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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The Hawaiian language, the native language of  
2 the Native Hawaiian people, was once a thriving language used by  
3 Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike. However, by the late  
4 twentieth century, the Hawaiian language was pushed to the brink  
5 of extinction due to a number of factors, including an 1896 law  
6 that banned the speaking of the Hawaiian language in Hawaii  
7 schools. Fortunately, the Hawaiian language was saved by  
8 several historic initiatives, including the department of  
9 education's Hawaiian language immersion program, which was  
10 launched in the 1980s. The Hawaiian language immersion program,  
11 ka papahana kaiapuni, is offered at twenty public schools and  
12 educates more than two thousand students in kindergarten through  
13 the twelfth grade.

14           Federal accountability assessment requirements present a  
15 challenge for ka papahana kaiapuni. Because English is not  
16 formally introduced in kaiapuni classrooms until the fifth  
17 grade, third and fourth grade kaiapuni students have been  
18 offered assessments in the Hawaiian language in order to comply



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

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

19 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
20 education to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian language  
21 for language arts, mathematics, and science subjects, in



1 accordance with federal accountability assessment requirements,  
2 to be administered to kaiapuni students in certain grades.

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

6 **"§302A- Hawaiian language immersion assessments. (a)**

7 The department shall develop and implement annual assessments in  
8 the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and  
9 science for ka papahana kaiapuni students. The assessments  
10 shall:

11 (1) Be aligned with the vision, mission, and programmatic  
12 goals of ka papahana kaiapuni;

13 (2) Be aligned with applicable state academic content and  
14 achievement standards;

15 (3) Be valid, reliable, and consistent with relevant,  
16 nationally-recognized professional and technical  
17 standards;

18 (4) Be compliant with applicable federal accountability  
19 assessment requirements; and

20 (5) Not be Hawaiian translations of the general state  
21 assessments.



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

8       SECTION 3. The department of education shall prepare and  
9 submit a preliminary and final report to the legislature on the  
10 status of the procedures the department is establishing for the  
11 development and administration of assessments in the Hawaii  
12 language, pursuant to this Act, no later than twenty days prior  
13 to the convening of the regular sessions of 2016 and 2017,  
14 respectively.

15       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and  
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
19 year 2016-2017 for the development and administration of annual  
20 assessments in the Hawaiian language as required by section 2 of  
21 this Act.



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

3           SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Hawaiian Language Immersion Program; Student Assessments;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires and appropriates funds for the department of education to develop an assessment of established statewide performance standards for students in the kaiapuni program. Requires reports to the legislature. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

