DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





CARTY S. CHANG INTERIM CHARPERSON BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

MMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEI FIRST DEPUTY

> WILLIAM M. TAM DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFOREMENT ENGINEERING FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HISTORIC PRESERVATION KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION LAND STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of Leimana DaMate Executive Director – Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 2:00 P.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In SUPPORT of House Bill 874, HD 1 Relating to the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program

House Bill 874, HD 1 requires the Department of Education to develop and implement for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students, annual assessments in the Hawaiian language that are not Hawaiian translations of general state assessments.

The Aha Moku Advisory Committee, through the Aha Moku System encompasses 43 traditional moku in which over 500 ahupua'a are located. Many of our native Hawaiian traditional resource practitioners have keiki and mo'opuna, children and grandchildren who attend the Hawaiian Immersion Schools across the state of Hawaii. Hawaiian is their first language and many are incredibly bright students. However, the translations of federal accountability assessment requirements from English to Hawaiian are often shown to be inconsistent with inaccurate translations.

This Bill is needed and welcomed as another forward step in assisting and accurately assessing the progress of children in certain grades in the Hawaiian Immersion Program.

We SUPPORT H.B. 874, HD 1 and urge its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to testify



HB874 HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

House Committee on Education

February 18, 2015	2:00 p.m.	Room 309
<u>1001001910,2013</u>	2.00 p.m.	R0011 303

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) <u>STRONGLY SUPPORTS</u> HB874 HD1. This bill would provide our nationally-recognized Hawaiian language immersion schools and their students with a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in national and state educational assessment programs, by allowing students taught in the Hawaiian language to take educational assessments that are developed originally in Hawaiian, their primary language of instruction.

HB874 HD1 addresses a long-standing problem with the state's standardized assessment program under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. During school years 2011-2012 through 2013-2014, Hawaiian language immersion program (Ka Papahana Kaiapuni or Kaiapuni) students have been offered an English-to-Hawaiian translated version of the statewide assessments for grades 3 and 4, where Hawaiian is the sole language of instruction. These translated assessments are replete with problems, including cultural biases, translation inaccuracies, grammatical errors, vocabulary errors, and inconsistent terminology. Kaiapuni students in grades in which the English language is formally taught are offered only the standard English-language assessments, notwithstanding the fact that Hawaiian is still the primary language of instruction. Frustration with such nonsensical or linguistically inappropriate assessments has now led to many Kaiapuni parents "opting out" their children from taking the statewide assessments. Without a solution, this problem threatens to substantially inhibit the state's and Hawaiian community's efforts to revitalize 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, one of the state's official languages, and reduce available funding for both Kaiapuni schools as well as Department of Education programs generally.

HB874 HD1 addresses such linguistically and culturally inappropriate assessment practices by requiring the Department of Education (DOE) to partner with the Hawaiian language community and develop annual assessments originally in the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science, in accordance with federal accountability assessment requirements, for students of the Kaiapuni program. The implementation of such assessments will allow for a more fair and reasonable assessment process and a more accurate reflection of Kaiapuni students' academic achievement. The anticipated increase in assessment participation and reduction in how many students "opt out" from the assessment process may also prevent irreparable negative impacts to the the DOE, Ka Papahana Kaiapuni, Kaiapuni students, and ultimately, the revitalization of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

OHA notes that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 97 issued by the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs requests this Committee to "consider whether the scope of the assessments should be broadened and whether the current scope is sufficient to accommodate federal requirements now and in the future." OHA notes that federal law currently only requires assessments in the three subjects named in the measure (Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science). However, should this Committee wish to amend this measure in anticipation of possible changes to federal law, we offer the following recommendations:

Amending the language on page 3, lines 1-3, to read as follows:

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

Amending the language on page 3, lines 9-10, to read as follows:

the Hawaiian language in accordance with federal accountability assessment requirements for ka papahana kaiapuni students. The assessments

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB874 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair House Committee on Education

Date of Hearing: 2-18-2015 Time: 2:00PM Location: Conference Room 309

> Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Non-Profit Educational Organization Dedicated to the Revitalization of the Hawaiian Language

HB874 HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM: Support with Amendments

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo remains concerned that the assessments be for all grades and not simply grades three and four as is currently the case. While English is taught as an additional language as a course in Hawaiian language medium education, Hawaiian remains the language of language arts, mathematics and science instruction through high school graduation.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo recommends that there be clarification that testing through Hawaiian will occur at all grades. We wish to support the bill but with Section 2., Chapter 302A, (a) amended to read as follows:

"~3O2A- Hawaiian language immersion assessments. (a) The department shall develop and implement annual assessments in the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science for ka papahana kaiapuni students **in all grades for which federal accountability is required of the state.** The assessments shall: ..."

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding this important measure.

Mahalo nui,

M. 'Ekekela Aiona Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo 96 Pu'uhonu Place Hilo, HI 96720 (808) 935-4304



1200 Ala Kapuna Street * Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 Tel: (808) 833-2711 * Fax: (808) 839-7106 * Web: www.hsta.org

> Wil Okabe President Joan Kamila Lewis Vice President

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Colleen Pasco Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck Executive Director

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

RE: H.B. 874, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Roy Takumi, Honorable Vice Takashi Ohno and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports H.B. 759, H.D.1**, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian Language for Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, to be administered to Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students. The bill also requires the DOE to submit a preliminary and final report.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 2.2 million member National Education Association, the HSTA encourages teachers to use the correct pronunciation and spelling of the Hawaiian Language in order to address the multiple needs as subject to Federal and State standards.

HSTA believes that the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program teachers would be an asset to address the issue of developing assessments as they possess demonstrable competency in language and cultural understanding as they best serve the needs of the Hawaiian Language Immersion students.

As such, HSTA **<u>supports H.B. 208, H.D. 1</u>**, as it supports the maintenance and growth of the Hawaiian Immersion Program throughout the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **<u>support of H.B. 208, H.D.1</u>**.



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135 Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

HB874HD1 (HSCR97) RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Wednesday; 2/18/15; 2:00pm; Room309

Aloha Chairman Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and members of the House Committee on Education. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) has been supporting this bill, or versions of it, and we are pleased that it is still in progress. The AHCC, including its sixty seven component clubs throughout Hawaii and sixteen states on the continent, has supported the Hawaiian language immersion program from the very beginning.

Many of our clubs have provided financial aid for Native Hawaiian students, some of whom are now teaching in the immersion program. It is always gratifying to have these former students, now accomplished Hawaiian language speakers, appear at our conventions and meetings to share their proficiency in olelo makuahine.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We urge passage of this bill and the amendments of HD1.

Contact: Jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net



State of Hawaii House of Representatives Committee on Education

DATE: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 TIME: 2:00 p.m. PLACE: Conference Room 309, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee,

Re: HB 874 HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify *in support* of HB 874 HD1, a bill that requires the Department of Education to develop and implement for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students, annual assessments in the Hawaiian language that are not Hawaiian translations of general state assessments.

6 out of 34 (or 17%) of Hawaii's charter schools are immersion/Hawaiian medium schools. The mission to keep the Hawaiian language alive and have it flourish should be one of our state goals. Hawaiian immersion schools, whether under the Hawaii Department of Education or a public charter school, should have appropriate and fair state assessments that measure student achievement and progress. This is why HPCSN supports this measure and is thankful for the herculean effort that the Hawaiian language community and the HIDOE have made to make significant progress on this issue over the last year.

Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network (HPCSN) represents 30 of 34 public charter schools in Hawaii and is committed to quality education for all public school students through our support of, and work with, charter schools. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this very important matter to charter schools. Your support of Hawaii's public students is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lynn Finnegan Executive Director

FROM: Dr. Kauanoe Kaman**ā**, UH Hilo Director of Laboratory School Program RE: HB 874 SUPPORT WITH AN AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE ALL GRADES

Aloha, Representative Takumi and members of the Committee on Education.

My name is Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā. I have a long association with schooling through Hawaiian as a parent, teacher, curriculum developer, and principal. For the past sixteen years I have been Director of the Laboratory School Program of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at UH Hilo and serve as on-site representative of the College at K-12 Nāwahīokalani 'ōpu'u School recognized in the legislation that established our college.

I very much appreciate this effort by the legislature and earlier efforts to deal with the issue of fair, valid and appropriate assessment of students enrolled in schooling provided through Hawaiian, an official language of our state and one whose use is also protected at the federal level. The issue of fair testing of the various types of students enrolled in the various sorts of schooling provided through Hawaiian is a complicated issue, which needs to be addressed.

Of special concern to our college are students who enter school already speaking Hawaiian and whose education is through the Hawaiian language at all grades. The Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u has been designed to provide for such students and such programming as a means for parents to exercise their traditional and customary rights to maintain Hawaiian as primary for their children while attending school.

I have a particular concern that Hawaiian language medium assessments required under HB 874 be assured for all grade levels and for all subjects for such students. Some of the wording in section 1 suggests that HB 874 is directed solely at grades 3 and 4. To require assessments through English at grades 5 and above would once again impact negatively on students receiving their education through Hawaiian.

Clarification is needed in Section 2, which I suggest to be as follows:

"~302A- Hawaiian language immersion assessments. (a) The department shall develop and implement annual assessments in the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science for ka papahana kaiapuni students in all grades for which federal accountability is required of the state. The assessments shall: ...

Mahalo nui Ioa. Dr. Kauanoe Kaman**ā**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaimo Muhlestein	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Ke nonoi nei au ia 'oukou e 'aepono i HB 874 a hiki no ho'i ke holomua pono i na kanaka o ka Department of Education a me na hui kula kaiapuni no ho'i e malama i ka pono i ko lakou mau hana mua a keia manawa e ha'awi aku i keia ho'ike ho'omakaukau i kakau ia i ka 'olelo Hawaii i na haumana o na kula kaiapuni Hawaii. I ask that you pass HB 874 to allow the Department of Education and Hawaiian immersion organizations to properly continue their past and present efforts of implementing and managing the long awaited Hawaiian Language written test assessment for the students of the Hawaiian language immersion schools. Mahalo, parent of two Hawaiian Language Immersion School alumni.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Again, I DO NOT SUPPORT standardized testing as it currently stands in Hawai'i. That being said, IF the 'olelo Hawai'i students are forced to take a test, it is important that it is NOT translated and written in 'olelo Hawai'i. It is extremely necessary as we have two official languages on our islands and our host language should not be translated.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah Kala Kaaihue	King Kamehameha HCC	Support	No

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leanne Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT HB874 HD1 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Henohea Linker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Assesssments need to be fair, valid and reliable. I strongly SUPPORT HB874 HD1 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo nui, Henohea Linker

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Vickery	Individual	Support	No

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trinette Furtado	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Takumi and Committee Members, I am writing to urge you to STRONGLY SUPPORT AND PASS HB874 HD1: Requiring the Department of Ed to develop and implement annual assessments ma ka `olelo Hawai`i. I am a parent of a child at Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Pā`ia, the Hope Pelikikena of Nā Leo Kāko`o o Maui, Kakau `Olelo for `Aha Ho`oko (the executive board of the `Aha Kauleo, of which I am a parent rep for Pā`ia School). I have pushed ardently and tirelessly for assessments that accurately measure the progress of our keiki within our kaiapuni across the state. It is painfully apparent that the current state assessments cannot adequately assess the strengths and weaknesses of our keiki with translations of english curricula offered as the testing medium. I would like an accurate assessment of my child's progress, but with the current assessments, it isnt possible. There is much involved, positive work being done now towards creating state assessments in `olelo Hawai`i that would closely align with federal and state requirements. This legislation is sorely needed and couldn 't come at a better time, with schools being assessed based on student achievement (especially regarding normative, standardized testing). I hope you will consider the sheer number of kaiapuni keiki who shine and thrive with kaiapuni education that arent able to show that effectively through the current approved methods of assessment available to us. I urge you to STRONGLY SUPPORT AND PASS this bill, HB874 HD1. Mahalo nui for your time, Trinette Furtado

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Armance Flores	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a parent of a Hawaiian language immersion student, I strongly SUPPORT HB874 HD1 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support!

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iolani Kuoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am a Hawaiian Language Immersion teacher and I strongly SUPPORT HB874 HD1 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kea Hottendorf	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a parent of a Hawaiian language immersion student, I strongly SUPPORT HB874 HD1 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support!

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KEANI RAWLINS- FERNANDEZ	Individual	Support	No

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Natajah Kekawa- Maynes	Individual	Support	No	

Comments: As a parent of a Hawaiian language immersion student, I strongly SUPPORT HB874 HD1 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support!

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Takekawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a parent of a Hawaiian language immersion student, I strongly SUPPORT HB874 HD1 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language community to develop accurate assessment tests for our Hawaiian language immersion students. I believe that the perpetuation of the Hawaiian language holds significant importance to the identity of our state and should be valued. As such, Hawaiian language immersion students and families who have chosen immersion education over traditional school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support!



DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION P.O. BOX 2360 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

> Date: 02/18/2015 Time: 02:00 PM Location: 309 Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill:HB 0874, HD1RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGEIMMERSION PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to develop and implement for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students, annual assessments in the Hawaiian language that are not Hawaiian translations of general state assessments. (HB874 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) fully appreciates the intent and substantive content of HB 0874 HD1. Board of Education Policy #2105, Ka Papahana Kaiapuni, which directs the department to develop assessments in the Hawaiian language, is currently being implemented.

This past June, the Department entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the University of Hawaii to develop a Hawaiian language version of the state assessment of the Hawaii Common Core Standards. This assessment is to be administered to grade 3 and 4 students enrolled in a Hawaiian language immersion program in the spring of 2015.

The Department also notes that expansion of the development of assessments in the Hawaiian language will require additional funding. The Department would like the opportunity to evaluate the UH - MOA effort for developing Hawaiian language assessments for the 3rd and 4th grade students at the end of the 2014-15 school year and is willing to submit a report on the outcome to the 29th legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 0874 HD1.



House Committee on Education Wednesday, February 18, 2015 | 2:00 p.m. | Room 309 In SUPPORT of HB874 HD1, Relating to Education

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is submitting testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB874 HD1 that requires the Department of Education to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian language for the subject matters of language arts, mathematics, and science that are to be administered to students in certain grades of the kaiapuni program in accordance with federal accountability assessment requirements. Such assessments shall not be mere verbatim translations of the English language into Hawaiian.

Currently, the students are given an English-to-Hawaiian translated version of the test. This is problematic for a number of reasons. The translated assessments are replete with technical translation errors that include grammatical errors, vocabulary errors, and inconsistent terminology. Additionally, the translated assessments also fail to consider cultural frames of reference and popular understandings that result in students' confusion.

The only way to remedy this problem is to develop the assessment exams in Hawaiian language rather that continuing to use translated exams.

This bill would further the process to remedy the numerous flaws that are currently found in the administration and delivery of the assessment exams. For these reasons we strongly urge this committee to pass this measure.

'O ia ihola nō me ke aloha.