
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaiian is an
2 official language of the State, and the legislature has a unique
3 responsibility to assure that opportunities are available to use
4 and study the Hawaiian language. Over the past three decades,
5 the legislature has carried out this responsibility by forming
6 the basis of the State's Hawaiian language medium pathway
7 parallel to the long standing English medium pathway of
8 preschool through doctoral level education.

9 These legislative efforts began in 1986 with removal of a
10 barrier to use Hawaiian as the medium of education. Shortly
11 thereafter in 1989, the legislature mandated the creation of a
12 Hawaiian language center at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, in
13 association with its existing Hawaiian language medium
14 bachelor's degree, to produce Hawaiian language medium
15 educational materials and teacher support. In 1997, the
16 legislature required that a Hawaiian language college be
17 established at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, building on the



1 existing degree and Hawaiian language center, to expand the
2 University of Hawaii at Hilo's Hawaiian language medium
3 programming, including teacher education, preschool through
4 twelfth grade laboratory school programming, graduate education,
5 and indigenous language outreach. Before the legislature took
6 action, less than fifty children in the State were proficient in
7 Hawaiian. Today, United States Census data indicates Hawaiian
8 is the largest non-English language spoken in Hawaii among
9 children ages five to seventeen. Many of these children are
10 part of the preschool through twelfth grade Hawaiian medium
11 programs currently educating over three thousand students
12 annually.

13 The legislature finds that in response to S.R. No. 97,
14 S.D. 1, regular session of 2015, the office of the president of
15 the University of Hawaii system, director of the Hawaiian
16 language college, and a working group contributed to a report
17 that considered the restructuring of the Hawaiian language
18 college and examined the expansion of Hawaiian language
19 instruction throughout the University of Hawaii system. One of
20 the issues presented to the working group was that the existing
21 structure of the University of Hawaii system is not optimal for



1 a state whose official languages are English and Hawaiian. The
2 report provided to the legislature, and made available to the
3 public, delves into the data and trends in the teaching of the
4 Hawaiian language and through the offering and use of Hawaiian
5 language in the University of Hawaii system and beyond. The
6 report also references some of the challenges and barriers to
7 expanding these efforts as well as potential solutions to these
8 challenges. A noteworthy reference in the report is the
9 barriers the Hawaiian language college has encountered in
10 instituting general education courses through the medium of
11 Hawaiian. The report also highlights the underlying
12 contradictions throughout the University of Hawaii system in
13 relation to advancing strategic directions toward a Hawaiian
14 language planning vision. Relative to these barriers, the
15 report also acknowledges international tertiary education models
16 that have successfully overcome similar challenges.

17 The legislature recognizes that 2017 represents the
18 twentieth anniversary of its passage of legislation establishing
19 the Hawaiian language college. Since its inception, the
20 Hawaiian language college has not only provided key support for
21 Hawaiian language medium education throughout the State but has



1 also become a national resource for Native American language
2 revitalization and has initiated international collaborations in
3 pursuit of global indigenous language excellence. The continued
4 need for, and interest in, the programs and support provided by
5 the Hawaiian language college is evidenced in part by the
6 continued growth in Hawaiian language course enrollment at the
7 college, despite decreasing overall enrollment numbers for the
8 University of Hawaii system. The driving focus fueling the
9 Hawaiian language college's commitment to provide these much-
10 needed programs that are impacting indigenous language
11 initiatives here and abroad is the desire to establish a high-
12 functioning Hawaiian medium pathway of education alongside the
13 State's current, dominant, English medium pathway. In
14 recognition of thirty years of legislative policy supporting the
15 revitalization of the Hawaiian language as well as the Hawaiian
16 language college's noted progress in creating new and
17 strengthened pathways to further the normalization of this
18 official language of the State, the legislature seeks to support
19 expanded innovative approaches to the development of a highly-
20 functioning Hawaiian medium pathway of education.



1 The legislature finds that access to education taught
2 through the Hawaiian language is a matter of statewide concern.
3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 4 (1) Expand the Hawaiian language college's functions;
- 5 (2) Authorize the establishment of a pilot project in
6 pursuit of innovative strategies and approaches for
7 the development of a Hawaiian medium pathway; and
- 8 (3) Provide for an implementation plan to expand Hawaiian
9 language instruction throughout the University of
10 Hawaii system as recommended by the working group
11 created by S.R. No. 97, S.D. 1, regular session of
12 2015.

13 SECTION 2. Section 304A-1301, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 " [f] §304A-1301 [f] Hawaiian language college;
16 establishment. (a) There shall be a Hawaiian language college
17 at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. The college shall provide
18 a Hawaiian liberal education program providing education
19 primarily through the Hawaiian language.

20 (b) The Hawaiian language college shall be internally
21 administered primarily through the Hawaiian language, operate



1 year round, and offer and administer a variety of programs and
2 qualifications. The programs of the college shall be offered
3 primarily through the Hawaiian language and may be offered
4 worldwide and through electronic means."

5 SECTION 3. Section 304A-1302, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "[+]§304A-1302[+] **Functions.** In addition to providing a
8 quality education primarily through the medium of the Hawaiian
9 language, the Hawaiian language college shall:

10 (1) Provide an indigenous and minority language outreach
11 program to involve indigenous and minority language
12 scholars and to maintain and develop the program's
13 Polynesian language database;

14 (2) Provide a Hawaiian medium teacher training program
15 incorporating [~~Nawahiokalani'opu'u~~] Nawahiokalani'opu'u
16 school and other schools, as appropriate, as
17 laboratory schools; [~~and~~]

18 (3) Maintain a Hawaiian language support center with
19 educational specialists in the areas of research,
20 curriculum development, assessment development,
21 reference materials development including



- 1 dictionaries, language development, archival work, and
2 educational technology[-];
- 3 (4) Provide a specially facilitated general education,
4 dual enrollment, liberal studies, and shared courses
5 and programs pathways through the medium of Hawaiian
6 language to serve students, using technology as
7 appropriate;
- 8 (5) Develop, pilot, and disseminate other distinctive
9 pathways and procedures that provide for the support
10 and use of the Hawaiian language and other endangered
11 languages, including use of such language in
12 government functions;
- 13 (6) Provide for national Native American language medium
14 education research and support in partnership with the
15 National Coalition of Native American Language Schools
16 and Programs, and other entities as appropriate;
- 17 (7) Enter into agreements of cooperation and reciprocity
18 with other entities to meet the requirements of this
19 section and section 304A-1301;



- 1 (8) Collaborate with other post-secondary educational
- 2 institutions, including the University of Hawaii Maui
- 3 college; and
- 4 (9) Collaborate with the University of Hawaii system in
- 5 developing, establishing, and implementing any
- 6 statewide pilot projects that implement Hawaiian
- 7 language instruction and develop new ideas, practices,
- 8 and processes relative to Hawaiian language medium
- 9 education."

10 SECTION 4. The University of Hawaii system may establish a

11 pilot project to implement Hawaiian language instruction and

12 develop new ideas, practices, and processes relative to Hawaiian

13 language medium education. This pilot project may include

14 collaboration between all University of Hawaii system programs

15 and campuses, and may implement innovative strategies and

16 approaches for the development and approval of Hawaiian language

17 medium general education programs and coursework, building on

18 international models that address indigenous and minority

19 official languages as the operational medium of education. The

20 pilot project may serve as a possible model for replication for

21 other purposes in Hawaii. The pilot project may operate under



1 the jurisdiction of the president of the University of Hawaii,
2 assisted by the chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo,
3 chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, chancellor of
4 the University of Hawaii Maui college, chancellor of the
5 University of Hawaii West Oahu, and chancellors of the
6 University of Hawaii system community colleges while using
7 shared resources as the President deems appropriate.

8 SECTION 5. The directors of all of the University of
9 Hawaii system Hawaiian language colleges, schools, and programs
10 shall join with the president of the University of Hawaii and
11 the former working group created by S.R. No. 97, S.D. 1, regular
12 session of 2015, with additional community members as deemed
13 appropriate by the president of the University of Hawaii, to
14 develop an implementation plan to address the system wide
15 Hawaiian language goals indicated in the report generated by the
16 working group created by S.R. No. 97, S.D. 1, regular session of
17 2015. Once completed, the implementation plan shall be
18 submitted to the legislature.

19 SECTION 6. The University of Hawaii shall submit a
20 comprehensive report to the legislature no later than twenty
21 days before the convening of each regular session detailing:



- 1 (1) Efforts throughout the University of Hawaii system,
2 including efforts at individual campuses, to implement
3 education taught through the Hawaiian language;
- 4 (2) The status of the implementation plan that addresses
5 the goals indicated in the report generated by the
6 working group created by S.R. No. 97, S.D. 1, regular
7 session of 2015;
- 8 (3) The number of students pursuing educational options
9 available through the Hawaiian language; and
- 10 (4) Any recommendations, including any proposed
11 legislation, for statewide efforts to promote
12 education taught through the Hawaiian language.

13 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on December 24,
16 2088.



Report Title:

Hawaiian Language College; University of Hawaii at Hilo;
Hawaiian Language Medium General Education Coursework Pilot
Project; Hawaiian Language Instruction Implementation Plan

Description:

Expands the Hawaiian Language College's functions. Authorizes a Hawaiian language medium general education coursework pilot project. Supports the development of an implementation plan for Hawaiian language instruction throughout the University of Hawaii System. Requires the University of Hawaii to report to the Legislature each year with information about efforts to implement education taught through the Hawaiian language.
(SB848 HD2)

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

