

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that article X, section
2 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution requires both English and
3 Hawaiian language paths within public schools. The department
4 of education's Hawaiian language medium education program, Ka
5 Papa Kaiapuni, offers students an education in the medium of the
6 Hawaiian language. The comprehensive program combines Hawaiian
7 language, history, culture, values, and teaching methodologies
8 to prepare students for college, professional life, and
9 community engagement within a multicultural society.

10 Act 210, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, requires the
11 department of education to implement a statewide kindergarten
12 entry assessment evaluating five domains of early childhood
13 education: language and literacy development, cognition and
14 general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical well-being
15 and motor development, and social and emotional development.

16 Act 210 also requires that the department of education conduct
17 the assessment in English or 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.



1 The legislature further finds that while the department of
2 education procured for the statewide kindergarten entry
3 assessment a quality research-based framework developed by Johns
4 Hopkins University, the framework's ability to appropriately
5 evaluate Ka Papa Kaiapuni students is limited and a comparable
6 tool in Ōlelo Hawai'i does not exist. Due to a lack of
7 educational resources in Ōlelo Hawai'i, the development of a
8 linguistically and culturally appropriate kindergarten entry
9 assessment for Ka Papa Kaiapuni students is necessary.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
11 board of education to develop a kindergarten entry assessment in
12 Ōlelo Hawai'i for Ka Papa Kaiapuni that aligns with the English
13 language kindergarten entry assessment and reflects Hawaiian
14 language education to be administered by the department of
15 education and require the state public charter school commission
16 to adopt the assessment.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to part IV, subpart C, to be
19 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

20 "§302A- Standardized assessment for students entering
21 kindergarten; Hawaiian language medium education program. (a)



1 The board of education shall adopt a Hawaiian language medium
2 education kindergarten entry assessment, and the department of
3 education shall administer the assessment beginning with the
4 2026-2027 school year.

5 (b) The Hawaiian language medium education kindergarten
6 entry assessment shall:

7 (1) Be administered within the first ninety days of each
8 child's admission into kindergarten with the Hawaiian
9 language medium education program; provided that the
10 child has not received a kindergarten entry assessment
11 pursuant to this section or section 302A-1165 within
12 the past one hundred eighty days;

13 (2) Be conducted in Hawaiian;

14 (3) Cover all essential domains of school readiness as
15 appropriate for Hawaiian language medium education,
16 including:

17 (A) Language and literacy development;

18 (B) Cognition and general knowledge;

19 (C) Approaches to learning;

20 (D) Physical well-being and motor development; and

21 (E) Social and emotional development;



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1 (4) Be used in conformance with the recommendations of the
2 National Research Council reports on early childhood;
3 and

4 (5) Be valid and reliable for its intended purpose.

5 (c) Information obtained from the Hawaiian language medium
6 education kindergarten entry assessments shall be used to:

7 (1) Close the school readiness gap at kindergarten entry;

8 (2) Inform instruction in the early elementary school
9 grades; and

10 (3) Inform parents of their children's status and to
11 involve parents in decisions regarding their
12 children's education.

13 (d) The department shall share the information gathered
14 pursuant to this section with the department of human services,
15 executive office on early learning, and state public charter
16 school commission to the extent not otherwise prohibited by
17 administrative rule or law."

18 SECTION 3. Section 302A-1165, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

20 "(b) The kindergarten entry assessment shall:



- 1 (1) Be administered within the first [~~thirty~~] ninety days
2 of each child's admission into kindergarten[~~;~~];
3 provided that the child has not received a
4 kindergarten entry assessment pursuant to this section
5 or section 302A- within the past one hundred eighty
6 days;
- 7 (2) Be a [~~uniform,~~] statewide assessment [~~;~~ ~~provided that~~
8 ~~the assessment shall be~~] conducted in English [~~or~~
9 ~~Hawaiian,~~]; provided that the Hawaiian language medium
10 education program shall have its own standardized
11 kindergarten entry assessment as described in section
12 302A- ;
- 13 (3) Cover all essential domains of school readiness,
14 including:
- 15 (A) Language and literacy development;
 - 16 (B) Cognition and general knowledge;
 - 17 (C) Approaches to learning;
 - 18 (D) Physical well-being and motor development; and
 - 19 (E) Social and emotional development;



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1 (4) Be used in conformance with the recommendations of the
 2 National Research Council reports on early childhood;
 3 and

4 (5) Be valid and reliable for its intended purpose."

5 SECTION 4. Section 302D-37, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 6 amended by amending its title and subsections (a) through (b) to
 7 read as follows:

8 "~~§302D-37 Standardized [assessment]~~ assessments for
 9 students entering kindergarten. (a) The commission shall adopt
 10 the kindergarten entry ~~[assessment]~~ assessments adopted by the
 11 board pursuant to ~~[section]~~ sections 302A-1165(a) and 302A- (a)
 12 to assess all charter school students entering kindergarten
 13 ~~[within the first thirty days of admission into kindergarten].~~

14 (b) The commission may waive the requirements of the
 15 ~~[uniform]~~ kindergarten entry ~~[assessment]~~ assessments on a case-
 16 by-case basis."

17 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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Report Title:

Hawaiian Language Medium Education Program; Ka Papa Kaiapuni; Kaiapuni Schools; Kindergarten Entry Assessment; Department of Education; Board of Education; State Public Charter School Commission

Description:

Requires the Board of Education to develop a Hawaiian Language Medium Education Kindergarten Entry Assessment to be administered by the Department of Education, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Requires the State Public Charter School Commission to adopt the assessment. Requires a kindergarten entry assessment be administered within ninety days of a child's admission to kindergarten, provided that the child has not received any other kindergarten assessment within the past one hundred eighty days.

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

