
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes that Article X,
2 section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii requires
3 the State to "promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and
4 language", and also requires the State to "provide for a
5 Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture and
6 history in the public schools". The legislature finds that the
7 department of education has implemented a Hawaiian language
8 immersion program, but the only immersion school on the island
9 of Oahu that is open to students in grades kindergarten through
10 twelve is located in Palolo.

11 The legislature also finds that at present, the leeward
12 area of the island of Oahu does not have a similar immersion
13 school, despite census data indicating that the area has the
14 largest number of native Hawaiian residents in the State.
15 Consequently, many students in the Leeward area need to leave
16 home at 5:00 a.m. to attend a Hawaiian language immersion
17 school, and are unable to return home to their families until



1 late in the evening. This shortage of Hawaiian language
2 immersion schools makes Hawaiian language immersion unattainable
3 for many families that rely on their children to assist in the
4 care of siblings or other family members, or otherwise provide
5 for their households. This situation demonstrates that the
6 State is currently failing to fulfill its duties under Article
7 X, section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
9 moneys to establish a Hawaiian language immersion school, open
10 to students in grades kindergarten through twelve, that is
11 located in the leeward area of the island of Oahu.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2026-2027 for the department of education to establish a
17 Hawaiian language immersion school, open to students in grades
18 kindergarten through twelve, that is located in the leeward area
19 of the island of Oahu.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
21 of education for the purposes of this Act.



H.B. NO. 1203

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 22 2025



H.B. NO. 1203

Report Title:

DOE; Hawaiian Language Immersion Education; Oahu; Leeward

Description:

Appropriate moneys to the Department of Education to establish a Hawaiian language immersion school, open to students in grades kindergarten through 12, that is located in the Leeward area of the island of Oahu.

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