
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A SHARED-
DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO
ESTABLISH A K-12 KAIAPUNI SCHOOL IN KAPOLEI.

1 WHEREAS, the State has a duty to ensure access to ‘Ōlelo
2 Hawai‘i education pursuant to article X, section 4, of the
3 Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i, which requires the State to
4 "promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language";
5 and
6

7 WHEREAS, the establishment of Kaiapuni schools, or Hawaiian
8 language immersion schools, which educate in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, is
9 one way the State is intentionally adhering to its
10 constitutional obligations and fulfilling its commitment to
11 preserving Hawaiian language for future generations; and
12

13 WHEREAS, accordingly, the Board of Education is
14 implementing a Kaiapuni Strategic Plan to grow Kaiapuni programs
15 to meet demand and expand access across the State; and
16

17 WHEREAS, there are only three Kaiapuni schools on O‘ahu that
18 serve students in grades kindergarten through twelve, Ke Kula
19 Kaiapuni ‘O Pū‘ōhala and Ke Kula ‘O Samuel M. Kamakau in Kāne‘ohe
20 and Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Ānuenue in Honolulu; and
21

22 WHEREAS, Kapolei High School currently only offers Kaiapuni
23 education for grade nine, and Kapolei Middle School only offers
24 Kaiapuni education for grades seven and eight; and
25

26 WHEREAS, many students in the ‘Ewa land district and the
27 surrounding land districts of Wai‘anae and Waialua are forced to
28 commute to Honolulu to pursue Kaiapuni education; and
29



1 WHEREAS, forty-two percent of Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Ānuenue
2 students who travel to school come from the 'Ewa and Wai'anae
3 areas; and
4

5 WHEREAS, this creates significant barriers for students in
6 continuing Hawaiian language education and leaves many students
7 who reside outside of Honolulu without a clear pathway to
8 continue their Kaiapuni education cohesively and throughout high
9 school; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the neighborhood boards of Pearl City,
12 Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale, and 'Ewa have all adopted
13 resolutions in support of establishing a K-12 self-contained
14 Hawaiian immersion school in Kapolei; and
15

16 WHEREAS, a shared decision-making committee is a
17 collaborative process where stakeholders collectively make
18 decisions and facilitate planning; and
19

20 WHEREAS, establishing a shared decision-making committee
21 comprised of Hawaiian immersion educators, community members,
22 parents, and administrators will facilitate effective action
23 planning and resource allocation as well as ensure the K-12
24 Kaiapuni in Kapolei meets the unique needs of current and future
25 students; now, therefore,
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2026, that the Department of Education is requested to
30 convene a shared decision-making committee to develop an action
31 plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the shared decision-making
34 committee is requested to consist of eleven members, serving for
35 two-year terms, as follows:
36

- 37 (1) The Superintendent of Education, or the
38 Superintendent's designee;
39
40 (2) Principals from relevant middle schools and high
41 schools, such as Kapolei Middle School and Kapolei
42 High School, or their designees;



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41

- (3) Three current Kaiapuni teachers from schools such as:
 - (A) Kapolei Middle School;
 - (B) Kapolei High School; and
 - (C) A feeder elementary immersion school such as Waiiau Elementary School or Nānākuli Elementary School;
- (4) The Dual Chancellor for Leeward Community College and the University of Hawai‘i-West O‘ahu, or the Chancellor's designee;
- (5) A professor or administrator from either Leeward Community College or the University of Hawai‘i-West O‘ahu with experience in education and teacher training; and
- (6) Three community members as follows:
 - (A) Two members of relevant community-based, school-based, or cultural nonprofit organizations; and
 - (B) One parent of a current student of Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Kapolei; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action plan is requested to outline goals, objectives, and strategies necessary to achieve a new Kaiapuni K-12 school in Kapolei, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Facility planning and site selection;
- (2) Kumu Kaiapuni recruitment and retention;
- (3) Curriculum and instruction planning;
- (4) Resource allocation policies;



- 1 (5) Recommendations to the Department of Education to
- 2 standardize, streamline, and facilitate the
- 3 establishment or expansion of new or existing Kaiapuni
- 4 schools statewide; and
- 5
- 6 (6) Any additional policies as determined by the shared
- 7 decision-making committee; and
- 8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action plan is requested to
 10 include a process for phasing in Kaiapuni education by:

- 11
- 12 (1) Addressing the hiring and recruitment of qualified
- 13 teachers proficient in olelo Hawaii;
- 14
- 15 (2) Securing a permanent site for a K-12 Kaiapuni school
- 16 in Kapolei to be used by kindergarten, first, and
- 17 second grades by the 2027-2028 school year;
- 18
- 19 (3) Integrating grades three, four, five, and six by the
- 20 2028-2029 school year; and
- 21
- 22 (4) Integrating middle school and high school students
- 23 once all other grades are phased in; and
- 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 26 requested to allocate four faculty positions and one
 27 administrative position to support Kaiapuni education in the
 28 2027-2028 school year and additional faculty and administrative
 29 positions in the following school years based on enrollment
 30 numbers of current and potential Kaiapuni students that live in
 31 the 'Ewa, Waialua, and Wai'anae land districts; and

32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the decision-making committee
 34 is requested to submit a progress report on the status of the
 35 action plan to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 36 to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2027 and 2028; and

37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the decision-making committee
 39 is requested to submit a final report of its findings and
 40 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 41 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 42 the Regular Session of 2029; and



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
4 Education; Superintendent of Education; Dual Chancellor for
5 Leeward Community College and the University of Hawai'i-West
6 O'ahu; and Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area Superintendent.

