

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 2:39:54 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support. Elevating the CEO of 'Aha Punana Leo to a standing member status on the Early Learning Board would assure continued, informed, experienced contributions to shaping the education of Hawaii's keiki.

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:42:25 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Serena Hayes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please PASS HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing Aha Punana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by Aha Punana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution. The term limits imposed on Aha Punana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546! Mahalo nui!

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:32:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Talia Bailey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please PASS HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing Aha Punana Leo with an “invited” member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by Aha Punana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution. The term limits imposed on Aha Punana Leo’s historically-filled seat for “Hawaiian medium early learning providers” have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546! Mahalo nui!

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:54:09 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB546 which help maintian the speicalized Hawaiian- Medium voice on Ealry Learning Board, by providing Aha Punana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits.

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:29:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB546. 'Aha PÅ«nana Leo should be included on the Early Learning Board. Mahalo nui for your time.

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:14:49 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai. Please PASS HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing Aha Punana Leo with an “invited” member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by Aha Punana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution. The term limits imposed on Aha Punana Leo’s historically-filled seat for “Hawaiian medium early learning providers” have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546! Mahalo a nui loa!

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:52:23 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Rehmert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB546 to provide the Aha Punana Leo with an invited member status not subject to term limit. The Aha Punana Leo is essential to the revitalization and normalizing the Hawaiian Language. I have 5 children, my three eldest did not attend an immersion school, my 4th child entered into a Hawaiian language immersion school in first grade, and my youngest child is two and attending an immersion daycare. The difference that I see in her cognition compared to her siblings is amazing. She is speaking and understanding Hawaiian with ease compared to the struggles my 4th daughter had initially. I am so appreciative of the important work that the Aha Punana Leo has lead in the Early Learning program. Their voice on the Early Learning Board is essential. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546. Mahalo a nui!

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:04:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. William H. Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Dr. William H. Wilson. I am a linguist with a Ph.D. in Polynesian Historical Linguistics from UH Mānoa. I am a faculty member at Ka Haka 'Ūla O Ke'elikōiani College of Hawaiian Language mandated by the State Legislature in 1997 to be established at UH Hilo. I have been involved in Hawaiian language revitalization efforts since the 1970s. I am a volunteer member of the board of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo and have served on the board of several other Hawaiian language and Hawaiian education organizations.

I strongly urge passage of HB546. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is widely recognized in Hawai'i as the base from which the state system of Hawaiian language medium/immersion schools - both standard DOE and charter programs - have grown. It is also recognized on a national and international level for its leadership in Indigenous language revitalization efforts and has received awards for its work from such organizations as the National Indian Education Association, headquartered in Washington D.C., and LinguaPax, headquartered in Europe.

Hawaiian language medium education is a distinct form of education with highly distinctive needs. There is no organization in Hawai'i or the United States with the background or reach of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo or the ability to connect to experts internationally in best practice in Indigenous minority language medium early education. With nearly forty years of experience, the 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the oldest Hawaiian language and culture-based education effort in Hawai'i and the oldest and largest Indigenous language medium early education non-profit in the United States. Furthermore, the 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the only entity in Hawai'i operating Hawaiian language medium education statewide.

I myself have been highly impressed by the staff and leadership of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo during my many years of voluntary service on its board. The House is to be commended for introducing this legislation that assures the expertise of the internationally known 'Aha Pūnana Leo is made available to the state through an important state board.

I urge passage of this bill.



Signed. Dr. William H. Wilson



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 Hilo, HI 96720  
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 (808) 969-7512  
 ahapunanaleo.org

## Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo to the House Committee on Education

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 3pm

Location: Conference Room 309

HB 546: Relating to Education

**Ka Papa Alaka'i**  
**Board of Directors**

Kauanoë Kamanā  
*Pelekikena*

'Alohilani Rogers  
*Kākau'Ōlelo*

Larry Kimura

William H. Wilson

Ki'ope Raymond

Keawe Lopes

Aloha Representative Woodson, Chair and Representative Kapela, Vice-Chair and members of the Committee on Education;

'O wau 'o Ka'iulani Laeha, ka Luna Ho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo. Kāko'o 'ia HB546.

My name is Ka'iulani Laeha, CEO, 'Aha Pūnana Leo.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo supports HB546; Amends the composition of the early learning board to make a representative from Aha Punana Leo a standing member, not subject to term limits.

**Ka Luna Ho'okele**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Ka'iulani J.K.N. Laehā

**Ka Luna Ho'okō**  
**Chief Operating Officer**

K. Sean Kekina

**Nā Papahana**  
**Pūnana Leo**

**Pūnana Leo Programs**

**Aukukui**

**Hale Kipa 'Ōiwi**

**Kula Kamali'i**

Pūnana Leo o Hilo

Pūnana Leo o Honolulu

Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i

Pūnana Leo o Maui

Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i

Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae

Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

As the only statewide Hawaiian medium early learning provider, we advocated for and have served to represent our Hawaiian medium early learning system on the Early Learning Board (ELB). 'Aha Pūnana Leo has identified the need to better facilitate continued representation on the ELB to ensure Hawaiian medium education programs hold representation alongside other early childhood care providers to promote the development of our keiki and also help to normalize the Hawaiian language. HB546 allows for sustaining the effort to represent Hawaiian medium early learning for our 'ohana and future generations. We urge you to pass this bill.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide support HB 546.

Mahalo,

Ka'iulani Laehā

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:36:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kehaulani Shintani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

KÄ• ko'o.

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:41:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaipolani Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Please PASS HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing Aha Punana Leo with an “invited” member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by Aha Punana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution. The term limits imposed on Aha Punana Leo’s historically-filled seat for “Hawaiian medium early learning providers” have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546! Mahalo nui!



COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021    Time 3:00 PM    Place: Room 309

**Testimony of Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna**

HB 546 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.    **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a group of kūpuna Hawaiian homestead farmers committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come, **are in strong support of HB 546.**

HB 546 amends the composition of the Early Learning Board (ELB) to make a representative from the 'Aha Pūnana Leo a standing member. This measure will better ensure that the ELB has continuous and consistent representation from the state's predominant Hawaiian medium early learning provider, the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. Passing HB 546 will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian medium voice on the ELB.

**We urge this Committee to PASS HB 546.** Mahalo.

*Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!*

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:39:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olan Leimomi Fisher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Mahalo so much for considering my personal testimony. My name is Olan Leimomi Fisher, and I am a lifelong resident of Mililani, O'ahu, where I still live with my 'ohana, and am currently expecting my first keiki. My great-grandmother was fluent in Hawaiian, but due to the many negative impacts on our culture and people, she did not pass this gift onto my grandpa or mom, and I did not grow up learning much Hawaiian language at home. Although I studied Hawaiian for over 10 years throughout high school, and even got a Bachelor's in Hawaiian Language, it is honestly very hard to maintain fluency, with statewide normalization still a long way to go. My hope with raising my baby girl is that one day she will be able to be fluent in her native language, ending the cycle that started with my great-Grandma, which I know will involve her attending Hawaiian language immersion school(s), hopefully starting with early learning. This is why Hawaiian medium providers, and particularly the role that 'Aha Punana Leo plays for helping our young keiki obtain fluency, is **SO** important.

Please **PASS HB546**, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Punana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. **The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Punana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.** The term limits imposed on 'Aha Punana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian language voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546! Mahalo nui!

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:42:21 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT

Always supporting funds and help to early childhood education. Please include proper salary and benefits for the workers always too.

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:01:48 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kauanoë Kamana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I respectfully urge you to PASS HB546, which will help maintain the experienced and specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, and will provide the Aha Punana Leo with an “invited” member status, not subject to term limits. The historic statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities cultivated by Aha Punana Leo are key to providing Hawai‘i’s keiki with culturally enriched early education programming and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution. The term limits imposed on Aha Punana Leo’s historically-filled seat for “Hawaiian medium early learning providers” have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the unique Hawaiian language medium voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the distinct growth and development of our keiki, and to further the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I strongly urge you to pass HB546! Mahalo nui!





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### Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani  
'Aipia-Peters,  
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,  
Hope Pelekikena

Hi'ilei Vuta,  
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,  
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoe  
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Kyla Manzano

Kayla Ahsing

No 'Ane'i Ko  
Kākou Ola!

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice-Chair

Date of Hearing: 2-11-2021  
Time: 3:00pm  
Location: Conference Room 309

*Testimony of Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, Governing Board Chair  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki LPCS*

### HB 546, RELATING TO EDUCATION

E nā Po'o Kōmike a me nā Lālā Kōmike o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao, aloha nui kākou:

I urge your SUPPORT of HB 546 as this is an important bill for moving Hawaiian language medium early education forward.

I am the Chair of the Charter School Governing Board of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki, a Hawaiian language medium charter school with a prekindergarten program funded by the state. It is my understanding that our school has the highest enrollment of any Hawaiian language medium charter school in the state.

I urge that the legislature approve the distinctive provisions of HB 546 relating to composition of the early learning board to make a representative from 'Aha Pūnana Leo a standing member.

The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution. The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come.

Mahalo for this bill and the many other related initiatives that have come out of our State Legislature.

Mahalo,

Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters  
Chair, Governing Board  
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki LPCS

February 10, 2021 - PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Aloha mai e Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My name is Karynne Leimomi Chong Morgan. I am a current resident of Mililani for nearly 35 years where my husband and I have raised three wonderful daughters. I was raised in 'Aiea, O'ahu and was fortunate to graduate from Kamehameha Schools in 1972 and from University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 1978. From the late 50s-60s, it was such a struggle to know and take more pride in my Hawaiian history and heritage. I was both proud of and yet ashamed to be part Hawaiian. There was much pressure to speak good English, to do well in school, and to be active and proud Americans. My father and uncles all served in WWII, and both of my parents retired as federal civil service workers. While all very patriotic, they enjoyed fishing, camping, and the backyard included an 'imu, which was used multiple times a year for family and firemen lu'au preparations. My paternal grandmother was fluent in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, but only spoke it privately among her close family and friends. They did not share their language with the next generations. It's sad that I could not benefit more from their knowledge. Fast forward to the present, I am so grateful to the leaders in the community who have resurrected the teaching of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i through **Pūnana Leo**, Kamehameha Schools, and other entities. I am so grateful to those families and individuals who have committed to learning the language and history. I am so grateful for my nā kumu, Vicky-Holt Takamine and Jeff Takamine for their teachings, which incorporate the language, history, music, hula and all things Hawaiian for young and older (like me) haumana (students). I have tried to pass on my Hawaiian pride to our daughters. We now are expecting a grandchild. My desire and dream for her and for the future of Hawaiians is for all to be able to live and thrive in Hawaii where 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is spoken and written as normally as English and that their Hawaiian pride and practices are equally as strong and common.

Please **PASS HB546**, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Punana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. **The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Punana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.** The term limits imposed on 'Aha Punana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian language voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546! Mahalo nui!

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:00:13 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deanna K Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please PASS HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing Aha Punana Leo with an “invited” member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by Aha Punana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution. The term limits imposed on Aha Punana Leo’s historically-filled seat for “Hawaiian medium early learning providers” have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546! Mahalo nui!

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:10:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keely Rivera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e nā• Kenekoa,

‘O au kĀ“ia ‘o Keely S Kau‘ilani Rivera e kĀ• kau ana no ko‘u kĀ• ko‘o i nei pila ‘o HB546.

Mahalo nui,

Keely Rivera

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:34:54 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Keli'i Fisher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Mahalo so much for considering my personal testimony. My name is Scott Keli'i Fisher, and I am a lifelong resident of Mililani, O'ahu, where I still live with my 'ohana, and am currently expecting my first keiki, a baby girl. My grandmother was full Native Hawaiian from Hale'iwa, and also fluent in her native language, but due to the many negative impacts on our culture and people, she did not pass this gift onto my dad, and I did not grow up learning much Hawaiian language at home. My hope with raising my baby girl is that one day she will be able to be fluent in her native language, ending the cycle that started with my grandma, which I know will involve her attending Hawaiian language immersion schools, hopefully starting with early learning. This is why Hawaiian medium providers, and particularly the role that 'Aha Punana Leo plays for helping our young keiki obtain fluency, is **SO** important.

Please **PASS HB546**, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Punana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. **The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Punana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.** The term limits imposed on 'Aha Punana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian language voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. **I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!** Mahalo nui & Aloha no.

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:10:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
D. Kaleihoku Kalai-Aguiar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing in support of HB546, which will help to maintain a unique Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board by providing Aha Punana Leo with an “invited” member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by Aha Punana Leo are vital to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming that are critical to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution. The term limits imposed on Aha Punana Leo’s historically-filled seat for “Hawaiian medium early learning providers” have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board to promote the development of our keiki and further the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I humbly urge you to pass HB546! Mahalo nui loa!

Sincerely,

Dr. D. Kaleihoku Kalai-Aguiar

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:58:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kea Kala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kakool!



**HB546**  
**RELATING TO EDUCATION**  
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘ona‘auao

Pepeluali 11, 2021

3:00 p.m.

Lumi 309

The Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB546, which would facilitate the State’s kuleana to ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i by providing ‘Aha Pūnana Leo with “invited” member status on the state’s Early Learning Board (ELB). Because the perpetuation of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is so important to the evolving culture, health, and wellbeing of Native Hawaiians, this measure may be crucial to ensuring the continued use and growth of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in Hawai‘i and beyond.

‘Aha Pūnana Leo provides the ELB with a unique and highly-specialized perspective due to its predominant role in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i early learning education. **Although our state is constitutionally mandated “to promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language[,]”<sup>1</sup> and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i has been an official state language since 1978,<sup>2</sup> much remains to be done to ensure the re-normalization of the Hawaiian language, and ‘Aha Pūnana Leo remains the only statewide early learning system conducted in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i immersion for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.** Since the inception of the ELB’s predecessor, the Early Learning Advisory Board, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo has consistently served as the board’s “representative of Hawaiian medium early learning providers.”<sup>3</sup>

Unfortunately, the ELB seat historically filled by an ‘Aha Pūnana Leo representative is currently limited to two, 2-year consecutive terms.<sup>4</sup> Thus, this “Hawaiian medium early learning provider” representative may not serve more than a maximum of four consecutive years. These term limits create a significant challenge for ‘Aha Pūnana Leo to find a representative with the requisite experience and institutional knowledge to consistently fill this highly-specialized position, and has limited the ability of ‘Aha Pūnana Leo to establish the continuous presence necessary to effectively advocate for the importance and value of a Hawaiian medium early education. Notably, this seat is currently empty and the ELB is

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<sup>1</sup> HAW. CONST. ART. X SEC. 4.

<sup>2</sup> HAW. CONST. ART. XV SEC. 4.

<sup>3</sup> The representative of Hawaiian medium early learning providers shall serve a two-year term. HRS §302L-1.6(10).

<sup>4</sup> HRS §302L-1.6(10) sets a two-year term for the representative of Hawaiian medium early learning providers; HRS § 26-34(a) provides that “[n]o person shall be appointed consecutively to more than two terms as a member of the same board or commission[.]”



suffering from the lack of ‘Aha Pūnana Leo’s voice, which has otherwise consistently ensured that all ELB members understand and recognize the essential role of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i medium programming in the development and education of Hawai‘i’s growing keiki.

OHA commends the tireless efforts of ‘Aha Pūnana Leo, which has always strived to ensure that ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i survives and thrives as a living language for future generations to come. By providing ‘Aha Pūnana Leo with an “invited” voting member seat, without term limits, HB546 will ensure a consistent Hawaiian medium voice on the ELB, as well as help to fulfill the greater mission to perpetuate and normalize the state’s official language of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

The strength and endurance of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is intrinsically connected to the health and wellbeing of the Native Hawaiian people, and it is part of what makes Hawai‘i an authentic, unique, and beautiful place for all our local keiki to enjoy, learn, and ultimately thrive.

**E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Executive Office on Early Learning**  
2759 South King Street  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 10, 2021

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

**FROM:** Lauren Moriguchi, Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT: Measure:** H.B. No. 546 – RELATING TO EDUCATION  
**Hearing Date:** Friday February 11, 2021  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Videoconference

**Bill Description:** Amends the composition of the early learning board to make a representative from Aha Punana Leo a standing member.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S COMMENTS**

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is providing comments on H.B. No. 546 – relating to education.

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children. The Early Learning Board (ELB) was established as a governing board through Act 202, SLH 2017.

ELB is responsible for directing the EOEL on how best to meet the developmental and educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten; providing recommendations to EOEL on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early learning programs; promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children; and appoint the EOEL director and evaluating the director on an annual basis.

Recognizing the important role the ELB has in both representing the diverse field of early care and education in Hawaii and providing key insight and guidance to the EOEL, the ELB's perspective on this bill is of utmost importance.

The next ELB meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 11, 2021, in which this bill will be discussed. Following the meeting, EOEL will be able to provide more substantive comments regarding this bill, reflective of the needs expressed by ELB members.

THE ELB provides crucial input, direction, and oversight necessary for EOEL to achieve the statutory responsibilities of the Office. Representatives on the board are reflective of the diversity of the early care and education field in Hawaii, providing unique and important input on how to best serve Hawaii's families and young children. Hawaii is the only state in the United States that has designated a native language, Hawaiian, as one of its two official state languages. As such, the representative seat for Hawaiian medium early learning providers is a critical member and advocate for the important values of a Hawaiian medium early education.

Thank you for your consideration, and for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

**To:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee On Education

**From:** Robert G. Peters, Chair  
Early Learning Board

**Subject:** **Measure:** HB 546, Relating to Education  
**Hearing Date:** Thursday, February 11, 2021  
**Time:** 3:00 PM  
**Location:** Conference Room 309

**Description:** Amends the composition of the early learning board to make a representative from Aha Punana Leo a standing member.

### **Early Learning Board Position: Supports the Intent**

I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer written testimony in support of the intent of HB 546, on behalf of the Early Learning Board. Unfortunately, the House Committee on Education hearing conflicts with the ELB monthly meeting and we are not able to offer oral testimony.

Through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, ELB transitioned from an advisory to a governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and is charged with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning.

The ELB is composed of 17 representatives from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors. One of those members is the representative of the Hawaiian medium early learning providers.

Hawaii has designated Hawaiian as one of its two official state languages. As such, and to insure the ELB reflects the diversity of the early learning community, the representative for Hawaiian medium early learning providers is a critical member and advocate for the important values of a Hawaiian medium early education. `Aha Punana Leo (APL) is currently the only provider of Hawaiian immersion statewide that offers programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. To date, the Hawaiian medium early learning provider seat has been filled by a representative of `Aha Punana Leo for both the Early Learning Board and its earlier iteration, the Early Learning Advisory Board.

The Hawaiian medium early learning provider seat is limited to two consecutive, two-year teams according to current statute. Thus, the representative cannot serve more than 4 years before terming out. The frequency of turn-over creates a challenge to identify a qualified representative to fill this critically important seat. The sense of the Board is that the term limit as provided is a barrier to continuity of experienced representation that the amended bill would address.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of the intent of HB 546. Please know that I can be available to answer questions at another time or in writing via email should Committee members have any.

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:25:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Johnalyn Pauline Pualilii Sablan-Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please PASS HB546, which will HELP to maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing Aha Punana Leo with an “INVITED” member status, NOT Subject to TERM LIMITS.

The Statewide Hawaiian Language Immersion Opportunities furnished by Aha Punana Leo are KEY to Providing OUR Keiki with Culturally Enriched Early Education programming, and is CRUCIAL to fulfilling the Vision of Revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian Language as reflected in Article X Section 4 of the State Constitution.

My son was Blessed to be a Student of Aha Punana Leo Preschool program for 2 years and is currently continuing his Hawaiian Language Education through Kaiapuni PÅ«ohala. He is just one of many Young Keiki that have been Impacted from Aha Punana Leo Early Learning Programs! Not just him But our ‘Ohana as a whole have been impacted.

The Term Limits Imposed on Aha Punana Leo’s Historically-filled seat for “Hawaiian-medium Early Learning Providers” have created a Serious Challenge for this seat to Remain Continuously and Consistently Filled for such a small and specialized field.

HB546 Bill will Help better SUSTAIN the Hawaiian Voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the Goal of Perpetuating and Normalizing the Hawaiian Language for Future Generations to Come.

I Respectfully urge you to PASS HB546!

E ola ka ‘Olelo Hawaii!

Mahalo nui

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:47:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaleimaile Robia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

As a Hawaiian language early childhood educator i am in full SUPPORT of this bill. 'Aha PÅ«nana Leo have been one of the leaders in Hawaiian language early childhood education for over 30 years and therefore will bring great value and knowledge to the board.

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:54:23 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jolinda Fortunato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kako'o wau.

Mahalo



**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:01:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaimi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the Amends the composition of the early learning board to make a representative from Aha Punana Leo a standing member.



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Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Piko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Hilo**

Date: February 11, 2021  
 Time: 3:00 P.M.  
 Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Hilo** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: 'Iwa Kuamo'o  
 Kumu: Laua'e Urbanozo  
 Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Hilo**



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Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Waimea**

Date: February 11, 2021  
 Time: 3:00 P.M.  
 Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Waimea** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: Maluhia O'Donnell  
 Kumu: Kahealani Tanimoto  
 Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Waimea**





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Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Kona**

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Kona** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: Nā'ai Colburn

Kumu: Akelina Tibayan

Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Kona**



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Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Maui**

Date: February 11, 2021  
 Time: 3:00 P.M.  
 Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Maui** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: Kili Namau'u  
 Kumu: Mailelani Namau'u  
 Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Maui**





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Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Kō'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

**Testimony from Pūnana Leo o Lahaina**

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Lahaina** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: Leilei Ishikawa

Kumu: Karyn Kanekoa

Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Lahaina**



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Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Hāna**

Date: February 11, 2021  
 Time: 3:00 P.M.  
 Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Hāna** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: Kaimana Cabebe  
 Kumu: Maleka Tolentino  
 Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Hāna**





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Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i**

Date: February 11, 2021  
 Time: 3:00 P.M.  
 Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: U'i Ramos  
 Kumu: Aulani Herrod  
 Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i**





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**Pūnana Leo**  
*Pūnana Leo Programs*

**Aukukui**

**Hale Kīpa 'Ōiwi**

**Kula Kamali'i**

Pūnana Leo o Hilo

Pūnana Leo o Honolulu

Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i

Pūnana Leo o Maui

Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i

Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae

Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Mānoa**

Date: February 11, 2021  
 Time: 3:00 P.M.  
 Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Mānoa** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: Kahōkū Lindsey-Asing  
 Kumu: Tiara Iokepa  
 Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Mānoa**



96 Pu'uhonu Place  
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 ahapunanaleo.org

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Ki'ope Raymond

Keawe Lopes

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**Chief Executive Officer**

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**Ka Luna Ho'okō**  
**Chief Operating Officer**

K. Sean Kekina

**Nā Papahana**  
**Pūnana Leo**  
**Pūnana Leo Programs**

**Aukukui**

**Hale Kīpa 'Ōiwi**

**Kula Kamali'i**

Pūnana Leo o Hilo

Pūnana Leo o Honolulu

Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i

Pūnana Leo o Maui

Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i

Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae

Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Kō'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Honolulu**

Date: February 11, 2021  
 Time: 3:00 P.M.  
 Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Honolulu** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: Leimomi Anderson  
 Kumu: Kamaka Ligon  
 Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Honolulu**





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**Hale Kipa 'Ōiwi**

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Pūnana Leo o Hilo

Pūnana Leo o Honolulu

Pūnana Leo o Kaula'i

Pūnana Leo o Maui

Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i

Pūnana Leo o Wai'anāe

Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko**

Date: February 11, 2021  
 Time: 3:00 P.M.  
 Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: Kaiopu Maika'i-Kahanao'i  
 Kumu: Kāhea Chang  
 Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko**



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**Pūnana Leo**

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Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Wai'anāe**

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Wai'anāe** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: Kealii Rasmussen

Kumu: Ku'ulei Alves

Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Wai'anāe**





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Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Testimony from **Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i**

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: SUPPORT H.B. 546 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha e Representative, Justin Woodson, Chair, Representative, Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Education,

The **Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i** supports HB546, which will help maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, by providing 'Aha Pūnana Leo with an "invited" member status, not subject to term limits. The statewide Hawaiian language immersion opportunities furnished by 'Aha Pūnana Leo are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education programming, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision of revitalizing and normalizing the Hawaiian language as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

The term limits imposed on 'Aha Pūnana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546!

Mahalo nui loa!

Kahu: Waialoha Fernandes

Kumu: Pūnohu Meade

Ke Kōmike Makua, **Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i**

**HB-546**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:03:41 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pelehonuamea Harman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please PASS HB546, which will ensure that representation of our Hawaiian medium education programs on the Early Learning Board. The Aha Punana Leo, should be granted member status in perpetuity. The statewide Hawaiian language medium opportunities provided through the Aha Punana Leo, which my ohana has benefitted from are key to providing our keiki with culturally enriched early education opportunities, and may be crucial to fulfilling the vision E Ola ka Olelo Hawaii the Hawaiian language shall live as reflected in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution. The term limits imposed on Aha Punana Leo's historically-filled seat for "Hawaiian medium early learning providers" have created a serious challenge for this seat to remain continuously and consistently filled for such a small and specialized field. This bill will help better sustain the Hawaiian voice on the Early Learning Board, to promote the development of our keiki while also furthering the goal of perpetuating and normalizing the Hawaiian language for future generations to come. I respectfully urge you to pass HB546! Mahalo nui and malama pono.



Senate Committee on Education

*Pō‘ahā, Pepeluali 11, 2021*

*Via Wikiō*

*Ke Kapikala Moku‘āina*

415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HB546 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

*Aloha Luna Ho‘omalū Justin H. Woodson, Hope Luna Ho‘omalū Jeanne Kapela and members of the House Committee on Education:*

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** HB546. This bill for an act amends the composition of the early learning board to make a representative from ‘Aha Pūnana Leo a standing member.

At its 61st annual convention, the Association adopted resolution 2020-34, supporting the proposed 2021 bill to uplift ‘Aha Pūnana Leo’s voice on the early learning board. The bill will help to maintain the specialized Hawaiian-medium voice on the Early Learning Board, such as ‘Aha Pūnana Leo. This type of representation is crucial to the state’s ability to provide our keiki with culturally enriched early education opportunities as prescribed in Article X, Section 4 of the state constitution.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committees to **PASS** HB546.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest

Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

*Mahalo* for allowing us to share our *mana* 'o.

*Me ka 'oia 'i 'o,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hailama Farden', written in a cursive style.

Hailama Farden

*Pelekikena*



# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

NO. 2020 - 34

### **SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED 2021 BILL TO UPLIFT ‘AHA PŪNANA LEO’S VOICE ON THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD**

WHEREAS, in 1983, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo was established to help revive ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i throughout Hawai‘i, and two years later the first ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i medium preschool started in Kekaha, Kaua‘i followed by 11 more sites currently in operation across the islands; and

WHEREAS, although ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i has been one of the state’s official languages for over 40 years since 1978, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo remains the only statewide early learning system conducted entirely in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i immersion for our pre-kindergarten keiki; and

WHEREAS, the Early Learning Board directs the executive office on early learning and provides recommendations to meet the developmental and educational needs of Hawai‘i’s pre-kindergarten keiki, while also promoting collaboration across keiki-serving stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, as the sole entity representing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i early learning opportunities across Hawai‘i, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo has identified its need for better representation on the state’s early learning board; and

WHEREAS, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo has experienced issues with sustaining its historically-filled position on the Early Learning Board due to term limits that inhibit the organization’s representatives from accruing and maintaining the necessary institutional knowledge and continuous presence to ensure understanding and recognition of the important role of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i education for Hawai‘i’s growing keiki; and

WHEREAS, currently the chief executive officer of Kamehameha Schools and the executive director of the Hawai‘i Association of Independent Schools enjoy expressly “invited” positions on the Early Learning Board with no term limits; and

WHEREAS, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo, as the sole statewide entity dedicated to advancing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i medium early education, deserves this same “invited” member status to ensure its continued presence on the early learning board, and fulfill its overarching goal to perpetuate and normalize ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i for future generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention held online, in the mālama of Makali‘i and the rising of

‘Olekūkolu, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2020, supporting the proposed 2021 bill to uplift ‘Aha Pūnana Leo’s voice on the Early Learning Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Chair of the Early Learning Board, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Education, Chairs of the State House subject matter committees on Judiciary and Education, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Makali‘i and the rising of ‘Olekūkolu on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2020, at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs held online.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hailama V.K.K. Fardon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Hailama V.K.K. Fardon, President