



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/21/2024

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution** HCR 0145 E HOOKIKINA AKU ANA I KA OIHANA HOONAAUAO I KA APONO  
:  
ANA I KOMIKE E HOOPUKA ANA I KA HOOLALA E HIKI AI KE KA ANA IA MA  
KA HOOULU ANA I KE AO OLELO HAWAII I NA HAUMANA A PAU LOA.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on HCR 145, which requests that the Department appoint a committee to develop a measurable plan to expand Hawaiian language education for all students.

The Department agrees that 'ōlelo Hawai'i education for all students is very important to strengthen our students' sense of belonging, aloha, and kuleana to Hawai'i; to address the requirements in the State Constitution, which recognizes 'ōlelo Hawai'i as an official language of the State; to meet the requirements of the Board of Education Policy for Hawaiian Education, number 105-7, calling for all students in Hawai'i's public schools to graduate with proficiency in and appreciation for the indigenous culture, history, and language of Hawai'i; and to support 'ōlelo Hawai'i revitalization efforts. Furthermore, access to 'ōlelo Hawai'i education may help prepare students for college, career, and community endeavors for which proficiency in 'ōlelo Hawai'i is advantageous.

The Department recognizes there might be challenges to resourcing complex area 'ōlelo Hawai'i plans, including human resources and funding as well as adhering to the timeline set forth in this resolution.

Currently, there are different models of Hawaiian language education at the Department schools. With the range of models, the Department recognizes there might be challenges to develop a comprehensive and measurable plan while adhering to the timeline set forth in this resolution. Additionally, funding and staffing resources would be needed to create the appropriate plans for all complexes.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 145.

**HCR-145**

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 1:56:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maluhia States	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai no,

Although I am in support of the spreading and advancement of the Hawaiian language, bill HCR145 leaves me with a number of concerns.

Firstly, I would support the bill if the selection process was clearly laid out. Apart from general spaces where committee members could potentially be selected. The bill doesn't clarify who will be selecting committee members. Therefore, it is unknown to me as to the qualifications of those who would decide on the committee members. The individuals who make these selections should be from various spaces. For example, the native speaking and or Niihau community, the DOE, UH system, community teachers and so on.

Secondly, there is no mention of our native speaking community in the bill. If the accuracy and authenticity of the language is to be spread, the spoken language of native speakers must be made a priority. We need native speakers to be on the committee to make decisions along with the 2nd language speakers, who make up the majority.

I would gladly support a bill like this if these concerns are addressed and made a priority. Until then, I must respectfully oppose.

Me ka mahalo io no,

Malu