



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

Date: 03/31/2026
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: EDN

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:

E ko ka Aha Olelo o ka Mokuaina o Hawaii nei, aloha oukou:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on HCR 181, which requests 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 starting the 2027-2028 school year.

The Department is committed to strengthening Kaiapuni education (Hawaiian Language Immersion). Through a process that included 25 planning team members from the Department's executive leadership team and Kaiapuni teachers, principals and community members, a Kaiapuni Strategic Implementation Plan (KSIP) was approved in January as part of the Department 2023-2029 Strategic Plan Phase II, Implementation Plan. A copy of both plans can be provided upon request by email to Office of Hawaiian Education Institutional Analyst Kealohapauole Ahuna at Kealohapauole.Ahuna@k12.hi.us. The strategic planning process is an effort of the Department to ensure that necessary system support is available so Kaiapuni students statewide are provided high quality, rigorous learning opportunities in olelo Hawaii.

At this time, addressing the severe lack of qualified teachers who are proficient in olelo Hawaii as an essential means to standing up new schools is the main priority. In the last 10 years, Kaiapuni student enrollment has increased by 67% and the current practice to meet this demand has left many teaching lines filled with unlicensed, emergency permitted or substitute teachers.

The Department continues its work alongside partners to encourage anyone interested in becoming a Kaiapuni teacher to take benefit from a list of programs designed to make the pathway to Kaiapuni teacher licensure accessible. Information on these programs can be made

available upon request by email to Anela.Iwane@k12.hi.us.

The Department appreciates the intent of HCR 181 and is committed to addressing the needs of all our Kaiapuni throughout the State. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

March 28, 2026

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & Committee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of H.R. 171. On behalf of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board, I want to applaud the innovative work of this committee and of Representative La Chica—both have proven to be steadfast champions for education, our public schools, and students throughout Hawai‘i.

Since 2025, expanding Hawaiian immersion education, including a standalone K–12 school has been a key legislative priority of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board. At present, there are very few K–12 Kaiapuni schools readily available to families living outside of Honolulu. Establishing a full K–12 Kaiapuni pathway in Kapolei would create an efficient, affordable option that can serve students from ‘Aiea through Wai‘anae in one centralized location. Beyond reducing long commutes, a consolidated campus would foster a stronger school community and increase student pride—building the kind of school spirit that emerges when students can grow together from kindergarten through graduation. It would also move the state closer to fully realizing our constitutional mandate to support ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i education.

In terms of land use and development, adopting this resolution demonstrates the state’s continued commitment to supporting the long-term growth patterns already underway and meeting the needs of districts where growth is rapid and expected, from ‘Aiea through Wai‘anae. A K–12 Kaiapuni pathway in Kapolei would align education planning with community growth, giving families a local option that keeps pace with the area’s expected expansion.

Research consistently shows that children grounded in their ancestral language develop stronger cognitive skills, deeper cultural resilience, and a greater sense of purpose.

But beyond the data, we know this in our na‘au: ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is not an elective. It is a foundation. If we want to lift Hawai‘i’s children, we must lift ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

I urge the committee to pass H.R. 171 so the Department of Education can move forward with shared decision-making and planning to facilitate K-12 Kaiapuni education where it is deeply needed.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Charmaine Doran
Vice Chair, Pearl City Neighborhood Board

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 4:29:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiponohea Hale	Ke ?Alohi ?o ?Ewa	Support	In Person

Comments:

Month 28, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Kaiponohea Hale. I am a resident of Pauoa, O‘ahu and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Kaiponohea Hale

Ke ‘Alohi ‘o ‘Ewa Board Member



March 29, 2026

Aloha mai e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the House 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 HR 171 and HCR 181, 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."

The data tells the story of the gains we have made and the journey ahead to achieve educational equity through the expansion of KKoK into a K-12 kula kaiapuni.

- 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%
- 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**

In traditional times, the 'Ewa Moku was famous for its wai, sophisticated water systems in all forms; the prominence of wai is evident in the names of its ahupua'a: Waimalu, Waiau, Waimanō, Waiawa, Waipi'o, Waikele. etc. Thus, it was an ideal landscape for building loko i'a, fishponds, as many were constructed here. The water systems included kahawai: streams, punawai, fresh water springs, marshes and ki'owai, freshwater ponds. Likewise, Pu'uloa was the breadbasket of the Leeward side of 'O'ahu which fed and sustained hundreds of thousands of people.



Rooted in the ancestral brilliance of our kupuna, this shared decision-making committee represents the rediscovery of the wealth that has always existed in the moku of 'Ewa to “feed and nurture” all through Hawaiian Immersion Education. This committee brings together the waiwai, the wealth of talents, strengths and resources that exists within the Department of Education, the University of Hawai'i System and the community to collectively invest in a teacher training and recruitment program, curriculum development founded upon place-based knowledge integrated into academic content areas and sound facilities planning and acquisition to develop and sustain a robust system of Hawaiian Education for our keiki.

Our keiki and 'ōpio are the wai, the most precious lifegiving resource of our community. As such, we must “e ho'i ka wai,” return our keiki to be educated in their place and contribute to the mauiola, health and wellbeing of their communities.

Mahalo nui for your time, presence and the opportunity to testify. I strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

Me ke aloha,

Andrea Dias-Machado

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





Malaki 29, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Kiana Rodriguez. I am a resident of Halawa and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education with a keiki in Papa 8 at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kapolei. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision-making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their 'ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai'i.

Accessibility to Hawaiian immersion education is vital. I enrolled my daughter in Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Waiuu at five years old because I wanted her to develop a strong connection to our culture that I did not have growing up in the Hawaiian diaspora. I chose a kaiapuni education for her, knowing that, at the time, there was not a reasonable option to continue after she graduated elementary school. The opening of Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kapolei returned the choice to continue her education ma ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. These resolutions support stakeholders to create an actionable plan so more 'ohana can have a choice to choose kaiapuni education.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of Resolutions 171 and 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,
Kiana Rodriguez
Kiana Rodriguez
Hope Pelekikena
Ke 'Alohi 'O 'Ewa

March 28, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

‘O Jazmine Aolani Rodriguez ko‘u inoa a noho au ma Halawa. He haumana papa 8 ma Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kapolei. Ke hō‘ike nei au i ke kākō‘o ‘ana iā HR 171 a me HCR 181.

My name is Jazmine Aolani Rodriguez and I am a resident of Halawa. I am an 8th grader at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kapolei. I am testifying in support of HR 171 and HCR 181.

I support these resolutions 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.
- My friends, our siblings, and I need a kula nearby. Only keiki in 7th to 9th grade can attend KKOK, so younger and older kids are left out.

The long-term benefit of these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Aolani Rodriguez

Aolani Rodriguez
Papa 8, Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kapolei



March 20, 2026

Thee Committee on Education
House of Representatives
State of Hawai'i Legislature

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Olani Lilly. I am a resident of Keaukaha, Hawai'i, and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision-making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their 'ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Olani Lilly

Me ke aloha,
Olani Lilly, Founder
Changemakers Hawai'i



March 31, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the House Committee on Education
In Support of

**HR171/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.**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs submits testimony in **support** of HR171/HCR181, requesting the Department of Education to convene a share-decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs advocates for the revitalization, promotion, and normalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. Access to ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i education is required by the State constitution and HR171 seeks to further meet that requirement by engaging the necessary stakeholders to plan for creating K-12 Kaiapuni education in Kapolei, where a large concentration of Native Hawaiian families reside. The potential for a new Kaiapuni school in Kapolei expands the opportunity for more keiki to learn and thrive in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and provides West O‘ahu keiki the chance to receive this education closer to home.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit confederation of 60 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,500 members located across Hawai‘i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this measure.

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 10:26:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davielynn Briones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Davielynn Briones. I am a resident of Wahiawā and a strong supporter of Kaiapuni Education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR181 and HCR 171, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions because...

- This project will strengthen public and private partnerships to bring a K-12 Kula Kaiapuni in the ‘Ewa moku 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 experiences and expertise in our childrens education.

The long-term benefit of these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai’i. This will also help to carve the path for future K-12 Kula Kaiapuni’s across our pae‘aina. As a resident of Wahiawā, my keiki have NEVER had the opportunity to go to school in their community. The closest Kaiapuni is located in Waiiau, the closest early education site is now Waialua (15 minutes away) as of 3 years ago, which is the opposite direction for work. The sacrafices that our ‘ohana along with any other ‘ohana wanting to have their keiki learn in their native language and through their cultural lens is unfair and its about time that something be done.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 181 and concurrent Resolution 171.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai’i!

Me ke aloha,

Davielynn Briones

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 9:47:07 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Pahukoa Ramento	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 29, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Tiana Pahukoa Ramento. I am a resident of Kunia and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,
Tiana Pahukoa Ramento

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 2:18:46 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel C. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha EDN Committee Members,

I strongly support the resolutions and endorse the supportive testimony of Pearl City Neighborhood Board Vice Chair, Charmaine Doran.

Language competency is essential to cultural identity.

Mahalo and Best Regards,

Daniel C. Smith

March 29, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Malani DeAguiar. I am a resident of Kailua Kona and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their 'ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,
Malani DeAguiar

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 8:18:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lehuamakamae Yoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 29, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is **Sallie Lehuamakamae Yoza**. I am a resident of **Ho‘ae‘ae, Waipahu**, and a strong supporter of **Kaiapuni education**. I am submitting testimony in **support of HR 171 and HCR 181**, which convene a shared decision-making committee to develop an action plan to establish a **K–12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei**.

I support these resolutions because:

1. **I am a makua of a child who ‘uniki from Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O ‘Ānuenue**, after beginning her educational journey in **Papa Mālā’o at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Waiiau**. Hawaiian immersion helped my daughter carry forward the traditions of the Hawaiian language—traditions that Princess Ruth Ke‘elikōlani fought to preserve for our people.

As a mākua, I learned how important it is for my child to live the legacy of the **Mana Leo Kupuna**, who dreamed of hearing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i alive in the voices of our keiki. I was actively involved in her school community as a cheerleader coach, giving our girls the opportunity to cheer **in Hawaiian** and strengthening their pride and identity.

Through Kaiapuni education, children are not only taught in Hawaiian—they learn **respect, kuleana, and Hawaiian values** that shape how they show up in their community. Today, my daughter continues to carry the traditions of the Hawaiian language at home and in her profession. She earned her **RN degree**, and when she encounters families who speak Hawaiian, she is able to **translate and support them in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i**. Immersion made her bilingual and deeply rooted in her culture.

Establishing a Hawaiian immersion school in Kapolei will give West O‘ahu keiki the same opportunity—to learn, grow, and thrive in their own community, guided by **nā kumu** who teach through the official and indigenous language of our pae ‘āina.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify and for considering my strong support of Hawaiian immersion education. I respectfully urge the committee to **vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181**.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Sallie Lahuamakamae Yoza

3/29/26

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Zion Kahuliauokamana'olana Machado. I am a resident of 'Ewa and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions because:

- I am a Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kapolei student and I think this program has improved my life significantly. Allowing me to go to a kaiapuni school in my own district and allowing me to learn more about my native tongue and the history of the Hawaiian people, my people, this program will help and allow generations of Hawaiian children on the west side to learn their culture and history which I believe is very important.
- There is no K-12 kaiapuni school on the west side forcing families to go to other kaiapuni schools such as Anuenue, Kamakau, etc. All far from the west side this makes families leave kaiapuni in general unable to drive that far or it makes their lives harder. With this K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei it will help families lives a lot.

The long-term benefit of these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their 'ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

Zion Kahuliauokamana'olana Machado.

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 10:20:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariah Macomber-Lealao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 29, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Mariah Macomber-Lealao. I am a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

Mariah Macomber-Lealao

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 10:38:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Xavier Netane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 29, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Xavier Netane. I am a resident of Kapolei and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Xavier Netane

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 7:35:55 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Dudoit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 30, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Nani Dudoit. I am a resident of ‘Ewa Beach and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Nani Dudoit

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 9:37:49 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April-Nicole Salvatera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 30, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is April-Nicole. I am a resident of Waipahu and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

April-Nicole Salvatera

March 30, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is R. Keawe Lopes Jr. I am the director of Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language, UH Mānoa and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei ~where my parents live ~They were amongst the very first Hawaiian Home Lands residents to move in the Malu‘ōhai Villages of Kapolei in 2000.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

R. Keawe Lopes Jr., PhD

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 10:26:31 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealani Netane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 29, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Kealani Netane. I am a resident of Kapolei and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Kealani Netane

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 8:48:13 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Crawford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Jennifer Crawford. I am a resident of Nānākuli and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision-making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Jennifer Crawford

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 10:54:50 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gale Mejia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 30, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Gale Mejia, and I am a resident of ‘Ewa Beach and a strong advocate for kaiapuni education. I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which seek to convene a shared decision-making committee to develop an action plan for establishing a K–12 kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions for several important reasons. First, this effort will strengthen collaboration between public and private partners to bring a K–12 kula kaiapuni in ‘Ewa to fruition, helping to address long-standing systemic gaps in access to Hawaiian language immersion education in our region. Second, it ensures that community members and parents who have lived experiences and deep commitment to our keiki, have a meaningful voice in shaping the future of their children’s education.

The long-term impact of this initiative is profound. It will provide generations of kaiapuni learners and their ‘ohana the opportunity to access high-quality Hawaiian language education within their own community, grounded in the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I respectfully urge the Committee to support and pass HR 171 and HCR 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Gale Mejia

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 12:13:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawehilani Scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 30, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Kawehilani Scott. I am a resident of Kapolei and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

Kawehilani Scott

Pamela Lota Fujii
520 Kuli'ou'ou Road
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
kapiolehua@gmail.com
(808) 255-6207

March 30, 2026

Re: Strongly Support of HR171 and HCRI81 Kaiapuna Resolution

Dear Chairman Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica and Members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Pamela Lota Fujii. I am a resident of Honolulu and I strongly support HR171 and HCRI81 Kaiapuna Resolution which supports the establishment of a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions because this project will strengthen public and private partnerships to bring a K-12 Kula Kaiapuna in 'Ewa to fruition and address the systemic gaps that exist for Hawaiian Immersion education.

I support these resolutions because 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.

Passage of these resolutions to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei will empower the community, parents and keiki to preserve, perpetuate our native language and education for generations.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i a mau a MAU!

Mahalo nui loa,

Pamela Lota Fujii

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 12:31:21 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

I am a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions because:

1. 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.
2. 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

The end goal should be to develop a P-20 Hawaiian medium education program in Kapolei in partnership the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo, the DOE and the University of Hawai‘i at West O‘ahu. This will help to ensure the continuity needed for success of our keiki in the program from preschool to the doctorate level. Hiki nō.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha mau,
A. McNicoll

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 11:04:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Aki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Ashley Aki. I am a resident of Pearl city and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Ashley Aki

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 2:43:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Oka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 29, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

As a native Hawaiian, born and raised on Oahu, I strongly support kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Andrea Oka

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 12:31:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahi Fujii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 30, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Kahi Fujii. I am a resident of Aiea and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions because:

- Hawaiian immersion education will be more accessible on the Leeward side of O‘ahu.
- 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,

Kahi Fujii

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 2:32:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keleka Kaneaiakala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 29, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Keleka Kaneaiakala. I am a resident of Location and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

Keleka Kaneaiakala

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 10:04:31 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Ramento	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of the Kaiapuni education of Olelo Hawaii of this bill. Growing up in a home that speaks our native language has advanced me in many different aspects of my own life. I have also witnessed what it has done for the keiki, youth and adults of our communities. Please consider this bill for the sake of our communities future and keeping our unique culture and language alive.

Me Ke Aloha,

Christopher Ramento

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 8:53:39 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Stice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Jasmine Stice. I am a resident of Kapolei and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!

Me ke aloha,
Jasmine Stice

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 2:32:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elouise Palea'ae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 29, 2026

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Elouise Palea'ae . I am a resident of Salt Lake, Hawaii and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their 'ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,
Elouise Palea'ae

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 9:34:14 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Velasco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 4:49:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 28, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Faith Kahale Saito. I am a resident of Kalihi Valley and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

Faith Kahale Saito

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 2:23:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Fu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 28, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Jessica Fu. I am a resident of Kīlauea Kaua'i and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei. As a parent and community member who lives in an island community with very limited educational opportunities ma ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i I understand the hardship of this geographical access issue to quality education.

I support these resolutions because:

- This project will strengthen public and private partnerships to bring a K-12 kula kaiapuni in 'Ewa to fruition and address the systemic and geographic 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their 'ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai'i. What a beautiful contribution to community!

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

Jessica Kauionalani Fu

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 1:34:31 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anahiwa Omerod	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 30, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Anahiwa Omerod. I am a resident of Wai'anae and a strong supporter of kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their 'ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,
Anahiwa Omerod

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 2:41:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 30, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington. I am a resident of Moanalua, O‘ahu and a strong supporter of Kaiapuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their ‘ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,

Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington

March 30, 2026

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is E. Kalikoaloha Martin Jr. I am an acting assistant professor of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a staunch advocate for kaiāpuni education. I am sharing testimony in support of HR 171 and HCR 181, which convenes a shared decision-making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

I support these resolutions 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 these resolutions will allow generations of Hawaiian Immersion learners and their 'ohana to be educated in their community through the official and indigenous language of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for your time and I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Resolution 171 and House Concurrent Resolution 181.

E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha,
E. Kalikoaloha Martin Jr.

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 5:29:20 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair LaChica, and Members of the Committee on Education,

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HR 171 and 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 these resolutions 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 these resolutions 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

HR-171

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 7:42:48 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members

I strongly SUPPORT this bill. As a retired educator and community member, it is essential that we bring more kaiapuni schools into our communities. Olelo Hawaii is the first language of this place and we know that it should be central to our island educational paths.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu