



HB1986
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘ona‘auao
House Committee on Education

Pepeluali 3, 2022

2:00 PM

Hālāwai Keleka‘a‘ike

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1986, which would require at least one at-large member of the Board of Education (BOE) to be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by the ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i. **With at least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will be an important resource to facilitate the State of Hawai‘i’s and Department of Education’s (DOE) goals and policies.**¹

OHA is the constitutionally-established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians.² In its last strategic plan, OHA adopted **Ho‘ona‘auao** as one of its strategic priorities, which focused on maximizing the choices of life and work via Native Hawaiians gaining knowledge and exceling in educational opportunities at all levels. OHA’s 2020+ Strategic Plan continues to incorporate **Educational Pathways** as a strategic direction, based on strategic foundations of ‘Ohana, Mo‘omeheu, and ‘Āina. As such, OHA has been and continues to be a consistent and ardent advocate for education policies that address the needs of Native Hawaiians and the greater community. The perpetuation of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, through Hawaiian immersion, is critical to the evolving culture, health, and well-being of Native Hawaiians, and this measure may be crucial to ensuring the BOE is equipped with needed expertise for kaiapuni equity.

Kula Kaiapuni celebrates over two decades of growth, expansion and success necessitating needed representation and expertise on the BOE. The success of the program is admired nationally and internationally but much of this success is due to the commitment and diligence of ‘ohana as well as the hard work of kumu or teachers. This Legislative body has consistently supported the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program over the past twenty years, seeing it as a crucial vehicle in carrying out the provisions of Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i and provisions of Act 133, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2004, and Act 159, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2005. The Hawaiian language immersion program continues to play a central

¹ HAW. CONST. ART. X, SEC. 4; SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 105-8.

² HAW. CONST. ART. XII SEC. 5; Haw. Rev. Stat. (“HRS”) § 10-3.

role in the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture, history, language, values, and practices as provided for by the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i. **‘Aha Kauleo has previously directly advised the BOE, and currently advises the Office of Hawaiian Education. In a parallel approach to provide needed expertise on the BOE, this bill will facilitate equity for kaiapuni as the demand and interest continues to increase.**

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!**

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1986. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®

MĀNOA

Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge
Office of the Dean

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Jonathan K Osorio, PhD
Dean, Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge

RE: HB1986
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai e nā poʻo a me nā lālā o ka ʻAha Ōlelo,

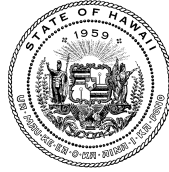
My name is Jonathan K Osorio and I am an educator, a supporter of Kula Kaiapuni and a member of ʻAha Kauleo. I am testifying in favor of HB2284 - Relating to Equitable Distribution of Grow Our Own Resources for Hawaiian Immersion Teachers. The requirement to teach our language and our culture is enshrined in the 1978 amendments to the State Constitution. But Hawaiʻi has moral and practical imperatives as well as legal obligations to vigorously support ʻŌlelo Hawaiʻi as the State's second language. Strengthening the cultural identity of our Native Hawaiian kamaliʻi widens and fortifies the educational pipeline for Kanaka Maoli children to higher education and better economic opportunities while weakening the pipeline to houselessness, dependency and prisons.

With regard to HB 1986:

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. There should be an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni have unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education without considering affects on Hawaiian immersion education.
- This solution would mover toward equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawaiʻi's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8.
- This does not cost additional funds for the State.
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ʻŌLELO HAWAIIʻI!!!



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 3, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

House Bill 1986, Relating to the Board of Education

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

The Board of Education (“Board”) respectfully provides **comments** on HB 1986, which would require that at least one at-large member of the Board be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii.

The Board takes no position on legislation relating to the Board’s membership, as the Board believes it is most appropriate for the Legislature and Governor to decide such matters. The Board will endeavor to provide the Legislature with any relevant information relating to Board membership matters to enable the Legislature to make informed decisions.

The Board has demonstrated through Board policy and deliberations at Board meetings that it strongly supports Hawaiian immersion education and Kula Kaiapuni. In fact, two current members of the Board often bring their significant experience with Hawaiian immersion education to Board discussions on a variety of relevant matters. There is clear value to this perspective on the Board.

We caution, however, that other stakeholders with different specific educational interests, such as special education or multilingualism, may also want a similar requirement to select experts on their respective interests to serve on the Board should the Legislature pass this measure. This could open the door for the Legislature needing to make policy decisions prioritizing which educational interests are of such importance that they require explicit representation on the Board.

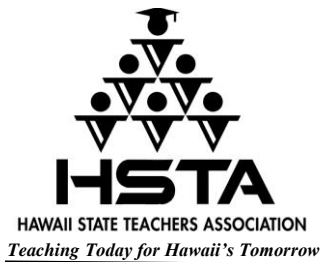
Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William N. Arakaki". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Bill Arakaki

Chairperson, Board of Education 2022 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita.
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

RE: HB 1986 – RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, Chair Takayama, and Committee members:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 1986**, relating to the Board of Education. This bill requires that at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii.

There is a shortage of Hawaiian immersion teachers and it has reached a crucial point in the last decade. Approximately fifty Hawaiian immersion teacher vacancies were advertised this year and another thirty positions will be needed to address school growth. We need to promote Hawaiian immersion programs consisting of language, culture, and history in the public schools, including our public charter schools, **by ensuring that one of the at-large appointees for the BOE is an expert on Hawaiian Immersion to help this state goal toward expanding and promoting Hawaiian Immersion in our public schools, including our public charter schools.**

The current law does not require any member of the board of education to be an individual who has expertise in Hawaiian studies, the Hawaiian language, or Hawaiian immersion education. **The Hawaii State Teachers Association believes that in order to better promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language in public schools, as required by the state constitution, there must be some representation of the Hawaiian community on the Board of Education**

There is a constitutional requirement to promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language. Native Hawaiians currently make up almost twenty-four per cent of the entire student population in the State. Due to the high presence of Native Hawaiian students in the public school system, it is imperative that the State guarantee appropriate representation on the board of education to fulfill its constitutional duty to promote Hawaiian studies and the Hawaiian language and to provide a voice for Native Hawaiian students, teachers, and faculty.

Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill, to move forward on this promise.



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committees on Education and
Higher Education & Technology

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: February 3, 2022

Where: Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona
Kamehameha Schools

RE: **HB 1986, Relating to the Board of Education**

E ka Luna Ho‘omalu Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Kapela, ka Luna Ho‘omalu Takayama, ka Hope Luna Clark, a me nā Lālā o kēia mau Kōmike ‘elua o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana, aloha kākou! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Vice President of Hi‘ialo at Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools **supports** HB 1986, which requires that at least one at-large member of the board of education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i.

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is the language of our home—being used and celebrated by thousands across Hawai‘i in government, education and commerce alike. In 1978, through a state constitutional convention, the convention delegates restored the Hawaiian language as an official language and instructed that a Hawaiian education program be provided in the public schools to revive and preserve ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i to rectify the ill effects of Hawaiian language suppression.

Adopted in 2015, Board of Education Policy 105-8 (“Ka Papahana Kaiapuni”) establishes seven (7) goals of the Kaiapuni Educational Program, which range from providing a bicultural and bilingual education for parents and students to developing curriculum standards with appropriate stakeholders, like the ‘Aha Kauleo, to the development and proper administration of appropriate formative and summative assessment tools. We celebrate the great strides made under the leadership of the Office of Hawaiian Education for Kaiapuni and advocate for the requirement that the same expertise be seated in perpetuity on the Board of Education.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe ‘ulu e loa‘a i ka pōkole o ka lou. There is no success without preparation. **Please advance this measure.**



Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo to the House Committee on Education and House Committee on Higher Education and Technology

96 Pu'uhonu Place
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 935-4304
(808) 969-7512
ahapunanaleo.org

Date: February 3, 2022
Time: 2:00PM
Location: State Capitol, Room 309

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

Kauanoë Kamanā
Pelekikena

'Alohilani Rogers
Kākau'Ōlelo

Larry Kimura

William H. Wilson

Ki'ope Raymond

Huilau Wilson

Keawe Lopes

H.B. 1986: Relating to the Board of Education - requires at least one at-large member of the BOE be a Hawaiian language immersion expert.

Aloha Chair Woodson and Vice Chair Kapela; Chair Takayama and Vice Chair Clark and members of the Committees,

'O wau 'o Ka'iulani Laeha, ka Luna Ho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo. Kāko'o 'ia H.B. 1986.

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

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

Ka'iulani J.K.N. Laehā

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo supports H.B. 1986 which requires at least one at-large member of the BOE be a Hawaiian language immersion expert.

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

K. Sean Kekina

As the only statewide early learning provider conducted in the medium of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i for Hawai'i's infants, toddlers, and preschoolers we have advocated for nearly 40 years in fulfilling the vision of E Ola Ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, Hawaiian language shall live. H.B. 1986 will provide one member of the 9 member BOE to be a Hawaiian language immersion expert.

Nā Papahana **Pūnana Leo**

Pūnana Leo Programs

Aukukui

Hale Kipa 'Ōiwi

Kula Kamali'i

We appreciate this opportunity to provide **support H.B. 1986.**

Mahalo,

Ka'iulani Laeha
Luna Ho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo

- Pūnana Leo o Hilo
- 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
- Pūnana Leo o Nu'uauu
- Pūnaana Leo o Waialua



February 2, 2022

TO: Representatives Branco, Belatti, Cullen, Ichiyama, Ilagan, Kitagawa, Lowen, Morikawa, Ohno, Tarnas, Woodson

FR: Kanaeokana Network

RE: IN SUPPORT OF HB1986 RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Aloha Representatives:

Kanaeokana is in full support of HB1986 that will require one Board of Education member to be an expert in Hawaiian Immersion. Kanaeokana, a network which includes membership of DOE Hawaiian Language Immersion Program sites, all 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools (HFCS), and over 50 other Hawaiian education organizations is in strong support of this measure that will ensure we have Board of Education members who have subject matter expertise in this DOE educational program that has become the State of Hawai'i's sole vehicle to provide for the revitalization of Hawaiian language for K-12 learners in public education.

Although the current make-up of the Board of Education does have Hawaiian immersion experts sitting as members, the need to ensure this in law is needed for future Board of Education membership.

Please support HB1985

Mahalo,

Kanaeokana
advocacy@kanaeokana.net



HB1986
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
House Committee on Education

February 3, 2022

2:00 PM

Videoconference

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), a member-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians, **SUPPORTS** HB1986 which would require that at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i.

The State of Hawai‘i Board of Education policy 105-7 states: “[t]he Board of Education recognizes that appropriate support for and implementation of Hawaiian education will positively impact the educational outcomes of all students in preparation for college, career and community access,” and that “Hawaii’s public education system should embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and history as a foundation to prepare students in grades K-12 for success in college, career and communities, locally and globally.”¹ CNHA believes that there is no better manifestation of “appropriate support” through the Board of Education than to have Board member(s) with the capacity, training, and expertise to best advance Hawaiian education in a manner that is consistent with the values, beliefs, and self-determination of the Native Hawaiian community.

As a Board recognized entity responsible for the development of curriculum and standards for the Ka Papahana Kaiapuni (Kaiapuni Educational Program) and a consortium comprised of nā Kula Kaiapuni (Hawaiian Immersion Schools), Hawaiian language charter schools, and various support organizations, ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i is in the best position to advance a list of effective candidates to serve as Board member(s) to provide appropriate support for Hawaiian education.

CNHA urges the Legislature to pass HB1986. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Respectfully,

J. Kūhiō Lewis
CEO, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

¹ State of Hawai‘i Board of Education Policy 105-7 (Hawaiian Education).



Nā Leo Kāko‘o O Maui, Inc.

P.O. Box 1913 • Wailuku, HI 96793

The non-profit support group of Kula Kaiapuni O Maui

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Sesame Shim
President of Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, LLC.

RE: HB1986
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai kākou,

I am first a parent of a child who attends Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kalama (Hawaiian Immersion school at Kalama Intermediate). I have been an active parent in supporting our 501c3 non-profit parent support group, Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, since my son started in the year 2015. Our non-profit supports doing fundraisers that provide opportunities for our keiki to go on various field trips, cultural events, and graduation events. It also supports our teachers with any necessary supplies that are not provided by the DOE. We also host educational events that teaches our community of the value of Kaiapuni education and how we can grow and support our keiki in this school.

I am writing today as the President of Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, who supports over 500 families who have keiki in Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā‘ia, Kalama, and Kekaulike (Hawaiian Immersion schools at Pā‘ia Elementary, Kalama Intermediate, and Kekaulike High School).

I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

For the last few years, the BOE has had members who not only advocates, but also understands the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We have seen the support that is provided to our schools and teachers, and we would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.

The Board of Education often comes up with many solutions for English medium education without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian medium education and is often not a solution for and can directly impact Hawaiian medium education. We need someone who can anticipate those impacts.

Article X, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978), states that:

The State shall provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture and history in the public schools. The use of community expertise shall be encouraged as a suitable and



Nā Leo Kāko‘o O Maui, Inc.

P.O. Box 1913 • Wailuku, HI 96793

The non-profit support group of Kūla Kaiapuni O Maui

essential means in furtherance of the Hawaiian education program. [Add Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

Article XV, Section 4 states that:

English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawaii, except that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions only as provided by law. [Add Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

This bill will help to ensure that the State will uphold this constitutional responsibility in support of the Hawaiian language and Hawaiian education, by specifically supporting the guidelines set forth in the BOE policy 105-8. This policy ensures equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands of Hawai‘i’s public schools. We need someone on the Board of Education who is aware and seeks to uphold fulfillment of these requirements which will help to stabilize the BOE decision making and leadership.

As a final highlight, this would not cost any money for the State, and would only help the progression of education within our public school system.

In conclusion I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986.

We, Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:48:07 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brandi Ahlo	Ka Aumanu	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: BRANDI AHLO

Pelekikena of KA 'AUMANU

RE: HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is BRANDI AHLO and I am the Pelekikena (president) of Ka 'Aumanu which is a 501c3 non-profit that supports Hawaiian medium education for early-childhood education in the ahupua'a of Mānoa.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

Consider these points:

- **BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.**
- **Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.**
- **The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education**
- **Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- **At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.**
- **This does not cost money for the State**
- **This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.**
- **This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**

In conclusion I support bill HB1986.

I/we urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

Date: February 2, 2022

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair, Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Representative Linda Clark, Vice Chair, Committee on Higher Education & Technology,
and Members

From: Kahele Dukelow, Luna Ho'omalua (President)
'Aha Kauleo, Hui of Hawaiian Immersion Schools
Advisory to the Office of Hawaiian Education

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for HB 1986, Relating to the Board of Education - requires at least one at-large member of the BOE be a Hawaiian language immersion expert.
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022**

The Aha Kauleo (AKL) is the statewide council for the Papahāna Kaiapuni which provides proactive leadership, direction, and advocacy for the development and growth of its Hawaiian medium schools, and advises directly through the Office of Hawaiian Education of the Department of Education. AKL consist of parent and teacher representatives per elementary (K-6) and secondary grades (6-12) and/or from each Hawaiian medium education site, and a principal representative, along with representatives from the University of Hawaii Hilo and Manoa, Brigham Young University-Hawaii, University of Hawaii-Maui College, Aha Punana Leo, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate, and the Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center.

The 'Aha Kauleo **strongly supports** HB 1986 that would require at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian language immersion expert.

The Board of Education has a constitutional mandate to uphold Article X, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, "The State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language. The State shall provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture and history in the public schools. The use of community expertise shall be encouraged as a suitable and essential means in furtherance of the Hawaiian education program."

Hawaiian and Hawaiian language immersion education continue to be a critical component to the survival and revitalization of the Hawaiian language and is in fact one of the most successful indigenous language education programs in the world. This development and advancement is a testament to the commitment made by the State of Hawai'i in 1978 and by the Board of Education through their forward policies on Hawaiian education in BOE policies 105.7 and 105.8.

These educational innovations in the last three decades have helped to produce a pool of experts in Hawaiian and Hawaiian language immersion education. A dedicated seat for a Hawaiian and Hawaiian language immersion education expert will ensure the most current and effective

pedagogies and methodologies will be employed to further develop the present policies that have helped to advance Hawaiian and Hawaiian language immersion education.

Passage of this bill would be a significant cornerstone in the history of public education in Hawai'i in line with the 1978 constitutional commitment to Hawaiian education, the establishment of Hawaiian Studies program in 1970 and the founding of Hawaiian language immersion in 1987.

A vote in favor of this bill is a vote to further progress the State of Hawai'i's commitment to the revitalization and advancement of Hawai'i's indigenous people and language through education.

He oia mau nō ka pono o ka lāhui kanaka i ka na'auao Hawai'i.

Hui Makua o Pū'ōhala / 45-233 Kulauli St. Kāne'ōhe, Hawai'i /
HuiMakuaOPuohala@gmail.com

House Committees on Education and
Higher Education & Technology

Pō'ahā, Pepeluali 3, 2022
2:00 o ka 'auinalā
Lumi Kūkā 309

RE: HB 1986, Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e nā Luna Ho'omalua Woodson a me Takayama, nā Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kapela a me Clark, a me nā lālā o kēia mau Kōmike 'elua o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana.

We are the Hui Makua o Pū'ōhala (HMOP), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization operated by volunteer parents of keiki attending Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Pū'ōhala, with a mission to support the success and activities of Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū'ōhala (the Hawaiian Language Immersion School at Pū'ōhala Elementary).

We offer our **strong support** of HB 1986, which will require that at least one at-large member of the board of education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i.

While the current makeup of the Board of Education does include members that understand Kaiapuni education, we'd like to see a permanent seat on the Board added to guarantee that Hawaiian immersion expertise is included on the Board. Advancing this measure is also a big step forward in ensuring that the State constitutional responsibilities explained in Article X, Section 4 and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution are met and fulfilled. Dedicating a seat on the Board of Education, and working with the 'Aha Kauleo to field nominees, will benefit all of Hawai'i because those that understand Kaiapuni and are experts also understand the value of all languages and cultures. Please advance this measure.

We welcome communication and updates at HuiMakuaOPuohala@gmail.com, and visits at our website www.HuiMakuaOPuohala.weebly.com.

Ke aloha no kaiapuni a me nā keiki,
Board Members of Hui Makua O Pū'ōhala
Brandi Cutler Ku'ulei Malohi
Jenny Bishop Ka'ano'i Walk
Lehua Coloma Amber Tenn

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:09:41 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

O wau nō o Kimeona Kane, kupa wau o ka ‘āina o Waimānalo. Mahalo nui iā‘oukou no keīa manawa kūpono i ka mahele ka mana‘o ka‘u o keīa pila HB2284.

He mea nui keīa no na po‘e Hawai‘i i keīa pila no leila, nui ke aloha ka‘u no ka hana kūpono no ka ho‘omau ana i ka ōlelo hawai‘i.

Kāko‘o piha wau i keīa pila me ka ha‘aha‘a. Mahalo mahalo mahalo nui iā‘oukou.

Me Ke Aloha,

Kimeona Kane

Aloha All,

I am Kimeona Kane, a child of Waimānalo. Mahalo to you all for this opportunity to share my thoughts on this bill HB2284.

This bill is of great importance for the people of Hawai‘i and so I have great appreciation for the hard work that perpetuates the Hawaiian language.

I humbly support this bill fully and thank you all so very much.

Much Appreciation,

Kimeona Kane

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:58:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Grace Bezilla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kāko'o

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:24:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

This is essential to ensuring leadership that mimics the makeup of the constituency and will help the state to fulfill its fiduciary duties to honoring Hawaiian culture, language, and existence as laid out in the State's constitution.

The covid pandemic has impacted Hawaiian communities and Hawaiian language immersion learners in a different way and having someone on the Board of Education who can speak to this is important.

Mahalo for the opportunity to participate in submitting testimony.

Noel

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:13:36 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Priscila Leal Bluth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

'O Priscila Leal Bluth ko'u inoa [My name is Priscila Leal Bluth] and I am parent of two haumana [students] who attend Kula Kaiapui [Hawaiian Immersion Program].

I am testifying in **favor** of HB1986.

Please consider these points:

1. BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
2. Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
3. The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
4. Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
5. This does not cost money for the State

In conclusion, I am **in favor** of HB1986.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.
E OLA KA 'OLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:55:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kananinohea Makaimoku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Kananinohea Māka‘imoku

RE: HB1986

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha‘ōlelo,

My name is Kananinohea Māka‘imoku and I am a graduate and a current parent of the Papahana Kaiapuni (Hawaiian medium immersion program). I am testifying in SUPPORT of HB1986.

This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8.

The BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. This bill will secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat. At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Kaipo Crouch
Ke Kula 'O 'Ehunuikaimalino

RE: HB1986
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

My name is Kaipo Crouch and I am a kumu at Ke Kula ‘o ‘Ehunuikaimalino.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

The reason I am in favor of this bill is because the kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education. The Board of Education provides many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education. This is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education. This will not cost the state money to provide at least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise that will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education. This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

In conclusion, I strongly support this bill and believe in equity for the Hawaiian immersion education system and that the state will uphold their constitutional responsibility.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:22:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamalani Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:39:03 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tracy Kuʻulei Kanahahele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rep. Justin H. Woodson & Rep. Jeanne Kapela

HB 1986 RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: Thursday, February 3, 2022

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: via videoconference, conference room 309, State Capitol

IN SUPPORT

Aloha kākou. My name is Tracy Kuʻulei Kanahahele, a parent of children who attend Hawaiian language immersion schools.

I am testifying in favor of HB 1986, whose purpose is to require at least one at-large member of the board of education to be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by the ʻAha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaiʻi. I believe it is crucial that the board of education has at least one member that represents our Hawaiian language voice.

In closing, I am reiterating my support of HB1986. Naʻu,

Tracy Kuʻulei Kanahahele

Hilo, Hawaiʻi

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:57:13 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brandi Cutler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

2 February 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

As a mother to two students at Ke Kula Kaiapuni O Pū‘ōhala and a supporter of kaiapuni (Hawaiian language immersion education), **I strongly support HB1986**: requiring at least one at-large member of the board of education be a Hawaiian language immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i. This mandatory representation at on the BOE will help the Department of Education fulfill its obligations to the Hawaiian language immersion program.

Mahalo nui for your legislative efforts around the educational well-being of our public schools, in particular Hawaiian language immersion schools. Windward's ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i community is grateful for your continuous support.

Ke aloha no kaiapuni a me nā keiki, Brandi Cutler, resident of Kāne‘ohe

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:13:57 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
christine chow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Christine Noelani Chow, a current parent of 1 Kaiapuni Hawaiian Immersion student and 2 former Kaiapuni students. I am in support of HB 1986. I have been a part of Hawaiian Immersions schools as a parent, a part time teacher, substitute teacher and volunteer for 10 years. I believe there should be at least 1 BOE at large member who is an expert in Kaiapuni. It is needed, pono and fair. I have seen how difficult it is to find quality kumu that will stay in the profession. I have had to step up without a teaching degree and without complete 'olelo Hawai'i capabilities to fill in vacancies at my childrens' schools. The DOE has shortages of teachers. Finding teachers for Immersion Schools are 5 times harder! At my child's current school, Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waimānalo, there has been teacher vacancies in each grade level since opening in 2019. We currently have 2 kumu teaching 4 grade levels and both those kumu came from other Kaiapuni schools, leaving vacancies that needed to be filled there. We need more incentive to attract more quality kumu to our schools and to keep them there. Additional pay for our kumu will make it more attractive and feasible for our kumu to stay in the face of the difficult times they face in general in the classrooms and on top of that the hardships of lack of curriculum, resources and the additional responsibilities that Kaiapuni kumu have in teaching content through Hawaiian as a second language. Please mālama our kumu, please give us the representation at the BOE decision making level so that funding and systems can be set to support our schools. Our children deserve it. Our language and the education of our children depend on it.

Mahalo,

Christine Noelani Chow

46-229 Kahuhipa St. #F403

Kāne‘ohe, HI 96744

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:19:37 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hope McKeen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Hope Pualani McKeen

RE: HB1986

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

‘O Hope Pualani McKeen ko‘i inoa. No Waiākea Kai Hawai‘i mai au. He kumu kula au no 17 makahiki. I ulu nō ka lālā i ke kumu!!!

I am testifying in favor of HB1986 for these reasons.

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.**
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.**

- **The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education**
- **Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- **At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.**
- **This does not cost money for the State**
- **This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision-making and leadership.**
- **This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

Na'u nō

Hope Pualani McKeen

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Tracy M Kealoha
Parent of keiki who attend kula kaiapuni

RE: HB1986
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai e na po`o a me na lālā o ka Aha `Ōlelo,

My name is Tracy Kealoha and I am parent of a 3 keiki who attend kula kaiapuni on the island of Maui. I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

I strongly support HB1986 to ensure that at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii. Keiki who are enrolled in Kaiapuni have unique situations, opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise from a Hawaiian immersion education advocate on the Board of Education. It is important to secure an advocate who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education with a dedicated seat on the Board of Education (BOE).

Having at least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will help to ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE Policy 105-8. In addition, having a BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will help to support and facilitate the Department of Education (DOE) in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.

This bill will help to ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). Often the BOE comes up with solutions focused on English medium education only without consideration on the affects it may have on Hawaiian immersion education. If passed this bill will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986 to ensure that at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. **E OLA KA `ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:31:12 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaori-Lei Hanohano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Kaori-Lei Ka'imipono Hanohano
Community Member of Ko'olauloa

RE: HB1986

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

‘O Kaori-Lei Ka'imipono Hanohano ko'u inoa. No Maui mai au, aka noho au me ko'u 'ohana ma ka mokupuni o O'ahu, moku o Ko'olauloa, ma ka 'ahupua'a 'o Ka'a'awa.

My name is Kaor-Lei Ka'imipono Hanohano and I am a parent of children who attend the Hawaiian Immersion schools in Ko'olauloa.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986 because of the following:

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8

- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.

Na‘u no,

Kaori-Lei Ka‘imipono Hanohano

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:56:14 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimo Cashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Kimo Alexander Caashman, PhD

Aloha Kumu Collective

RE: HB1986

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Kimo Alexander Cashman and I am parent, teacher, and director of the Aloha Kumu Collective. I am testifying in support of HB1986 for the following reasons:

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.**
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.**

- **The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education**
- **Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- **At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.**
- **This does not cost money for the State**
- **This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.**
- **This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:18:08 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rachel Tachibana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Rachel Tachibana

RE: HB1986

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Rachel Tachibana and I am a parent of 2 Hawaiian Immersion students.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

Consider these points:

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8

- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:29:21 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Erin ODonnell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

RE: HB1986

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Erin Maluhia O'Donnell and I am parent of a student at 'Alo Kēhau O Ka 'Āina Mauna in Waimea, Hawai'i.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

As an official language of the state, 'ōlelo Hawai'i needs to have equal representation and equal resources, especially when it comes to education. As it stands now, 'ōlelo Hawai'i schools receive far less resources - infrastructure i.e. buildings, funds, books, and even representation on the Board of Education. Currently, my friend Kili Namau'u sits on this Board, and is that representative, but was chosen for her 30 years of work and experience in Hawaiian immersion education as a parent and as the Kahu at Pūnana Leo o Maui. However having at LEAST one seat of representation should be REQUIRED from here on out.

Consider these points:

- **BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.**
- **Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.**

- **The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education**
- **Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- **At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.**
- **This does not cost money for the State**
- **This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.**
- **This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**

Support the ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, and Hawaiian Medium Education and Immersion Education, on the highest level.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:34:10 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leonard Nakoa III	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as a Hawaiian

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:53:10 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of **HB1986**.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:12:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joylynn Paman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Joylynn Paman

RE: HB1986

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha, my name is Joylynn Paman and I am a parent and `Aha Kauleo representative.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986 for the following reasons:

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8

- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:21:59 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pohai Kukea Shultz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Pōhai Kūkea Shultz

RE: HB1986

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986

Aloha kākou,

My name is Pōhai Kūkea Shultz and I am an Associate Specialist at UH-Mānoa and the Principal Investigator of KĀ‘EO (Kaiapuni Assessment of Educational Outcomes). This project works in collaboration with HIDOE to develop and administer assessments in the Hawaiian language for Kaiapuni students in Grades 3 – 8 for the purpose of state and federal accountability. I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

In my current work with the KĀ‘EO, the Board of Education has been a key partner in ensuring that policy is reflective of the responsibility that Hawai‘i’s educational system has to its two official languages, both English and Hawaiian (as articulated in Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978)). The Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE) executes these policies in support of this dual language pathway in various ways, but has articulated it specifically in a memo released on October 21, 2020. The memo acknowledges the dual language pathway of our system:

As the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE) is committed to being a bilingual system, this memo serves as an affirmation to all stakeholders of the state’s adoption of a single set of standards with two language paths, English and Hawaiian.

The fact that HIDOE has documented this kind of support for the dual language pathway of our educational system is a key indicator of the importance of having board members who understand the challenge that Hawaiian immersion education faces in the current educational

system. We do not want to leave this up to chance – without a dedicated seat that understands Hawaiian immersion education and can knowledgably consider the impacts of any of the board’s decision not just on the state’s English medium students, but also its Hawaiian medium students, we run the risk of denying equitable access and resources to the students and families who choose the Hawaiian language pathway of education within our state.

From my perspective, this is a no-brainer – this bill will not cost the state any money and is a simple way to ensure that representation on the Board of Education justly reflects the dual language pathways of Hawai‘i’s educational system.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:23:25 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
JarraeTehani Manasas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a makua who's keiki attends a Hawaiian Immersion School, I am in support of HB1986 requiring Hawaiian Immersion representation on the Board of Education selected via a nomination process by Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawaii. Mahalo nui

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:23:52 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephen Luksic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:32:23 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patricia K Kanakaole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Distinguish Committee Members... Aloha nui kākou!

I offer my support of HB 1986 relating to the designation of at least one, at-large seat of the Hawai‘i State Board of Education to be occupied by a Hawaiian language medium or Hawaiian language immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by ‘Aha Kau Leo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i. Nā Kula Kaiapuni (Hawaiian Immersion Schools) are frequently celebrated globally by other Indigenous peoples as a model education program. However, Hawaiian medium and Immersion education has a unique pedagogy from mainstream English medium education and requires high language and cultural fluency, extensive content knowledge and an understanding of the Hawaiian worldview. It is necessary that this perspective is represented in multiple level’s of Hawai‘i’s Department of Education, this includes the pinnacle of Hawai‘i’s education decision makers, our Board of Education.

Presently there are two appointed members currently seated upon the Board who are fluent in Hawaiian and have experience in Hawaiian medium-immersion education. They are the first members in the long history of the Board to have such skill and knowledge. But what will happen when their terms expire? I strongly urge the committee to be proactive and designate a seat on the Board exclusively for a Hawaiian medium-immersion education expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by ‘Aha Kau Leo Kaiapuni Hawai‘i.

The ‘Aha Kau Leo is an active, not-for-profit consortium of administrators, teachers, parents from Hawaiian medium-immersion Kula Kaiapuni and public charter schools as well as invested community organizations who have guided and supported Hawaiian language education since 1990. It advises the Department of Education through the Office of Hawaiian Education and advocates for educational equity for Hawaiian medium-immersion education. This consortium is well aware of the issues facing Hawaiian speakers and the educational obstacles in existence, I am confident in their ability to provide a list of highly competent nominees for this position.

Please continue the forward momentum of HB 1986 so that we can ensure support for the world renowned best practices found in Hawaiian medium-immersion education and lend support to other areas of Hawai‘i’s public education system. Mahalo nui!

Na‘u me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

Na P. Kanoe Kanaka‘ole

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:42:39 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leimomi Kaaihili Leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Leimomi Ka‘aihil Leong

Hawaiian immersion teacher for 18 years

RE: HB1986 - Relating to Board of Education

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986- Relating to Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Leimomi Ka‘aihili Leong and I have been a public school Hawaiian immersion teacher for 18 years. I am currently working at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Ānuenuē as a Special Education teacher. I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

The Hawaiian immersion education which has been in existence for over 40 years is rapidly growing and new schools are opening and new teacher positions are being created each year because of the growing demand for public education in the Hawaiian language.

With the rapid growth of Hawaiian immersion schools, many policies and directives that are being made on a daily basis do not have Hawaiian immersion schools in mind. Many of the resources, and directives exclude Hawaiian immersion schools.

The Board of Education currently has Hawaiian immersion supporters and experts who understand the methodologies of Hawaiian medium education therefore the Board of Education is currently providing support to the Department of Education on equity for Hawaiian medium education.

We are only asking that this be a sustainable and continue on for years to come. In the past the Board of Education has needed a lot more advising and education about Hawaiian medium schools which has taken a loss in time and resources on the part of the Office of Hawaiian Education. They spent more time advising, advocating and helping the Department of Education and Board of education understand Hawaiian medium in the past. With members who have expertise like we have now, the Office of Hawaiian Education can focus on supporting students and schools.

In conclusion I urge you to PASS HB 1986. A dedicated seat would ensure equity of the Department's Hawaiian medium pathway and uphold guidances set for in BOE policy 105-8. It will stabilize the Board of Education in making equitable decision making and policies. This bill will ensure that the State upholds its consitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978). Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:44:20 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kehaulani custino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

BOE seat Sample Testimony

Deadline 1:30pm

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Kehaulani Custino

Makua, of keiki at Kaiapuni o Pū'ōhala

RE: HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Kehaulani Custino and I am a makua, of two keiki who attend Kaiapuni o Pū'ōhala and a member of Hui Makua and support the 'Aha Kauleo organization.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education.

My reason for supporting this bill would support my position to perpetuate the culture spoken in the language of our kupuna. Hearing our kupuna share their knowledge with us in olelo hawaii and we not even understanding it really makes me wonder who will be able to teach my keiki these fundamental tools while living here in Hawaii?

I send my children to school assuming they will be taught with a diverse knowledge of Hawaii, as well as the continent. But as I observe their Hawaii studies lessons, they are not weekly like their English and math classes, and not as frequent. Then I see the same lesson being taught year after year which is understanding the colors, alphabet, and land orientation. Just think, if english and math were taught in the same manner what do you think our future workforce would look like?

Teaching the children of Hawaii olelo Hawaii just makes sense and should be taught alongside and with as much importance as English and Math is taught in the system. I drive my children from Kahala to Kaneohe to get a full education. This is a 32 miles round trip twice a day and roughly 2 hours out of my day driving to ensure the success of my children's education. I live right across the street from a school that DOE has noted to be a very good school and meets all the accolades of a successful school. But they did not teach olelo hawaii but instead taught japanese language and promoted it heavily. I love the diversity of Hawaii, but specialized language education should not take preference over olelo hawaii. Below is some additional data that I hope show support for this bill.

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.**
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.**
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education**
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8**
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.**
- This does not cost money for the State**
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.**
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).**

In conclusion I support this bill because it supports my desires for a better future for my keiki.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:46:26 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tanya m naehu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In order to have accurate representation this is absolutely necessary.

February 2, 2022

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Andrew Kealana Phillips

**RE: HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education**

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka Aha ‘Ōlelo,

‘O wau o Andrew Kealana Phillips. He makua au no ‘elua mau keiki ma ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Paia.

My name is Andrew Kealana Phillips, and I am parent of two children who attend the Hawaiian language immersion program at Paia School.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

I strongly support HB1986 for the following reasons:

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:21:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kerry Long	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is ‘Ilima Long. I’m Native Hawaiian and was fortunate enough to learn this language of my ancestors in college. My daughter attends Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Ānuenue, a Kula Kaiapuni located in Pālolo Valley. As a mother of a Kula Kaiapuni student, and as someone whose profession allows me extraordinary access and insight into public education and schools, I can say that Kula Kaiapuni is in need of stronger and broader advocacy. At the level of the BOE, this begins with including a seat that can be occupied by someone who is truly knowledgeable of Kula Kaiapuni history, needs, strengths and trajectories and who can also educate and inform fellow Board members, especially when making important decisions around public education.

Kula Kaiapuni is a top educational priority among many, many Native Hawaiians in the community. Kula Kaiapuni are the foundation of the ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i revitalization movement. As much as Kula Kaiapuni have grown in decades past, a measure of the amazing organizing and advocacy of many, we should not take for granted that Kula Kaiapuni are strong, stable or currently sufficient to sustain the revitalization of our precious ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. Every measure that we take to support Kula Kaiapuni is critical to push the scales toward sustainability and growth.

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is an official language of the State of Hawai‘i and Kula Kaiapuni are embedded within the state education structure. A Kaiapuni seat on the BOE would recognize and support the ongoing and uphill efforts to sustain and grow Hawaiian language medium public education in Hawai‘i by including a Board member who understands the unique challenges and strengths of Kula Kaiapuni.

Mahalo for your time. Please support this bill.

Kerry Kamakaoka ‘Ilima Long

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:30:29 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michele-ann K Akana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Michele-Ann K Hōkū Akana. I am a long-time resident born and raised in Waimānalo, O‘ahu writing in support of HB1986 which will ensure that at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian immersion expert selected from a list of nominees submitted by ‘Aha Kauleo Kaiāpuni Hawai‘i.

Ma ka hana, ka ‘ike - I strongly urge our leaders to pass this bill as this measure will support our commitment to the Hawaiian Language as one of two official State Languages in Hawai‘i.

E ola mau ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i - It is imperative to note that without the constant active training to teach and include ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i in the Public School system and it’s leadership, the language, the culture , and social status of the Hawaiian people will continue to suffer if the government cannot commit to fund such an undertaking.

Ma ka ‘ōlelo ke ola, Ma ka ‘ōlelo ka make - Finally, it would be a detrimental mistake to deny such a bill that supports the growth and active teaching, proliferation and use of the Hawaiian language in our schools, businesses and communities.

Ua mau ke ea o ka ‘āina i ka pono - For this reason, it is pono or a good thing that our government leaders direct more of our State resources towards supporting our Hawaiian Language and it’s people to thrive. Thank you for your time.

Pass HB1986

Me ka Pio‘ole - Respectfully,

Michele-Ann K Hōkū Akana

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:32:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaakapua Swain	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am a 5th grade teacher at Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo and have been employed in the Hawaiian Immersion system since 1999. We, (Hawaiian Immersion schools) are sorely under represented in the BOE. Decisions are made that do not align with our schooling pedagogy. Having someone represent Hawaiian Immersion within the BOE will benefit us. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is an official language of our state but gets treated as if we are a foreign language. Having a person to represent us will ensure that our needs and concerns are addressed or at least heard in the BOE. Please support this bill as I do.

Na'u no,

Ka'aka Swain

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Larry Kimura
Associate Professor, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian
Language, UH at Hilo

**RE: HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education**

Aloha e nā Lālā o ka 'Aha'ōlelo Hawai'i.

The DOE Kaiapuni 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, Hawaiian Language Immersion Program, is currently in its 35th year of successful Hawaiian medium education. Enrollment in several of the K-12 sites continues to grow. This advancement is due to the support and demand of families for public education through Hawaiian. Hawai'i's Hawaiian medium education program has become model for the wellbeing of indigenous languages throughout the world. It is imperative that our State Legislation require that at least one at-large BOE be an expert in Hawaiian language medium education.

Me ka mahalo nui.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:36:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laiana Kanoa-Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e ke komike,

‘O Lāiana Kanoa-Wong ko‘u inoa, I am a parent and former student and teacher in the Hawaiian immersion schools. I am writing in support of HB1986 based on the following points:

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.

Mahalo nui for the oppertunity to submit testimony in support of HB1986.

Me ke aloha pau ‘ole no ka 'āina,

Lāiana a me ka ‘Ohana Kanoa-Wong

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:52:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eomailani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Full support

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM Karyn Kanekoa
Kula Kaiapuni o Nāhi'ena'ena Parent

RE: **HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education**
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education

Welina mai kākou,

‘O au ‘o Karyn Kanekoa. He makua au a ‘ehā a‘u keiki ma nā kaiapuni o Lahaina. Kāko‘o piha au i ka pila HB2284. My name is Karyn Kanekoa. I am a parent of 4 keiki, all of which currently attend kula kaiapuni schools in Lahaina. **I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1986.** BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat. Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education. This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

I STRONGLY URGE THE COMMITTEE TO PASS HB1986.
Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify!

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Trina Sanders
Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui

**RE: HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education**

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

My name is Trina Sanders and I am first and foremost a parent. My three keiki attend Kula Kaiapuni o Maui (Pā‘ia and Kekaulike). My younger siblings both graduated from the Hawaiian Immersion Program here on Maui, so I have seen the impact and importance of a Hawaiian Immersion Education since my family became involved in 1995.

Nā Leo Kāko‘o, is a 501c3 organization who supports over 500 families who have keiki in Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā‘ia, Kalama, and Kekaulike (Hawaiian Immersion schools at Pā‘ia Elementary, Kalama Intermediate, and Kekaulike High School). I have been involved as a parent representative and later as a board member for over eight years. I currently sit on the board as the kākau ‘ōlelo (secretary) of Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui. I am also the ‘Aha Kauleo parent representative for Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kekaulike.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

Here are some reasons for the support of this bill:

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8

- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

In conclusion I am writing in strong support of HB2284.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Kameron Kalamakūno‘eau Freitas
Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kalama

**RE: HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education**

E nā luna a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo, aloha ‘oukou,

My name is Kalamakū Freitas and I am Hawaiian immersion teacher on Maui.
I am testifying in favor of HB1986 for all of the reasons listed below.

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision-making and leadership.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

I strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. E ola ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:30:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chadwick Nakagawa	Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kalama	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:34:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nohealani Paleka	Kumu Kaiapuni	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill that requires at least one at large member of the BOE to be a Hawaiian Language immersion expert. We need a VOICE in decision making processes.

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Kiani Elie Yasak
Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Kalama - Kumu

RE: **HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education**
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

My name is Kiani Yasak and I am teacher at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Kalama.
I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

Here are the reasons why I strongly support HB1986.

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

In conclusion, I strongly support HB1986.

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Leinā‘ala Vedder
Kumu Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Maui ma Pā‘ia

RE: **HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education**
Hearing on February 3rd, 2022
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Leinā‘ala Kuloloio Vedder and I am a kumu at Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Maui ma Pā‘ia and a makua of a student at Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Maui ma Kekaulike.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai‘i’s public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

I urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:36:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marty Martins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As Hawaiian is one of the Hawai'i's two official languages, I think it imperative -- and long overdue -- that an expert in Hawaiian language immersion sit on the Board of Education.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:15:31 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kapua Medeiros	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Education Committee members,

I SUPPORT HB1986 and HB2284.

Having at least one (1) fluent Hawaiian language speaker would not only bridge the language and cultural gap that currently exists as it pertains to the comprehension of the current Board of Education, it would also insure that the very students and families that are affected by the BOE's decisions are fairly represented. In my personal opinion and to insure fair representation, the Board of Education should have an equal representation of Hawaiian speakers as english speakers for every district.

In the mid 1990s I attended many BOE meetings to testify in Support of the Constitutional Rights of our kanaka maoli keiki, my own included to be educated in our Native 'Olelo Hawai'i.

I also testified in Support of her rights as a keiki of Hawai'i to be treated as fairly as ALL other keiki. My keiki as well as all other Kula Kaiapuni haumāna were entitled to lunch subsidies, transportation outside the 1 mile distance of their District School, Adequate Teacher and School Support Staff positions, etc.

My keiki is now 30 years old, graduated from Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenue, holds a Bachelors Degree in Forensic Science from Chaminade and is currently employed as a phlebotomist while waiting to hear the from the Honolulu Coroner's Office as to the status of her application and interview for her Dream Career all while fostering her own keiki's Hawaiian Language Immersion education.

I just wanted you all to know that your decisions to Support Bills like these create laws that create policies that create opportunities for keiki like mine and others as well.

Please vote to Support HB1986 and HB2284

Mahalo nui loa from a very thankful makua,

Kapua Medeiros

Waimānalo Resident and Neighborhood Board Member

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:55:39 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sandee Moniz Pa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and urge you to also for fair and equal representation. The Hawaiian language is the original language of Hawai'i.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:29:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kalehua Krug	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

All members of the Board of Education should be bi-lingual in a bi-lingual state. This is common sense. Asking for only one member is a shame.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:18:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Doreen Kaolulo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support bill SB1986 I truly believe that one or more should be of native Hawaiians

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:51:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710. Please support this bill. Mahalo

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:55:31 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please suport this bill

Rodger Hansen

Registered voter - Hakalau HI 96710

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:57:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ho'oleia Ka'eo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e nā 'elele Aha'ōlelo,

'O au 'o Ho'oleia Ka'eo, I am a graduate of the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program on Maui and I am in **strong support of HB 1986**. The immersion program is growing and this is the right time for the immersion program to have a seat on the Board of Education. This measure will promote better decision making in the context of Hawaiian Language education and is a step for the DOE to support 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, the original language of this place. Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please support HB 1986.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Ho'oleia

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:12:25 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Antoinette K. Kealoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

BOE seat Sample Testimony

Deadline 1:30pm

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Committee on Education

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, Committee on Education, and Members

FROM: Antoinette K. Kealoha

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waimānalo

RE: HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education

Hearing on February 3rd, 2022

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB1986-Relating to the Board of Education

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Antoinette Kealoha and I am a kumu at Ke kula kaiapuni o Waimānalo.

I am testifying in favor of HB1986.

Our Kaiapuni schools need a strong and knowledgabl in the Board of Education,

Consider these points:

- BOE currently has Hawaiian immersion advocates who understand the pedagogy and methodology of Hawaiian immersion education. We would like to secure such an advocate with a dedicated seat.
- Kaiapuni experiences unique opportunities and challenges warranting needed expertise on the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education comes up with many solutions for English medium education only without consideration on how it affects Hawaiian immersion education and is not a solution for Hawaiian immersion education
- Ensure equitable access to resources and education specifically for Hawaiian immersion education on all islands in Hawai'i's public schools, and uphold guidelines set forth in BOE policy 105-8
- At least one at-large BOE member with Hawaiian immersion expertise will support the BOE and facilitate the DOE in meeting its stated strategic goal towards equity and constitutional mandate in providing access to Hawaiian medium education.
- This does not cost money for the State
- This will provide needed expertise to the BOE and help to stabilize its decision making and leadership.
- This bill will ensure that the State upholds its constitutional responsibility to Article X, Section 4, and Article XV, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution (1978).

In conclusion, I would like to mahalo you all for this opportunity to share and hope that you will make a decision that will have a positive effect on my haumana today and tomorrow.

I/we urge the Committee to PASS HB1986. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

E OLA KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:41:46 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support and pass this bill. The department of education should absolutely have at least one if not half the board members of the Hawaiian Immersion experts nominated by Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i to appointed as Board members. Hawaiian education systems have shown through out time to be outstanding and the Department of Education would benefit in every way for the brilliance and expansive guidance that the Hawaiian Immersion educators would offer. I am in full support and I thank you for your efforts in passing this bill

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:12:03 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shantee brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

why is hawaiian language immersion important to a puerto rican like me? before the suppression of 'ōlelo hawai'i, the kingdom of hawaii was the most literate place in the world. multiple newspapers shared invaluable knowledge of how to take care of the land, water, people, etc. there is knowledge in language that can help us become better stewards of our home and ourselves.also, hawaiian is a state language. the state has a legal obligation to provide instruction in hawaiian. please support HB1986.

mahalo

shantee brown

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:23:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica Waia'u	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jessica Waia'u and I am a Native Hawaiian educator. I support HB1986.

Native Hawaiian students need appropriate representation on the board of education. There must be a seat at the table to promote Hawaiian studies and the Hawaiian language. There must be a voice for Native Hawaiian students, teachers, and faculty.

Mahalo,

Jessica Waia'u

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:42:39 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wai'ala Ahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please Support HB1986

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:13:48 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
grace kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The existence of the feral cat population is simply the result of human intervention of the species, and the massacre of feral cats is immoral and inhumane.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:39:38 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tara Rojas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaiian representation - in Hawai'i - is necessary in ALL arEAs.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:05:22 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
iyana barrera-sandri	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Iyana Barrera- Sandri and I am a supporter and Ed.D student

I am testifying in favor of HB1986, as looking over the educational history of Hawai'i there have been multiple people representing the colonizing force of the USA, with little representation of the Native community. This bill fixes this issue by insuring that the board of education of Hawai'i has a Native Hawaiian expert. Doing this costs the state no money, and will enable a complete and better policy for the students of Hawai'i.

thank you