



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

**Date:** 04/20/2026

**Time:** 01:01 PM

**Location:** CR 225 & Videoconference

**Committee:** EDU

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HCR181, 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.

**Purpose of Bill:** 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.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HCR 181 Proposed SD 1. The proposed SD 1 seeks to affirm that the legislative intent of Section 302A-1116, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), authorizes the Department to create temporary positions.

Section 302A-1116, HRS, authorizes the Department to create temporary positions following certain guidelines. When exercising the authority provided in Section 302A-1116, the Department ensures that the term of any created position is only for a one year term.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**April 19, 2026**


Aloha mai e Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am Andrea Dias-Machado, Pelekikena, President of Ke 'Alohi 'o 'Ewa (KA'E), the parent and community advocacy organization for Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kapolei (KKoK). I am sharing testimony in strong support of HCR 181 HD 1, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

The mission of KA'E is "To create a world-class, academically rigorous K-12 Hawaiian immersion school within the 'Ewa land district which serves as an educational lab school incubator to share best practices with other language immersion education school communities."

Simply put, we are far beyond the need and demand for a self-contained Hawaiian Immersion School in Kapolei. The data below illustrates a holistic picture of how this school will address the educational inequity that has existed for almost a half century embedded within a centralized location with a high population of Native Hawaiian residents.

- KKoK's opening in 2023 addressed an almost **40 year gap** to lack of access to secondary Hawaiian Immersion Education in the 'Ewa land district
- In its first three years, KKoK has **increased student enrollment by 285%**
- **Almost half of the student enrollment**, 42% of students at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenue come from the 'Ewa and Wai'anae land districts
- 2020 Census data revealed at least **700 K-12 school aged children** lived in one of the four Hawaiian Homestead Developments in Kapolei
- At full buildout, the Kapolei Hawaiian Homestead Association will have 2,000 homes, making it the **most densely populated Native Hawaiian community in the world**



I respectfully decline the language in SD 1 as it completely changes the intention and purpose of the resolution in HCR 181 HD 1 and does not include creating a shared decision making committee for Ke Kula 'o Kapolei.


We are grateful and acknowledge the support that has been received from Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica and members of the Senate and House Education Committees to bring this resolution to fruition within both chambers of the Legislature.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of HCR 181 HD 1 without the inclusion of the proposed SD 1.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

Andrea Dias-Machado  
Pelekikena (President)  
Ke 'Alohi 'o 'Ewa



**LATE**

**HCR-181-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2026 1:48:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/20/2026 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charmaine Doran	Testifying for Pearl City Neighborhood Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HCR181 HD1.

On behalf of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board, we extend our appreciation to Representative La Chica and the members of this committee who have been instrumental in carving out a standalone K-12 Kaiapuni pathway.

Establishing this pathway in Kapolei is a legislative priority for our board. A standalone campus is the most efficient and equitable solution for West O'ahu. It would serve keiki from 'Aiea through Central O'ahu to Wai'anae in one location, reducing long commutes and fostering a stronger school community from kindergarten through graduation.

This approach also aligns with the planned growth of Hawai'i's Second City. Kapolei is where families are moving, and a Kaiapuni pathway there expands meaningful access for a significant population of young Native Hawaiians who currently lack a local option.

We understand there is a proposed Senate draft that moves away from this initiative. We respectfully ask that the committee advance HCR181 HD1 as drafted, to preserve the clear intent for a standalone, community-driven pathway.

'Ōlelo Hawai'i is not an elective. It is a foundation. We urge you to pass HCR181 HD1.

**HCR-181-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2026 5:13:26 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/20/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Testimony: Susan Pcola-Davis  
HR181 HD1 SD1

**POINT OF ORDER:**

Original HR181: this is another example of “gut and replace”

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.

**Regardless**

Today’s version:

AFFIRMING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT OF SECTION 302A-1116, HAWAII  
REVISED STATUTES, IS TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
CREATE SUBSTANTIVELY TEMPORARY POSITIONS ONLY.

(Proposed SD1)

I **strongly oppose** circumventing the HRS. Although it may have been unintentional, other  
departments could follow suit. In my opinion with enough research, that may already be the  
case.

You could amend HRS according to:

**Senate Rule 45:** Every bill introduced or reported out of any committee, which amends an  
existing section or subsection of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes or Session Laws of Hawai‘i, shall  
set forth the section or subsection in full, and the matter to be deleted shall be enclosed in  
brackets and stricken and any new matter added to the section or subsection shall be  
underscored.

**Revised:**

§302A-1116] Authority to create temporary positions. The department may create temporary  
positions as it deems necessary; provided that:

- (1) The department's expenditures shall not exceed its allocated budget;

(2) The term of each position shall not exceed one year; refrain from renewing positions in one-year increments

(3) The department shall report the creation of temporary positions to the department of budget and finance. [L 1996, c 89, pt of §2]

**Cause:** due to the lack of an explicit statutory prohibition against renewal temporary positions, positions have been renewed for a second consecutive one-year term

Legislatively approved positions:

The Legislature has established robust processes requiring the review and approval of state positions; and maintaining legislative oversight of permanent employment;

Superintendent appointed positions:

Establishment of short-term positions to address critical issues, the Legislature also established simplified pathways for certain state departments to create temporary positions;

**HCR-181-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2026 2:38:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/20/2026 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.**

**As we collectively struggle to navigate the growing challenges facing our ‘āina, wai, and social fabric, it has become increasingly clear that our best chance at building a hopeful future rests in the wisdom, world view, and connections between people and ‘āina, deeply embedded in Hawaiian history and culture. As a medium through which culture is carried and applied to our daily lives, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i must accordingly be uplifted and made available to all who are willing and interested in perpetuating the Hawaiian language - and by extension, the critical concepts and perspectives needed to create a sustainable and hopeful future for all who call Hawai‘i home.**

**I support this resolution because:**

- This project will strengthen public and private partnerships to bring a K-12 kula kaiapuni in ‘Ewa to fruition and address the systemic gaps that exist for Hawaiian Immersion education.**
- Community members and parents will have a voice in the decisionmaking process based on their lived experience and expertise in our children’s education.**
- Demand for a Kaiapuni program is already high and ready to increase in the West O‘ahu region, including with the establishment and expansion of Hawaiian Homestead developments in Kapolei and ‘Ewa Beach.**

**The long-term benefit of this resolution will include generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i - and in so doing, become a part of the necessary future we must create for the sake of our children, grandchildren, and the generations to follow.**

**E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!**

**Me ke aloha,**

**Wayne Tanaka**



**HCR-181-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2026 8:48:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/20/2026 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Edward Hale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 19, 2026

Aloha e Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

‘O au nō ‘o Kaiponohea Hale a he kupa ha‘aheo no ka ‘āina aloha ‘o Pauoa, O‘ahu. I am Kaiponohea Hale and a proud native of Pauoa, O‘ahu. This is a letter of support for kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in strong support of HCR 181 HD 1, which convenes a shared decision-making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I strongly support this resolution because:

- This project will strengthen public and private partnerships to bring a K-12 kula kaiapuni in ‘Ewa to fruition and address the systemic gaps that exist for Hawaiian Immersion education.
- Community members and parents will have a voice in the decision-making process based on their lived experience and expertise in our children’s education.

The long-term benefit of this resolution will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to finally have educational equity and be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

I respectfully decline the language in SD 1 as it completely changes the intention of the resolution in HCR 181 HD 1 and does not include creating a shared decision-making committee for Ke Kula 'o Kapolei.

We are grateful and acknowledge the support that has been received from Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica and members of the Senate and House Education Committees to bring this resolution to fruition within both chambers of the Legislature.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of HCR 181 HD 1 without the inclusion of the proposed SD 1.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i! He mea kūpono e kāko'o i ka leo makuahine o ka lāhui Hawai'i!

Me ka mahalo a me ka na'au aloha,

Kaiponohea Hale

**HCR-181-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2026 11:35:43 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/20/2026 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Ahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Elizabeth Ahana, I was born and raised in the ‘Ewa Moku and I am a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I’m sharing testimony in strong support of HCR181 HD1, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support this resolution because:

- This committee will strengthen public and private partnerships to bring a K-12 kula kaiapuni in the ‘Ewa Moku to fruition and address the systemic gaps that exist for Hawaiian immersion education.
- Community members and parents will have a voice in the decision-making process based on their lived experience and expertise in our children's education.

The long-term benefit of this resolution will allow generations of Hawaiian immersion learners and their ‘ohana to finally have educational equity and be educated in their community through the official and Indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

I respectfully decline the language in SD1 as it completely changes the intention of the resolution in HCR181 HD1 and does not include creating a shared decision-making committee for Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kapolei.

We are grateful and acknowledge the support that has been received from Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica and members of the Senate and House Committees on Education to ensure this resolution becomes reality within both chambers of the Legislature.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of this vital resolution. I urge the committee to vote in favor of HCR181 HD1 without the inclusion of the proposed SD1.

E ola mau ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, mau a mau.

Ke aloha nō,

Elizabeth Ahana





April 19, 2026

**Aloha e Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,**

My name is Kiana Rodriguez. I am a resident of Hālawā and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in strong support of HCR 181 HD 1, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support this resolution because:

- This project will strengthen public and private partnerships to bring a K-12 kula kaiapuni in 'Ewa to fruition and address the systemic gaps that exist for Hawaiian Immersion Education.
- Community members and parents will have a voice in the decisionmaking process based on their lived experience and expertise in our children's education.

The long-term benefit of this resolution will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their 'ohana to finally have educational equity and be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai'i.

I respectfully decline the language in SD 1 as it completely changes the intention of the resolution in HCR 181 HD 1 and does not include creating a shared decision making committee for Ke Kula 'o Kapolei.

I gratefully acknowledge the support that has been received from Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica and members of the Senate and House Education Committees to bring this resolution and its companions to fruition within both chambers of the Legislature.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of HCR 181 HD 1 without the inclusion of the proposed SD 1.



E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

**Me ke aloha,**

*Kiana Rodriguez*

Kiana Rodriguez  
*Hope Pelekikena*  
Ke 'Alohi 'O 'Ewa