



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

Date: 03/02/2015

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0778, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB778 SD1.

Board Policy 2105 directs the Department to develop and administer "appropriate formative and summative assessment tools." The Department is also required to develop curriculum and standards "to prepare students for college, career and contributors to community with the assistance of the appropriate stakeholders including the 'Aha Kauleo, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, University of Hawai'i system of colleges, 'Aha Pūnana Leo, the Charter School Commission and any other stakeholders selected by the Department. The development of the Kaiapuni curriculum, content, instruction and assessment should be informed and researched-based utilizing qualitative and quantitative data."

This past June, the Department, entered a 3-year memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the University of Hawaii stating that both parties agree to:

- Create and support statewide assessments in the Hawaiian language for use within the Department of Education for grades 3 and 4 (language arts, mathematics and grade 4 science);
- Field test the assessments in Hawaiian language immersion schools;
- Provide documentation regarding the alignment of the assessments with applicable State

standards;

- Provide documentation regarding validity and reliability of the assessments.

The MOA is being implemented on schedule and field tests for Hawaiian Language Arts and math are set to be administered to 3rd and 4th grade Kaipauni students in May 2015. While this process is extremely rewarding, innovative, and exciting, it also faces immense challenges and uncertainties. Unlike English assessments, Hawaiian assessments cannot be 'taken off the shelf'. These are being developed by a small group of highly specialized professionals in concert with Kaiapuni teachers under a very tight deadline. This process requires diligence, commitment, passion, and time. The Department would like the opportunity to evaluate progress of the work and administration of field tests at the end of the 2014-15 school year and determine the most appropriate and effective way to proceed.

Additionally, federal accountability as written in ESEA Section 1111 (b)(3)(C)(1) requires that assessments shall "be the same academic assessments used to measure the achievement of all children." The Department submitted a double testing waiver to the U.S. Department of Education and was granted a one year waiver in February 2015 allowing students participating in the Hawaiian language field test to forego the statewide assessment, Smarter Balanced. The Department is requesting continued support from stakeholders in addressing challenges presented in ESEA to administering Hawaiian language assessments. SB778, SD1 requires that the Hawaiian language assessment "be compliant with applicable federal accountability assessment requirements," yet federal accountability requires that the state administer one test and that that test be in English. The Department would request more time to work with stakeholders to address these challenges.

Substantial work has been accomplished in the area of Hawaiian educational assessments, but certainly much more work remains ahead. **For these reasons, while the Department is supportive of the intent of this measure, the department respectfully suggests that the mandates contained in SB778 are premature at this time.** However, in the continued spirit of our strong collaboration with our interested stakeholders, the Department would like to propose language that provides an appropriation to continue the collaborative work, while also requiring a report to the Legislature with a plan delineating a process and timeline for the full implementation of assessments administered in the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science for all required grade level for submittal prior to the 2016 legislative session. If the committee should opt not to adopt the Department's suggested amendments at this time, the Department requests that the recommendations be incorporated into the committee report for continued consideration should the measure proceeds through the legislative process. Below, please find our proposed language.

PROPOSED SB778 SD2

SECTION 1. The Hawaiian language, the native language of the

Native Hawaiian people, was once a thriving language used by

Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike. However, by the late

twentieth century, the Hawaiian language was pushed to the brink of extinction due to a number of factors, including an 1896 law that banned the speaking of the Hawaiian language in Hawaii schools. Fortunately, the Hawaiian language was saved by several historic initiatives, including the department of education's Hawaiian language immersion program, which was launched in the 1980s. The Hawaiian language immersion program, ka papahana kaiapuni, is offered at twenty public schools and educates more than two thousand students in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

While kaiapuni students thrive in an immersive environment, federal assessment requirements for accountability present a challenge for the program, since English is not formally introduced in kaiapuni classrooms until the fifth grade. Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year and through the 2010-2011 school years, these students were offered the Hawaiian aligned portfolio assessment, which was developed in the Hawaiian language, specifically for ka papahana kaiapuni. During school years 2011-2012 through 2013-2014, English-to-Hawaiian translations of the Hawaii state assessment replaced the aligned portfolio assessment for third and fourth grade kaiapuni students. These translated assessments contained numerous flaws, including inconsistent and inaccurate translations, and as a result, failed to accurately measure kaiapuni students' academic achievement.

The legislature finds that board of education policy number

2105, ka papahana kaiapuni, states that "the program's effectiveness requires the development and proper administration of appropriate formative and summative assessment tools...[which] should be in alignment with the State's kaiapuni curriculum and measure student growth and proficiency with the goal to prepare students for success in college, career and community."

The legislature further finds that the department of education is currently in the process of implementing board policy number 2105 via a memorandum of agreement with the University of Hawaii. Working closely with the Hawaiian language programs at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and University of Hawaii at Manoa, the office of Hawaiian affairs, and the Hawaiian language community, including 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i and members of ka papahana kaiapuni schools, the department of education has been making progress to ensure that the academic achievements of kaiapuni students are fairly and accurately assessed in conformance with federal regulations.

The process, however, requires time and effort to be done properly and to the standard kaiapuni students deserve. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to permit the department of education to continue its work on the development and administration of annual assessments in the Hawaiian language.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,100,000 or so much

thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the development and administration of annual assessments in the Hawaiian language.

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

SECTION 3. The department shall submit a report, providing a plan delineating a process and timeline for the full implementation of assessments administered in the Hawaiian language for language arts, mathematics, and science for all required grade levels, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2016.

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