
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 Hawaii
3 State Constitution which requires the State to "promote the
4 study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language"; and
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6 WHEREAS, the establishment of Kaiapuni schools, or Hawaiian
7 language immersion schools, which educate in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, is
8 one way the State is intentionally adhering to its
9 constitutional obligations and fulfilling its commitment to
10 preserving the Hawaiian language for future generations; and
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12 WHEREAS, accordingly, the Board of Education is
13 implementing a Kaiapuni Strategic Plan to grow Kaiapuni programs
14 to meet demand and expand access across the State; and
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16 WHEREAS, there are only three Kaiapuni schools on O'ahu that
17 serve students in grades kindergarten through twelve, Ke Kula
18 Kaiapuni 'O Pū'ōhala and Ke Kula 'O Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory
19 Public Charter School in Kāne'ohe and Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Ānuenue
20 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 Wai'alua are forced to
28 commute to Honolulu to pursue Kaiapuni education; and
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30 WHEREAS, forty-two percent of Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Ānuenue
31 students who travel to school come from the 'Ewa and Wai'anae
32 areas; and



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

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) The Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's designee;
- (2) Principals from relevant elementary, middle, and high schools, such as Nānākuli Elementary School, Waiiau Elementary School, Kapolei Middle School, and Kapolei High School, or their designees;
- (3) Three current Kaiapuni teachers from schools such as:



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- (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) Four community members to be invited to participate on the committee as follows:
 - (A) Two members of relevant community-based, school-based, or cultural nonprofit organizations;
 - (B) One parent of a current student of Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Kapolei; and
 - (C) One parent of a current student of an elementary Kaiapuni program;

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;



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- (5) Predicted statewide impact on existing Kaiapuni schools and programs;
- (6) Recommendations to the Department of Education to standardize, streamline, and facilitate the establishment or expansion of new or existing Kaiapuni schools statewide; and
- (7) 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



- 1 Leeward Community College and the University of Hawai'i-West
- 2 O'ahu, and Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area Superintendent.

