



SB778

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Education

February 13, 2015

1:15 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** SB778. 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.

SB778 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.

This bill resolves the problems with the State's 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, to be administered to Kaiapuni students in certain grades. 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 the Hawaiian language.

OHA respectfully requests that SB778 be amended to track the language in HB874 HD1. OHA developed HB874 in partnership with the DOE, and the HD1 version contains technical nonsubstantive amendments made for clarity and consistency.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS WITH AMENDMENTS** SB778.
Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

Date: 02/13/2015

Time: 01:15 PM

Location: 224

Committee: Senate Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0778 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) fully appreciates the intent and substantive content of SB 0778. 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 SB 0778.

Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

Democratic Party of Hawaii

1050 Ala Moana Blvd D-2150, Honolulu, HI 96814

Legislative testimony

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION

HEARING: Rm. 224 2/13/15, 1:15 p.m.

SB778 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party is submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB778 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 than 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: ikepono@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1:34:41 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: The King Kamehameha Hawaiian Civic Club is in strong support of SB778.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

1288 Kapiolani Blvd, Apt 1905
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
February 13, 2015

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator, Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Education

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB778, Relating to Education

Aloha mai, kākou

The Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club is in support of HB 778, Relating to Education, that would require and appropriate funds for the Dept of Education to establish procedures to develop an assessment of established statewide performance standards for students in the kaiapuni program.

This bill AFFIRMS the actions taken by previous legislators in acting on similar bills introduced and acted upon in past legislative sessions that resulted in the legislature funding the DOE to do this work without final passage of the bills.

The Dept of Education has apparently done some work on the assessments. In providing testimony on other bills similar to this one during this legislative session, it has advised that, “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.”

Maika’i, but a shortcoming that I see is that the DOE, in its testimony, didn’t indicate any consultation with or involvement of Native Hawaiian organizations as described in former bills. I wish also to note that in 2012, the DOE gave testimony in support of HB224, Relating to the Hawaiian Language Immersion that required the DOE to develop annual assessments in the Hawaiian language in language arts and

mathematics to be administered to students in grades three through six of the DOE's Hawaiian language immersion program and in science to be administered to students in grade four of the DOE's Hawaiian language immersion program. Required the DOE, with the Hawaiian language community, to establish procedures for the development of the assessments. Report to the 2014 legislature.

We should **put this requirement into law. Several reasons:**

- The Hawaii State Constitution recognizes Hawaiian as one of two official languages of this state, the other being English. Hawaii is a unique situation as it has two official languages. As such, all educational experiences granted one language of instruction should be granted the other. To treat each language differently would open the door to the legal interpretation of governmental policy as racist.
- It affirms that the legislature recognizes the shortcomings of current assessments and the adverse effect it has had on students whose education has been in Hawaiian.
- It honors, respects, and gives credit to those leaders who acted on their passion to revitalize the Hawaiian language in their lifetime. 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 and a group of Hawaiian language educators who recognized the need for strategies to perpetuate the Hawaiian language to prevent its demise. The key would be to re-establish Hawaiian Medium Education schools to nurture a new generation of speakers that would be able to describe the world through the lens of their language and culture. Thus began the Punana Leo preschool and a reemergence of a Hawaiian philosophy of education, now known as the Kumu Honua Mauli Ola. Today, the Hawaiian language immersion program is offered at twenty-one public schools and educates more than two thousand students in kindergarten through the twelfth grade.

Respectfully

Leimomi Khan

LEIMOMI KHAN
President
Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club

Attachment: History of 'Aha Pūnana Leo

History

In 1896 education through the Hawaiian language in both public and private schools was outlawed on the model of U.S. policy towards the use of American Indian languages in education. Teachers are told that speaking Hawaiian with children will result in termination of employment. Children are harshly punished for speaking Hawaiian in school. By 1984 the community of fluent speakers had dwindled to a few elders and a tiny geographically isolated population on the island of Ni'ihau. Hawaiian language speaking children under the age of 18 numbered less than fifty. The demise of Hawaiian language was imminent.



In January 1984, a group of Hawaiian language educators met to discuss strategies to perpetuate the language. From speaking with elders, they knew that raising children in an environment where Hawaiian was the ordinary language of interaction was central to survival of the language. The key would be to re-establish Hawaiian Medium Education schools that existed during the Monarchical Period. They focused their efforts to nurture a new generation of speakers that would be able to describe the world through the lens of their language and culture, as well as master English and other languages using methods that had proven effective in Europe. Thus began the Pūnana Leo preschool and a reemergence of a Hawaiian philosophy of education, now known as the Kumu Honua Mauli Ola.

Pūnana Leo means “nest of voices” and depicts the dominant learning method in these centers as students are “fed” solely their native language

and culture much like the way young birds are cared for in their own nests. The first of these preschools was established in Kekaha, Kaua'i in August 1984. The following year, schools were established in Hilo, Hawai'i and Honolulu, O'ahu and continued to spread to other islands thereafter.

'Aha Pūnana Leo is closely tied to the Māori Kōhanga Reo movement in New Zealand. Indeed, the name Pūnana Leo, which is equivalent to the Māori term Kōhanga Reo, honors those connections and the inspiration provided by the Kōhanga Reo.

Today, a complete preschool through doctoral-level system of education in the state of Hawai'i is taught entirely through Hawaiian.

Keaukaha Community Association
PO Box 5146
Hilo, HI 96720

SB778

February 12, 2015

Aloha e Na Alaka'i,

A requirement of the Hawai'i State Board of Education Policy 2105 is the development and proper administration of appropriate formative and summative assessment tools by the Department of Education for Hawaiian Immersion or the Kaiapuni Hawaiian Language program.

We are most supportive of the amendment to Section 2 of SB778.

"§302A- Hawaiian language immersion assessments. (a) The department of education shall develop and implement the means to assess the established statewide performance standards for students in the Hawaiian language immersion program, or the kaiapuni program. The assessments for the kaiapuni program students shall be in the Hawaiian language and include the subject matters of language arts, mathematics, and science. The assessments for kaiapuni program students shall be:

- (1) Aligned with the vision, mission, and programmatic goals of the kaiapuni program
- (2) Aligned with the established statewide performance standards;
- (3) Valid, reliable, and consistent with relevant, nationally recognized professional and technical standards;
- (4) Compliant with applicable federal accountability assessment requirements; and
- (5) Not a verbatim translation into the Hawaiian language of the English language assessments used for students not participating in the kaiapuni program.

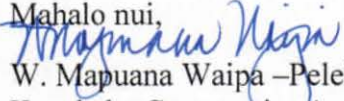
(b) Procedures for the development of assessments for kaiapuni program students shall be established by the department of education, in consultation with members of the Hawaiian language community, including:

- (1) 'Aha Kauleo Kaiapuni Hawai'i;
- (2) Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools;
- (3) The Hawaiian language programs at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and the University of Hawaii at Manoa;
- (4) The office of Hawaiian affairs; and
- (5) Other Hawaiian language community organizations."

The perpetuation of the Hawaiian language is important to the identity of our state. The value of the Hawaiian language should not be compromised, nor should the decisions of our haumana and 'ohana i koho 'ia e hahai i ke ala o na kupuna.

KAKO'O MĀKOU SB778 - HE NOI HA'AHA'A, E 'OUKOU E KAKO'O KEKAHI.

Mahalo nui,


W. Mapuana Waipa - Pelekikena Hope
Keaukaha Community Association

I strongly SUPPORT SB778 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.

Leimomi Aki

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: kumuanela@kawaikini.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 2:48:23 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: strongly SUPPORT SB778 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!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: pohaimm@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1:32:44 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C.R.P. Montague- Mullins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: hynmahi@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Friday, February 13, 2015 6:27:35 AM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/13/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am in support of creating a Hawaii State Assessment in the Hawaiian language.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: dlokelani.han@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1:50:29 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Davelyn Lokelani Han	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT SB778 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 a western modeled school deserve an assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. E ola ka `olelo Hawai`i! Mahalo for your support!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: esfhawaii@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 10:30:15 AM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elijah Frank	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT SB778 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.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

I strongly **SUPPORT SB778** 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: peepuhala@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 9:36:16 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Aloha, I'm a HLIP teacher and I strongly SUPPORT SB778 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.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: sugajo@mail2honey.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 12:34:05 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jolene	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly Support SB778 which would require the Department of Education to collaborated 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 and assessment that accurately reflects their knowledge base rooted in their cultural practices. I urge the committee to pass this bill. Mahalo for your support.
Jolene Peapealalo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: kaimomuhlestein@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 2:56:22 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Aloha, Ke nonoi nei au ia 'oukou e 'aepono i SB 778 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 SB 778 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.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

SB 778 Relating To Education

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2015

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224

Aloha Senate HAC Chair Shimabukuro and Vice Chair Galuteria,
Aloha Senate Education Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Harimoto,
Aloha Senate Committee Members,

Mahalo for this opportunity to speak in **FULL SUPPORT of SB 778 Relating To Education**, which requires and appropriates funds for the department of education to establish procedures to develop an assessment of established statewide performance standards for students in the kaiapuni program. Requires reports to the legislature.

Our immersion haumana deserve to be assessed in their language of instruction and in the manner in which they are instructed. I support the consistent, relevant and rigorous testing that will be developed in the Hawaiian language, not a translated and oftentimes confusing test. Your commitment to a just education system and assessment of the original language of Hawai'i will be evidenced by your funding and support of **SB 778 Relating To Education**.

As a parent of former kaiapuni students that continue to 'olelo Hawai'i at Halau Ku Mana PCS, I thank you in advance for passing **SB 778 Relating To Education** out of committee and onto the Senate floor for passage.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: leiilima.rapozo@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 10:08:08 AM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lei ?ilima rapozo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB778. Mahalo, Lei 'ilima Rapozo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

I strongly **SUPPORT SB778** 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.

Respectfully submitted by:

Leilani Spencer

Kapaa, HI 96746

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: meleanela@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 10:00:18 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mele Cachero-Wimbish	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB778. The Hawaiian language immersion program educates more than two thousand students in kindergarten through grade twelve. English is not introduced in the Hawaiian language immersion program until the fifth grade. As required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), third and fourth grade students are subjected to assessments in reading, math, and science. Since the 2005-2006 school year, immersion students have been administered assessments that were developed in the Hawaiian language, specifically for the program. In 2012, the Department of Education began administering assessments to immersion students that were developed in English and translated into Hawaiian. The problems associated in administering an assessment that has been translated from one language to another are numerous and well-documented. NCLB mandates performance-based pay for teachers, which will use student performance on assessments as a factor. In addition, the Act calls for schools that fail to make improvements on assessments to be subject to punitive measures, including withholding of essential funding. The change in assessments puts Hawaiian immersion students, teachers, and schools at a severe disadvantage. The Hawai'i State Constitution recognizes the Hawaiian language as the official language of the state, alongside English. The federal Native American Languages Act of 1990 also recognizes the nation's responsibility to ensure the survival of Native American languages. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB778 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language communities 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.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: kaikoa9899@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 8:52:10 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mulen K Kaahanui	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB778. The Hawaiian language immersion program educates more than two thousand students in kindergarten through grade twelve. English is not introduced in the Hawaiian language immersion program until the fifth grade. As required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), third and fourth grade students are subjected to assessments in reading, math, and science. Since the 2005-2006 school year, immersion students have been administered assessments that were developed in the Hawaiian language, specifically for the program. In 2012, the Department of Education began administering assessments to immersion students that were developed in English and translated into Hawaiian. The problems associated in administering an assessment that has been translated from one language to another are numerous and well-documented. NCLB mandates performance-based pay for teachers, which will use student performance on assessments as a factor. In addition, the Act calls for schools that fail to make improvements on assessments to be subject to punitive measures, including withholding of essential funding. The change in assessments puts Hawaiian immersion students, teachers, and schools at a severe disadvantage. The Hawai'i State Constitution recognizes the Hawaiian language as the official language of the state, alongside English. The federal Native American Languages Act of 1990 also recognizes the nation's responsibility to ensure the survival of Native American languages. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB778 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language communities 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.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email

webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: nzeldner@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 9:06:43 AM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalia Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: STRONGLY SUPPORT SB778. The Hawaiian language immersion program educates more than two thousand students in kindergarten through grade twelve. English is not introduced in the Hawaiian language immersion program until the fifth grade. As required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), third and fourth grade students are subjected to assessments in reading, math, and science. Since the 2005-2006 school year, immersion students have been administered assessments that were developed in the Hawaiian language, specifically for the program. In 2012, the Department of Education began administering assessments to immersion students that were developed in English and translated into Hawaiian. The problems associated in administering an assessment that has been translated from one language to another are numerous and well-documented. NCLB mandates performance-based pay for teachers, which will use student performance on assessments as a factor. In addition, the Act calls for schools that fail to make improvements on assessments to be subject to punitive measures, including withholding of essential funding. The change in assessments puts Hawaiian immersion students, teachers, and schools at a severe disadvantage. The Hawai'i State Constitution recognizes the Hawaiian language as the official language of the state, alongside English. The federal Native American Languages Act of 1990 also recognizes the nation's responsibility to ensure the survival of Native American languages. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB778 which would require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Hawaiian language communities 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.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email

webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: sadaoka705@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 9:11:46 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: I am in support of this bill. As a Kanaka 'Oiwi I feel that hawaiian is an IMPORTANT language for our keiki to learn. It was TAKEN away from our kupuna because the white man wanted us to BE like them and til this day they are still forcing their ways. The sad thing is that MANY hawaiian natives will choose an english speaking school over hawaiian because they think that their keiki will "fall behind" in academics. I have a child in Hawaiian Immersion and this is NOT the case. At age 5 she can read, speak and understand both english AND hawaiian. The sad part is that these keiki are all VERY akamai yet according to "DOE standards" and "American standards" they fall behind. Yet people FAIL to realize that these keiki speak nothing BUT hawaiian in school and then they get tested in ENGLISH. A VERY big disadvantage for these keiki because they ARE very smart yet how can you expect a keiki who speaks and learns in ONE language to be able to take a MAJOR test in another language? I hope this bill passes because these keiki, these island and MY people DESERVE to be given a BETTER chance and NOT be put to such a disadvantage just because of "American standards" MAHALO, Sunny Onikiniki Sadaoka

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: wehi4@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 11:08:03 PM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert-Ann K.Goias	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT SB778 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.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: wpellegrino808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB778 on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 10:25:27 AM

SB778

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HWN/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walette G. Pellegrino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov