administrative rule or law."



1 SECTION 3. Section 302A-1165, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) The kindergarten entry assessment shall:

4 (1) Be administered within the first thirty days of each
5 child's admission into kindergarten;

6 (2) Be a [~~uniform,~~] statewide assessment [~~;~~ ~~provided that~~
7 ~~the assessment shall be~~] conducted in English [~~or~~
8 Hawaiian]; provided that the Hawaiian language medium
9 education program shall have its own standardized
10 kindergarten entry assessment as described in section
11 302A- ;

12 (3) Cover all essential domains of school readiness,
13 including:

14 (A) Language and literacy development;

15 (B) Cognition and general knowledge;

16 (C) Approaches to learning;

17 (D) Physical well-being and motor development; and

18 (E) Social and emotional development;

19 (4) Be used in conformance with the recommendations of the
20 National Research Council reports on early childhood;
21 and



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1 (5) Be valid and reliable for its intended purpose."

2 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
3 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Onubille N. Sidani



S.B. NO. 737

Report Title:

Hawaiian Language Medium Education Program; Ka Papa Kaiapuni;
Kaiapuni Schools; Department of Education; Board of Education;
University of Hawaii; Kindergarten Entry Assessment

Description:

Requires the Board of Education, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii, to develop a Hawaiian Language Medium Education Kindergarten Entry Assessment to be administered by the Department of Education, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

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