

MAR 16 2026

SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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16 WHEREAS, a shared decision-making committee is a
17 collaborative process where stakeholders collectively make
18 decisions and facilitate planning; and
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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 Senate of the Thirty-third
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
29 that the Department of Education is requested to convene a
30 shared decision-making committee to develop an action plan to
31 establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei; and
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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:
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- 37 (1) The Superintendent of Education, or the
38 Superintendent's designee;
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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) Three current Kaiapuni teachers from schools such as:

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4 (A) Kapolei Middle School;

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6 (B) Kapolei High School; and

7
8 (C) A feeder elementary immersion school such as
9 Waiau Elementary School or Nānākuli Elementary
10 School;

11
12 (4) The Dual Chancellor for Leeward Community College and
13 the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, or the
14 Chancellor's designee;

15
16 (5) A professor or administrator from either Leeward
17 Community College or the University of Hawai'i-West
18 O'ahu with experience in education and teacher
19 training; and

20
21 (6) Three community members as follows:

22
23 (A) Two members of relevant community-based, school-
24 based, or cultural nonprofit organizations; and

25
26 (B) One parent of a current student of Ke Kula
27 Kaiapuni 'O Kapolei; and

28
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action plan is requested to
30 outline goals, objectives, and strategies necessary to achieve a
31 new Kaiapuni K-12 school in Kapolei, including, but not limited
32 to, the following:

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34 (1) Facility planning and site selection;

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36 (2) Kumu Kaiapuni recruitment and retention;

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38 (3) Curriculum and instruction planning;

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40 (4) Resource allocation policies;



(5) Recommendations to the Department of Education to standardize, streamline, and facilitate the establishment or expansion of new or existing Kaiapuni schools statewide; and

(6) Any additional policies as determined by the shared decision-making committee; and

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

(1) Securing a permanent site for a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei to be used by kindergarten, first, and second grades by the 2027-2028 school year;

(2) Integrating grades three, four, five, and six by the 2028-2029 school year; and

(3) Integrating middle school and high school students once all other grades are phased in; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the decision-making committee is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

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



S.R. NO. 153

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OFFERED BY: Mike Gabbard

