
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes the importance of
2 reviving and teaching the Hawaiian language. Olelo Hawaii has
3 been one of the State's official languages since 1978. Aha
4 Punana Leo was established by Native Hawaiian educators in 1983
5 to help lead these language revitalization efforts. As the
6 State's only Olelo Hawaii immersion program for infants,
7 toddlers, and preschoolers, Aha Punana Leo is critical to
8 creating new generations of native speakers.

9 The legislature finds that Aha Punana Leo should have a
10 voice in shaping the education of Hawaii's keiki. Currently,
11 while the program has representation on the State's early
12 learning board as a Hawaiian medium early learning provider, the
13 position is limited to short, two-year terms. Other provisions
14 of state law prevent the Aha Punana Leo representative from
15 serving more than two consecutive terms. These term limits make
16 it difficult for the board member to develop and maintain the



1 institutional knowledge and relationships that are necessary to
2 ensure effective advocacy.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend the
4 composition of the early learning board to make a representative
5 of Aha Punana Leo a standing member.

6 SECTION 2. Section 302L-1.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by amending subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

8 "(b) The board shall consist of the following voting
9 members:

- 10 (1) A representative of center-based program providers or
11 the representative's designee;
- 12 (2) A representative of family child care program
13 providers;
- 14 (3) A representative of family-child interaction learning
15 program providers;
- 16 (4) A representative of philanthropic organizations that
17 support early learning or the representative's
18 designee;
- 19 (5) A representative from a head start provider agency;
- 20 (6) A representative from the Hawaii Early Intervention
21 Coordinating Council;



- 1 (7) A parent representative;
- 2 (8) A representative from the Hawaii chapter of the
3 American Academy of Pediatrics;
- 4 (9) A representative of home-visiting program providers;
5 and
- 6 [~~(10)~~ A representative of Hawaiian medium-early learning
7 providers; ~~and~~
- 8 ~~(11)~~ (10) A representative of the Hawaii Council of
9 Mayors, or the representative's designee.

10 The superintendent of education, director of human
11 services, director of health, and president of the University of
12 Hawaii shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the
13 board.

14 The board shall invite the chief executive officer of
15 Kamehameha Schools [~~and~~], the executive director of the Hawaii
16 Association of Independent Schools, and the chief executive
17 officer of Aha Punana Leo, or their designees, to serve as
18 voting members of the board.

19 (c) Except for the superintendent of education, directors
20 of state departments, president of the University of Hawaii,
21 chief executive officer of Kamehameha Schools, [~~and the~~]



1 executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent
2 Schools, and chief executive officer of Aha Punana Leo, or their
3 designees, the members of the board shall serve staggered terms
4 as follows:

- 5 (1) The representative of center-based program providers
6 shall serve a two-year term;
- 7 (2) The representative of family child care program
8 providers shall serve a three-year term;
- 9 (3) The representative of family-child interaction
10 learning program providers shall serve a three-year
11 term;
- 12 (4) The representative of philanthropic organizations that
13 support early learning shall serve a two-year term;
- 14 (5) The representative from a head start provider agency
15 shall serve a three-year term;
- 16 (6) The representative from the Hawaii Early Intervention
17 Coordinating Council shall serve a three-year term;
- 18 (7) The parent representative shall serve a two-year term;
- 19 (8) The representative from the Hawaii chapter of the
20 American Academy of Pediatrics shall serve a two-year
21 term;



1 (9) The representative of home-visiting program providers
2 shall serve a three-year term; and

3 ~~[(10) The representative of Hawaiian medium early learning~~
4 ~~providers shall serve a two-year term; and~~

5 ~~(11)]~~ (10) The representative of the Hawaii Council of
6 Mayors shall serve a three-year term."

7 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and
10 shall be repealed on June 30, 2031; provided that
11 section 302L-1.6(b) and (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be
12 reenacted in the form in which it read on the day before the
13 effective date of this Act.



Report Title:

Aha Punana Leo; Olelo Hawaii; Early Learning Board

Description:

Amends the composition of the early learning board to make a representative from Aha Punana Leo a standing member. Sunsets on 6/30/2031. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

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

