
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF GROW OUR OWN RESOURCES FOR
HAWAIIAN IMMERSION TEACHERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that olelo Hawaii,
2 Hawaiian language, has been the native language of Hawaii's
3 indigenous people for more than two thousand years and has
4 provided the foundation for the establishment and development of
5 Hawaiian society including government, education, sciences,
6 trades, and arts. During the Hawaiian Kingdom period of 1795 to
7 1893, the Hawaiian language thrived. In 1825, under the
8 direction of Moi Liholiho Kamehameha II and Native Hawaiian
9 scholars, missionaries devised a Hawaiian orthography, and
10 literacy among Hawaiians, in Hawaiian, spread rapidly, reaching
11 a ninety-five per cent literacy rate by 1834. In the 1840s, Moi
12 Kauikeaouli Kamehameha III used Hawaiian language to transform
13 the Hawaiian Kingdom into a constitutional monarchy,
14 establishing public systems for education, the judiciary, law
15 enforcement, and health. However, by the latter half of the
16 twentieth century, olelo Hawaii was pushed to the brink of



1 extinction by many factors. One of these factors was Act 57, a
2 law passed by the newly formed Republic of Hawaii in 1896, three
3 years after the 1893 United States-backed overthrow of the
4 Kingdom of Hawaii. Act 57 declared an English only law over
5 Hawaii's public schools, prohibiting the use of Hawaiian as a
6 medium of instruction. Hawaiian was excluded from Hawaii's
7 public schools for the next ninety years until the law was
8 reversed by the enactment of Act 47, Session Laws of Hawaii
9 1986. During that time, the number of Hawaiian language
10 speakers had collapsed from nearly forty thousand in 1896 to a
11 mere two thousand in 1978. In 1978, the Constitution of the
12 State of Hawaii was amended to include article X, section 4,
13 which requires the State to promote the study of Hawaiian
14 culture, history, and language; and article XV, section 4, which
15 states that English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages
16 of Hawaii, reaffirming the State of Hawaii's constitutional
17 responsibility.

18 The legislature believes that several historic initiatives,
19 including the Ka Papahana Kaiapuni (the Hawaiian language
20 immersion program) established under board of education policy
21 105-8 in 1986, helped to revitalize Hawaii's native language and



1 create new generations of Hawaiian language speakers. As a
2 result of the Punana Leo pre-schools, Hawaiian immersion
3 schools, and University of Hawaii programs, the number of
4 Hawaiian language speakers grew to nearly eight thousand by
5 1990, four times the estimated number of 1978.

6 The legislature further finds that the Hawaiian immersion
7 program is intended to provide students with Hawaiian bicultural
8 and bilingual education. The program contributes to the
9 normalization of the Hawaiian language and culture, and offers
10 quality education through the medium of the Hawaiian language.
11 The comprehensive program combines the use of Hawaiian teaching
12 methodologies, language, history, culture, and values to prepare
13 students for college, careers, and to be community contributors
14 within a multicultural society. Today, the State supports
15 twenty-seven Hawaiian immersion public schools under the
16 department of education and six public charter schools,
17 educating more than three thousand three hundred students and
18 employing approximately one hundred eighty teachers statewide.

19 The legislature also finds that despite the many successes
20 of the Hawaiian immersion program, and the mandatory goals
21 enumerated in board of education policy 105-8, a longstanding



1 issue that continues to impede the success and growth of
2 Hawaiian immersion schools is the shortage of qualified
3 teachers, including the lack of Hawaiian immersion special
4 education service providers. The aha kauleo kaiapuni Hawaii,
5 the advisory board to the department of education via the office
6 of Hawaiian education to guide and support Hawaiian immersion
7 schools, has taken and continues to take a proactive approach
8 for the development and growth of Hawaiian immersion schools.

9 The legislature believes that the coronavirus disease 2019
10 pandemic has disparately impacted students in Hawaiian immersion
11 schools in terms of educational attainment and adverse childhood
12 experiences, and has underscored the need for qualified Hawaiian
13 immersion teachers. In particular, as the pandemic forced
14 students to utilize distance learning, Hawaiian immersion
15 students experienced unique challenges compared to those of
16 students in English programs, due to the lack of availability
17 and accessibility to Hawaiian immersion teachers and resources.

18 The legislature further finds that the shortage of Hawaiian
19 immersion teachers has reached a crucial point in the last
20 decade. Approximately fifty Hawaiian immersion teacher
21 vacancies were advertised this year and another thirty positions



1 will be needed to address school growth. Equitable distribution
2 of resources, particularly with the grow our own initiative,
3 will provide much-needed and sustained funding to meet Hawaiian
4 immersion teacher shortages. Equitable distribution of
5 resources will also facilitate the State of Hawaii in meeting
6 its obligation under the Hawaii State Constitution, article X,
7 section 4, to provide access to Hawaiian education programs
8 consisting of language, culture, and history in the public
9 schools, and the department of education's goals towards equity.

10 The purpose of this Act is to codify equitable
11 distribution, of at least per cent of resources, specific
12 for the grow our own initiative, to further meet the intent of
13 board of education policy 105-8 relating to Kaiapuni (Hawaiian
14 immersion) education and aid implementation of the state
15 constitutional requirement that the State make all reasonable
16 efforts to provide access to Hawaiian immersion education.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding two new sections to part III, subpart B, to be
19 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

20 "§302A-A Hawaii teacher stipend program. (a) There is
21 established the Hawaii teacher stipend program to be



1 administered by the department to address the shortfall of
2 licensed teachers in the department's schools, especially in
3 Hawaiian immersion and identified shortage area schools.

4 (b) A University of Hawaii system student is eligible for
5 stipend consideration if the student:

6 (1) Is enrolled in a state approved teacher education
7 program at a University of Hawaii campus; and

8 (2) Is a bona fide resident of the State, for tuition
9 purposes, at the time of admission to the university.

10 Preference for a stipend shall be given to students who commit
11 to teach in a Hawaiian immersion school.

12 (c) Stipend recipients shall teach in the Hawaii public
13 school system for five consecutive years immediately following
14 completion of a state-approved teacher education program. If
15 the recipient fails to complete the state approved teacher
16 education program or satisfy the teaching requirement within the
17 designated number of years, stipend funds shall be repaid as
18 follows:

19 (1) For each year less than the designated number of years
20 that a stipend recipient does not teach in the Hawaii
21 public school system, the recipient shall repay a



1 proportionate percentage of the total stipend funds
2 received; and

3 (2) The department shall set the terms and conditions for
4 stipend repayment, including circumstances under which
5 recipients may be eligible for deferment or
6 forgiveness due to hardship or inability to secure
7 employment.

8 (d) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
9 to implement and administer the stipend program.

10 (e) Moneys repaid by stipend recipients pursuant to
11 subsection (c) shall be deposited in the Hawaii teacher stipend
12 program special fund established under section 302A-B.

13 **§302A-B Hawaii teacher stipend program special fund.** (a)
14 There is established the Hawaii teacher stipend program special
15 fund, into which shall be deposited legislative appropriations
16 and all moneys received as repayment from students due to a
17 breach in contractual agreements under the Hawaii teacher
18 stipend program established under section 302A-A.

19 (b) The special fund shall be administered and used by the
20 department to provide ongoing funding of stipends to students in



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1 the Hawaii teacher stipend program, or any successor programs,
2 and related costs."

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be
6 deposited into the Hawaii teacher stipend program special fund.

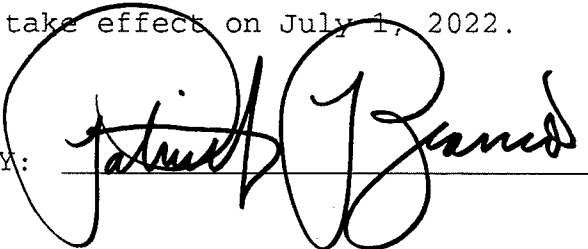
7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
10 establishment and implementation of the Hawaii teacher stipend
11 program.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 education for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

16

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 25 2022



H.B. NO. 2284

Report Title:

DOE; UH; Hawaiian Immersion; Grow Our Own Teacher; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a stipend program to be administered by the Department of Education for students enrolled in a teacher education program at the University of Hawaii and who agree to teach in the public school system for 5 years. Appropriates moneys.

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

