

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2937

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 2937 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to repeal the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Executive Office on Early Learning; University of Hawai'i System; Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki Lab Public Charter School; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc.; Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna; and twenty-four individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that Act 315, Session Laws of Hawaii 1997, established Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, the College of Hawaiian Language, at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Since its inception, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani now includes four kindergarten through grade twelve public charter schools and 'Aha Pūnana Leo's Hawaiian language medium preschools. As a leader in the establishment of professional development for Hawaiian



language medium school teachers, including training in proficiency of Hawaiian language, pedagogy, assessment, family engagement, and curriculum, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani was designated as the inaugural National Native American Language Resource Center to continue its critical work, in partnership with 'Aha Pūnana Leo, of developing standards, curriculum, teacher training, and assessments for Hawaiian language medium education and Native American Language communities nationwide. This measure ensures the continuity of ongoing work by Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani while ensuring affiliated teachers and staff are appropriately educated, trained, assessed, and reviewed accordingly.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2937 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,


MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



